J. M. Gates, “Manish Women,” Okeh Records, 1930.

Transcribed by JW

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRd5vHP0U1Y

I want to talk about mannish women. The world is full of these kind of women. They’re trying to do everything they see or hear of a man doing.

They’re on the racetrack. They’re in the air. In the aeroplane. Yes, sir.

 (Growls.) They’re manish women. And they’re wearing pants and cutting their hair like a man. In fact, they are getting so manish, until sometimes they try to walk and talk like a man. Of course we got some men trying to walk and talk like a woman.

But I’m talking about these manish women.

So manish, until you can hardly distinguish sometimes a woman from a man.

So manish, until they stay out as late at night as any man.

So manish, until they will rob and steal like men.

So manish, until sometimes you can read about them being bank robbers and holed up at night.

So manish, until they won’t raise their children. I believe sometimes the thing that makes the women manish are women because they don’t raise their children.

The doctor and the nurse have to raise them, as God intended for a human child to be raised by a human intended for the little infant child to nurse on human milk. …

No wonder there are so many hard-headed men and women.

So manish. I’m talking about you manish women. Then they’re getting everywhere. They’re getting everywhere. They’re getting in the courthouse, on the street, in the village, out in the little towns. …

So manish, until they’re getting in the church, getting in every auxiliary of the church. So manish, sometimes I don’t know what they’re going to do about them. They’re getting everywhere. I’m talking about these manish women. …

Lerone A. Martin, “Selling to the Souls of Black Folk: Atlanta, Reverend J. M. Gates, the Phonograph, and the Transformation of African American Protestantism and Culture, 1910-1945,” Ph.D. diss, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies of Emory University, 2011, 182-183.

Marko Maunula. "Superstar Reverend J. M. Gates and Working Class Black Uplift." *Southern Cultures* 22, no. 2 (2016): 23-43. Accessed June 22, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26221795>.