

AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

A FAIR VIRGINIAN.



Miss Katherine Elkins.

TO be the grand-daughter of a multi-millionaire, the daughter of a senator and the fiancée of a royal duke is to make an interesting figure in the eyes of the feminine world. Miss Katherine Elkins, of West Virginia, is almost a story-book heroine in the romance which she has lived ever since the Duke of the Abruzzi, cousin of the King of Italy, visited the capital of the United States last year.

It may be recalled how the souvenir thieves ransacked and robbed the Duke's ship at the time of his visit to the Jamestown Exposition; but evidently the gallant Italian lost something more momentous than the silver service or the cut-glass decanter and left his ducal heart behind him when he sailed away on

his forlorn bark. Miss Elkins is said to have the traditional beauty and vivacity of the Virginian belle, in which case the Duke's plight is easily explained. The much-discussed nobleman is an explorer of renown, and, up to the time of his visit to Washington, his fondest desire was to reach the North Pole.

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MRS. HUMPHRY WARD IN TORONTO.

THE visit of England's most distinguished woman novelist to Canada created a degree of interest which showed that Canadians occasionally read something better than cheap and popular fiction. It is about twenty years since Mrs. Ward wrote *Robert Elsmere* and many novels have come from her pen since 1888; but it was significant that more than one journal referred to her as the author of *Robert Elsmere*, giving scant notice of *The Marriage of William Ashe* and *Lady Rose's Daughter*. The lecture given by Mrs. Ward in Association Hall, Toronto, was a thoroughly scholarly and polished address which treated of the place of the peasant in literature from Virgil's writings to the modern rustic idyl. Mrs. Ward's voice, although pleasing in conversation, is not suited to the demands of public address and it was somewhat difficult to follow her discourse, so swiftly did she pass from one land and literature to another.

Mrs. Ward's interest in social questions was shown in her talk on "Playgrounds," delivered at the Evangelia Settlement. It is natural that the grand-daughter of Thomas Arnold of Rugby should feel a deep concern in the proper instruction and amusement of the young. Mrs. Ward has a somewhat severe countenance which softens charmingly as she speaks, while her manner has a quiet sincerity which indicates a genuine interest in the subject of conversation. Her daughter, who accompanies her on this tour of Canada, is a young gentlewoman of decidedly pleasant bearing, with the soft English voice which makes for melody.

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WHERE TORONTO WOMEN FAIL.

THERE were two disappointing features in connection with Mrs. Ward's visit to Toronto. The first was the failure of the Round Table Club to provide a suitable member to take the chair on the occasion of the lecture in Association Hall. The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Sir Mortimer Clark, who presided and made the necessary introduction, is invariably gracious and happy in his remarks, whether literature, music, art or agriculture be the reason for the gathering; but it was distinctly the duty of the Round Table Club to provide a feminine presiding officer at this lecture under its auspices. Surely, it is time, as this journal has urged before, for Toronto women to drop this foolish provincialism and realise their obligations as officers of clubs and societies. They are at perfect liberty to remain outside of all such organisations, but when they assume membership or official position in these associations they ought to assume also their dignities and responsibility. Sir Mortimer Clark must be sufficiently bored by requests to preside at all manner of public meetings without being urged to take the chair at a woman's lecture under the auspices of a women's club.

And what, might one ask, became of the Toronto Women's Canadian Club which was to do so much towards providing its members with sweetness and light in the form of addresses from distinguished visitors? The committee which is to arrange for such events showed a remarkable lack of executive and business ability when it failed to arrange either reception or luncheon in honour of Mrs. Humphry Ward. Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver could give Toronto Women's Canadian Club more than a few valuable suggestions in competent management of clubs and public meetings. I may be reminded that the president of the Winnipeg club is a native of Toronto; but it remains a fact that the air of Ontario's capital is not conducive to feminine enterprise and executive success.

CANADIENNE.

THE WOODSIDE WAY.

By Ethelwyn Wetherald.

I wandered down the woodside way,
Where branching doors ope with the breeze,
And saw a little child at play
Among the strong and lovely trees.
The dead leaves rustled to her knees;
Her hair and eyes were brown as they.

"O little child," I softly said,
"You come a long, long way to me;
The trees that tower overhead
Are here in sweet reality,
But you're the child I used to be
And all the leaves of May you tread."

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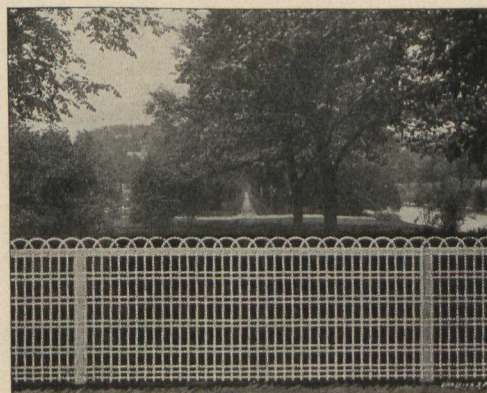
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