

## Looks Queer, Doesn't It?

Before the year 1520 prostitution was unknown in literature. Our advertisement would then have appeared thus:



## THE QUEEN OF THE SEASON

Accordingly Lady Vivien descended to the hall to execute, with a very nervous Darnley, a courtly bransle, and look so bewitching a representative of the fair Scottish queen, that more than one heart was laid at her feet that night.

The schottische that followed was over, the weary dancers were fitting to their seats, to await the arrival of the door, where Lord Esseylin and his partner were expected to appear, and the musicians to arrange on the stands the fantastic music of the tarantella from "Belphégor."

Vivien, too, found herself anxiously watching for Aymer's appearance, and wondering whether Marie had consented to act as Miss Ramsden's substitute. She began to hope that she had, if only to frustrate the malice of the Misses Esseylin, who were sitting near her and commenting most unkindly on Lotty's gauche and inelegant movements as compared with their own.

At first Marie had given on unqualified refusal to Miss Ramsden's entreaties.

"I have no heart for dancing," she said, "and I could not stand up in the midst of people who would try to annihilate me with their angry scowls; they recognized in the early partner my Lady Vivien's substitute."

"But you will be masked; no one will know you," Lotty persisted. "And it is to oblige me—to spare me so much annoyance that I think I'd rather go home and nurse papa through one of his worst fits of gout than encounter it. I will give you anything, everything I have, if you will only consent."

Marie's eyes softened, and Lotty, catching hold of her arm, dragged her into the dressing room, where Aymer, more interested in the affair than he acknowledged to himself, was awaiting the result of Miss Ramsden's entreaties.

"Help me to persuade her, Lord Esseylin. She can have no other reason for refusing than timidity. She is afraid of being found out. Try whether you cannot reassure her."

"If you decidedly object to do what Miss Ramsden asks," said Aymer, addressing her kindly, as well as courteously, "I will not be so ungenerous as to tease you into complying; but if you can resolve to oblige us, and Lotty, catching hold of her arm, dragged her into the dressing room, where Aymer, more interested in the affair than he acknowledged to himself, was awaiting the result of Miss Ramsden's entreaties."

"Do you wish this?" "Yes," was the prompt reply. "I do, indeed, for I should dearly like to dance with you, Mademoiselle Marie."

"The tarantella?" Ah, he warned; and she raised a taper finger with an arch gesture. "In feigning madness, and much madness, there is sometimes danger."

"To me, or to you?" asked Aymer. "Not to me, for I have the antidote at hand."

"Tell me the nature of the poison that I too, may have a safeguard ready."

"Nay, if you have it not hidden away in your own heart it is not to be acquired, Milord," and now Marie's feeling manner became almost scornful. "You are very foolish to come here and make such propositions. Why do you not leave me alone? We cannot be friends; it were wiser, therefore, and might spare pain to both of us, if you would avoid me."

"Don't blame me for what I cannot help," he answered, in some surprise at her vehemence. "This arrangement is not of my suggesting. I'll not deny that I shall be charmed to have so fair a substitute for my original partner, but I never dreamed of asking you to take her place; a fear that it would be disagreeable to you would have deterred me."

Marie stood for a minute or so with her finger pressed on her lip, as if undecided whether to yield or refuse; then she clasped her hands behind her pretty little head with a weary gesture.

"Ah! I am so tired of my life here, it is so tedious, so monotonous, that I know not how to resist the temptation you are offering. I am more than half-disposed to accede to Miss Ramsden's wishes, for it is to be happy for one brief hour, and put all my cares aside."

"A wise resolve; and here comes Lotty with the fiery," cried Aymer gaily. "How long will it take you to dress—ten minutes? If you can achieve such a feat as that I shall say that you are more than half-witted."

She gave him a nod, half mirth, half defiance, and disappeared with Lotty, while Aymer rushed off to the conservatory for a lovely cactus blossom to place in her dark hair.

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WE GIVE TRADING STAMPS

"It is like her own little self," he soliloquized, as he very gingerly attacked the plant. "There are so many thorns about and around it that it is no drawing near without getting a stab or a sting. I should like immensely to know who you are, Mademoiselle Delille, in your own country, and why you are masquerading here. There's a dignity and purity in every look you give me, but there's a mystery about you that doesn't—oh! hang the thorns! How fiercely they prick!"

And so it turned out that as the music of the tarantella commenced with soft, mournful cadences, Lord Esseylin, hand in hand with one of the most piquant little figures imaginable, his own lithe yet muscular form set off by the gay dress of a contadina, ran lightly into the cleared space in the center of the room, and made his bow to the amused spectators.

"How remarkably well that French maid of Viva's has dressed Lotty Ramsden! One can scarcely credit that it is she," Lady Vivien heard Jane Esseylin remark.

"Her air of awkwardness must have been assumed on purpose to deceive us," added her sister. "Does she wear that mask that people may not see how audaciously she is setting her cap at Lord Esseylin? Bold thing!"

But everyone was too much interested in the dancers to pay much attention to the ill-natured criticisms of the sisters, for the tarantella, as danced by Marie and the earl, was not only graceful, but poetic. There was nothing exaggerated or theatrical in their attitudes; indeed, he, conscious that he was not au fait at it, contented himself with watching and imitating his partner, who, after the first few minutes, gave herself up to the delight of keeping time to the gradually increasing rapidity of the music.

And Aymer, as she had predicted, soon caught the infection. At first when she slowly swayed to and fro, her undulating movements always graceful and subdued, he followed her round the circle, saucily whispering predictions that someone or other would soon shake out her name, and she would not have courage to defy detection; but when she began to wheel around him, sometimes on one side, then on the other, eluding his outstretched arms only to beckon him to her, he forgot to talk; he became absorbed in watching the dark orbs that glittered through the mask, or the rosy lips just parted sufficiently to show the pearly teeth within. She seemed to him to sink on one knee; and instinctively he obeyed; he bent over him, nearer, nearer, till he could feel her breath on his cheek, and then in an instant she was gone.

To his bewilderment, the dance was over. At a sign from her the music had suddenly ceased with such a dissonant crash that everyone glanced towards the orchestra for the reason of this abrupt pause. In that instant Marie vanished, and Aymer sprang after her, followed by the plaudits of the spectators, very few of whom had actually witnessed their disappearance.

CHAPTER XXIII. Marie was flying towards the stairs, intending to rejoin Miss Ramsden in the boudoir, when she was seized by her pursuer, who, dexterously slipping his arm round her waist, waltzed her across the ante-room and into his study.

"Why do you detain me?" she asked, as soon as she could find breath enough. "My task is done, and Miss Ramsden waits my coming that she may accompany you to the ballroom."

"Unwilling though I am to be rude to a lady," he replied, "she will have to wait a little longer till I have satisfied myself that it is not a veritable witch with whom I have been dancing. Do you know that your predictions are verified? I disregarded the warning, 'Dangerous,' and am a lost man in consequence."

"What nonsense is this?" cried Marie impatiently.

"It's not nonsense at all," he assured her. "I went into yonder room myself; I saw some one come out, somebody else, and it's your doing. But take off that visor, sorceress, for your eyes gleam through it and dazzle me."

"There was no evil in their glances till they rested on you," she retorted, with curious significance.

"And then it sprang into being that I might be scorched, electrified—what is it? I cannot touch your fingertips but mine begin to tingle, and my pulses to quicken. Do you know that your made me kneel to you? not in adoration, as a knight bows before his queen, or his liege lady, but in obedience to a gesture so imperious that I felt as if I could not, dared not, disobey even if I would. And when you leaned over me I could have fancied I heard you saying, 'I will make this man my slave, already he is slipping into my power; I will wind my chains about him until he shall sue for mercy, and then

"And then I will have none—none!" exclaimed Marie, with the vehemence of suppressed passion. "But how did you know that I was thinking this?"

Aymer retreated, and surveyed her gravely.

"You don't mean to say that you really had such thoughts in your mind just at that minute? Why, then, I'm sorry that I did not stumble upon the truth; I'd rather not have known it. But surely you are jesting, or something or something, for you such a vile opinion of my sex that you are at war with the whole of it, and will only be kind in order to be cruel!"

[To be Continued.]

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## AN ANSWER FROM QUEBEC

Mrs. Thornley's Charges of Illiteracy and Ignorance

Combated by the Minister of Education of the Province.

Quebec's Educational Progress Compared With Ontario's Interesting Statistics.

To the Editor of the Advertiser:

In your issue of the 3rd inst. there appeared a report of an address by Mrs. Jaxon Thornley, of the Dominion Prohibition Alliance, in which she attributed the Quebec Anti-Prohibition majority to the illiteracy and ignorance of the people of that province.

Several of the lights of the same alliance have since spoken in the same strain. Knowing the one-sided character of the utterances of this body too well to accept any of its statements without question, I at once wrote to the Minister of Education of the Province of Quebec, asking him to deal with this accusation of ignorance and illiteracy hurled against his province.

On account of absence his reply was delayed somewhat, and that reply whilst frankly admitting that the Dominion report is in some respects unfavorable, shows that some very gratifying progress has been made within the last twenty years. I submit the letter to you, with the request that you publish it, wholly or in part. In conclusion, I say that utterances such as that of Mrs. Thornley are anything but favorable to the prohibition cause. If illiteracy and ignorance explain the adverse vote in Quebec, what about the hostile vote in Toronto?

L. MINEHAN.

Toronto, Nov. 22.

EDUCATION IN QUEBEC.

Following is the text of the letter referred to:

Quebec, Nov. 11, 1898.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—Absence for several days has prevented an earlier reply to your esteemed letter, which was received on the 5th inst. I cannot thank you too heartily for the interest you manifest in our province, and for your desire to reply to the insulting statements of that certain fanatic who, against us on account of the recent plebiscite.

I send you by this mail a copy of my official report for 1896-97, as well as a copy of a paper I read last summer at the Dominion Educational Association at Halifax. If you will glance through these documents, you will observe what progress education is making in Quebec, a progress not less than that of Ontario or any other province.

For instance, you will see that the average age of pupils in our schools in 1896-97 was 75 per cent of the enrollment, whilst in Ontario the average was only 56 per cent, according to the report of the Hon. Mr. Ross.

It is true that the census of 1891 is very unfavorable to our province in certain respects, but it does not do us justice, and is certainly erroneous. Unfortunately, our provincial statistics are not sufficiently complete or general to permit me to contradict those of the census in detail. In any event, it is not just to describe the actual state of affairs by reference to an alleged inferiority in the past, an inferiority due, perhaps, to misfortunes in public matters and to national trials. Our actual system dates back not further than fifty years, during which time we have made substantial progress. Comparing, for example, the census of 1871 with that of 1891, our province has outstripped the rest of the Dominion in point of progress actually realized.

MAKING PROGRESS.

If education is less widespread among those of our generation that are passing away than amongst the older people of Ontario, it has, nevertheless, made more progress among our youth than amongst the youth of that province. Bulletin of the last census, which, however, is invoked against us, confirms this fact on page 46, where it says: "The population of Quebec between 10 and 20 years of age, has made much more rapid progress than the adult population. As a matter of fact, the progress of this group has been much more considerable than that of any other similar group in any of the other provinces. Indeed, Quebec, as regards education, shows the most satisfactory state that the study of the census can give in regard to the group from 10 to 20 years." (Translated from the French version, which I have before me.)

Moreover, a people must be judged somewhat by its superior education. Now, the census of 1891, volume 4, shows that the number of pupils in colleges and universities in Ontario was 8,077 for every 10,000 of population, and in Quebec, 37,611. I am aware that this difference may be largely due to a difference in nomenclature, but, even so, the main fact so creditable to our province remains.

I will not imitate the members of the W. C. T. U. by making irritating comparisons between the Anglo-Saxons and the French-Canadians.

I believe that the two populations have their peculiar merits in many directions; but I console myself, after the lucubrations of the ladies of the W. C. T. U., by observing that in 1893 (report of the royal commission concerning the admissions per thousand to the insane asylums of Ontario were 0.34, and of Quebec 0.26, and by the reflection that, after all, we are not more mentally afflicted than the prohibitionists of our sister province.

I account for the local display in Ontario by the fact that the arrests for drunkenness in 1893 in the city of Toronto represented 18 per 100 of population, while in the city of Quebec the arrests were only 6 per 100.

For aught I can see ourselves the comparison is not bad.

BOUCHER DE LA BRUBRE.

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## FIGHT ON THE STAGE

The Manager, a Small Man, Was "Walloped" by a Robust Actress.

Vienna, Nov. 30.—An unusual scene was witnessed here recently on the stage of Deutsches Volkstheater. An actor, Herr Tyrolt, and two actresses, Misses Kalmár and Raul, were accorded enthusiastic applause for their playing in the first act of a piece.

Herr Tyrolt, however, felt aggrieved because he considered the two actresses acknowledged this applause as though it was meant exclusively for them, and quite ignored him. An altercation between Tyrolt and Mme. Kalmár ensued, necessitating the interference of Herr Retty, the stage manager.

When the curtain went up again the audience enjoyed the edifying spectacle of a hand-to-hand fight between the stage manager and the leading lady. As Retty is a small, weak man, and Mme. Kalmár a tall, vigorous woman, the manager had decidedly the worst of the struggle, and was finally ejected from the stage by the actress with a black eye and a bleeding nose.

It is only a short time since the celebrated tragedienne, Adele Sandrock, visited the director of the Burgtheater and threw a chair at him in his own room, because he declined to give her roles which she wished to play.

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RATES OF PASSAGE. First cabin, Derry and Liverpool, \$50 and upwards; return, \$100 and upwards. Second cabin, Liverpool, Derry, London, \$30; return, \$60. Steerage, Liverpool, Derry, Belfast, Glasgow, London, everything found, \$22.50. Glasgow-New York service—Cabin—\$47 and upwards; return, \$90 and upwards; second cabin, \$32.50; return, \$65; steerage, \$23.50.

AGENTS—E. De la Hooke, "Clock" corner Richmond and Dundas, Thomas R. Parker, south-west corner of Richmond and Dundas streets, and F. B. Clarke, 418 Richmond street.

## WHAT IS

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A. H. HARRIS, General Traffic Manager, Board of Trade Building, Montreal.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager, Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., May 21, 1897.

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434