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**AN AMERICAN GIRL**  
**Entertaining Chat With Maud Powell, the Great Violinist.**

“You bet!”

Maud Powell, the violinist with the Gilmore combination, is a dainty little lady with soft brown eyes and the most shapely hands imaginable. Her fingers are long and delicate and are suggestive of great sensibility.

Miss Powell’s exclamation, given above, in response to the question as to whether or not she was an American girl, came with grace and naturalness. Her full statement was this:

“Am I an American girl? Yes, indeed. And a western girl, too. In fact, I almost feel like saying in response to your question, ‘You bet!’”

“Why is it, Miss Powell,” was asked, “that, relatively speaking, there are so few successful lady violinists!

“When compared with men?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, well (this with a touch of earnestness), I presume, primarily, that it is because women have too long held themselves in abeyance, so to speak. That is to say, they have never been obliged to make their own way in the world. Hence their accomplishments have always been more or less pursued as a diversion; hence, too, with but superficial success.

“But women are branching out now in all departments. Becoming more and more self-reliant. they [sic] find they can win their way as well as men can.

“Violin playing among women has become quite an extensive enterprise. In Europe the number of women students is on the increase from year to year.

“In Boston it is quite a sight to see the girls flocking along the streets carrying violin cases. Our society girls all play the violin nowadays. You see, it gives them a chance to show off their fine arms and the graceful curve of the waist. They play the harp, too, but to my...more expressive, in...instrument in the wor.... [to my mind there is no more expressive instrument in the world.]

“What women lack in strength in their playing, they more than atone for by lightened grace and delicacy of expression.

“There is some talk of starting a ladies’ orchestra. No, I would not take charge of any such enterprise, for that would necessitate my giving up my art. I love the violin dearly, and after years of faithful service to my violin I find it entering more and more into my best life.”

*From the Archive of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education*