

wards, when the flowers had wilted, and nothing remained but withered leaves, someone out of idle curiosity raked among the different cards accompanying the anchors, crosses and other designs, and ran across the name of "Mrs. Asherton," written on the reverse side of a "Tuesday at Home" invitation. I wonder if Doctor Clayton's spirit will put in an appearance. You won't catch me doing an Asherton "At Home" with the risk of being terrified into spasms at the sight of some 'hideous apparition.' "

And so Bessie and Ray rattled on with glib loquacity, and Archer had listened with evident amusement, until reminded by a regular furor of applause that a favorite clarionette solo, which he had been looking forward to with expectancy, was over.

The crowd had sped cityward, and Ethel and he were alone on the upper balcony, where they had spied out two cozy wicker-chairs. For a spell, they were too enraptured with the beauties of the night to say much.

The myriad scintillating lights of heaven reflected in the slowly heaving bosom of the deep, were flashed back with augmented lustre. To Archer's exuberant imagination, the sea and sky had set up telegraphic communication—lunar, stellar and mundane operators were despatching messages along the electric beams darting from sphere to sphere. Oh! if he could only construe the occult signals conveyed in those shooting rays! But the cipher code would be a mystery for all time. Man boasts of triumphs over the forces of nature, but what so sublime as the uncontrolled powers of creation bridging the distance between the orbs, each radiating, sparkling gleam emanating from some mighty, incomprehensible spiritual source and freighted with beneficence and hope. And then there was the crooning lullaby of the waves laving the stretch of shingle, and the whisper of swaying pines to fill in the harmony of the picture.

Archer was the first to break the silence. "Miss Grant, if you care to listen, I'll read you those few sketches of Quebec life, which you said I might write up. Don't criticize them too severely. We needn't go inside, as I can turn my back to the window and put on the incandescent."

"That will be a diversion," said Ethel delightedly. "Really there was nothing meritorious in the few anecdotes I gave you, and I will be curious to see how you could have possibly evolved anything interesting out of such meagre material."

When he had finished, Ethel was enthusiastic over the ingenious treatment, and complimented him on the wealth of constructive imagination displayed.

"But, Miss Grant, these sketches will have to be anonymous contributions, as everything has been filched from you."

"No," she replied, "I might have suggested a few ideas, but without the assistance of your conception and fancy, they would never have crystalized into anything approaching composition."

"But what about the proceeds?" Archer's long connection with newspaper life had rendered the idea of gratuitous work most unacceptable.

After a pause, during which Archer had puzzled to solve the difficulty, he blurted out elatedly; "Let's compromise. We'll be collaborateurs, and use the initials of your christian and my surname, and sign them E. A."

Archer, satisfied with this key to the problem, leaned back in his chair. A moment afterwards, darting a swift glance at Ethel, he was astonished to perceive her blushing furiously, and, like a flash, the closing words of his late remark recurred, and left him equally abashed at his extreme *gaucherie*. There was a painful interval. Archer might have redeemed himself by turning it off lightly, but as he saw Ethel's pretty confusion, he became serious, and a wild, daring thought began to shape in his brain. He suddenly realized that Ethel was everything to him, and, without considering the consequences, said in a tremulous voice, just above a whisper: "I'm very awkward, but I've thought of you every minute since I first saw you, and the linking of our initials was the mere result of constantly associating you with myself in all my dreams of happiness." He paused and coughed, for Ethel was still silent, and then added waveringly in tones of concentrated passion: "Miss Grant—Ethel—I want you for my own. Our acquaintance has been a short one, but I feel that I have communed with your inmost nature, and that life without you would be an intolerable drag."

(To be continued.)

DR. ALBERT WILLIAMS.
Late of London, England, general family and obstetric practice, with special attention to diseases of children and diseases of the chest and stomach; over twenty-five years' experience; many years a member of the British Homoeopathic Society, British Gynecological Society and Pathological Society of London.
DR. WILLIAMS may be consulted at all hours at his office and residence, 94 Pandora, near Quadra street, city. Telephone 153.

Providing a great pleasure to the smoker. The brands we keep excel in flavor, color, body and general smoking qualities. The same remark applies to the various brands of smoking mixtures. Our assortment of pipes and smokers' articles generally is COMPLETE in every detail.

H. L. SALMON, Salmon Block.
HARTMAN & CO.
COMMISSION MERCHANTS

11 and 12 New City Market,

RECEIVERS OF

Grain, Hay, Mill Feed, Potatoes, Poultry, Eggs, Imported and Domestic Fruits, etc.
Liberal advances made on consignments.
Returns made weekly.
Have you seen our Chop Feed, which cannot be excelled?

Try Our +

EGG LEMONADE
PHOSPHATE
COFFEE
CHOCOLATE

10 Cents.

Or a glass of

Hires Root Beer,
Ottawa Beer,

Raspberry Phosphate,
Strawberry Phosphate,
Orange Phosphate,
Blood Orange Phosphate,
Coffee and Cream,
Chocolate and Cream
Etc., Etc.

5 Cents.

—AT—

The Central Drug Store,

CLARENCE BLOCK,

Cor. Yates and Douglas Sts., Victoria, B. C.

OPEN ALL NIGHT.

UNDER DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE

"Motion best means of cure."—Hoffman.

Massage.

DONALD F. MACDONALD,

Certified Medical and Surgical Masseuse, London, Eng., visits or receives patients at the

LEANDER SWIMMING AND ELECTRIC BATHS.

No. 32½ Fort Street.

W. J. HANNA,

Graduate U. S. College of Embalming,
New York.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR and EMBALMER

Parlors 102 Douglas St.,

Telephone 498.

Victoria, B. C.

W. G. FURNIVAL
UPHOLSTERER.

Carpets cleaned, altered and relaid.

Lace Curtains and Blankets a specialty.

DUCK BUILDING, 58 BROAD ST. TEL. 540

Of all the summer beverages for Table or general use, Cider is the most healthful, and SAVORY'S is the BEST, being made from home grown apples and perfectly pure. A splendid thing for picnics is a case of Savory's Champagne Cider. All the leading grocers keep it in stock. If your grocer should not have it, order direct from the maker.

W. J. SAVORY.

VICTORIA, B. C.

Telephone No. 32.

P. O. Box No. 18.

QUEEN'S MARKET,

Cor. Government and Johnson sts., Victoria.

Lawrence Goodacre,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BUTCHER

Contractor by appointment to Her Majesty's Royal Navy, the Dominion Government, etc. Shipping supplied at lowest rates.

NEW QUEBEC MAPLE SYRUP

ARRIVED. [Very Delicious.]

Falconer Vinegar and Pickle Works.

Telephone 473.

Fort St., Victoria, B. C.