

The Sentimental Fair.

Until arriving at the age of twenty-five the girl of sentimental mood is only a quiet, uninteresting maiden, with a strong bias for poetry, chiefly of the modern school, that will not scan or construct. She has an album, and collects autographs; she writes, and has drafted the plot of a three-volume novel, not written; she despises this age of money. One day she wakes up, and reflects that woman was not made to live alone. Many of her old school-friends are already wives and mothers; and in the numerous novels from Modie's which she peruses she notices a tendency to depreciate the matrimonial chances of virgins who have reached her time of life. Her poetical instinct warns her that there is no romance in old maids.

So she resolves for the fray, and puts on war-paint. A fine figure and carriage, a well-trained intellect, a strictly conventional manner, a good family connection, a few art-treasures as heirlooms, a domestic taste underlying her keen poetical sympathy with wives of the Guinevere pattern—all these things might combine to make her an excellent wife for a man of easy temper, not addicted to claim autocratic powers in the home circle.

But Lavinia—as we may call her—is beset by difficulties caused by her peculiar temperament, nourished on Tennyson and Browning, and fortified by Swinburne. An ordinary man will do for a damsel who feels a deep contempt for men who have not, like herself, set their faces against a mercenary age. Lavinia's husband must be in some twenty respects superior to all other women's husbands. He need not be rich or noble; she would, on the whole, prefer that he should be neither, so that he might not dwarf her with his superiority. But he must have every sort of physical and intellectual advantage, co-operating to make him a glorious compound of mind and matter. He must be handsome and modest, fascinating and faithful; able to knock down an ox one minute, and tenderly to fasten a fallen ear-ring to his wife's ear the next. He must be peaceful, yet firm; an artist, orator, sportsman, statesman; a hero of land, sea, or balloon; yet never bored by shall talk; a savant, without being a pedant; well-dressed, but not extravagant—such a man as never was, even in books, and alas, never can be!

But Lavinia believes in his existence, in her power to find him, in her ability to discover merit which was before hidden. So she draws out, examines, and criticizes all her male friends. Of female friends she has one, and into her ears she pours her plaint. The poet is carky, and dragon fast, the divine slow, the merchant ignoble, the baronet a rouse. Not one may marry her; and at last, by dint of disenchantment, she grows sour, except to her canary, and hates men almost as much as she detests married women. But she sketches miniatures with the pen and pencil of the man she could have loved, and these much resemble the wax presentments in barbers' windows.

The Sentimental Fair, after a period of misanthropic retirement, often takes to literature, and flits with authors. She submits a copy of her verses to the Laureate, and, getting a polite reply, emboldened to try a work in prose. While the book is going through the press she has an exciting time correcting proofs; but disillusions await her, when the critics fall to flouting her heroes and heroines with ridicule. Her second attempt is not so trashy as the first. She aims determinedly at success by a story of conjugal impropriety, which strikes one of the most sensitive chords in the breasts of fanatical readers of novels; and though this second book gets a lavish share of abuse, it elevates its authoress to a distant position in the world of letters.

A Box of Bitters.

"Two brothers," began the Professor, impressively addressing the hostess, "were walking together down the street, and one of them stopping at a certain house, knocked at the door, observing, 'I have a niece here who is ill.' 'Thank heaven,' observed the other, 'I have no niece,' and he walked away. How could that be?"

"Why, it's a riddle!" exclaimed Mr. Funnidog, delightedly.

"And one that you will not guess in a hurry simple as it is," observed the Professor confidently. "Come, ladies and gentlemen, solve the problem."

"I see," ejaculated Mrs. Housewife.

"Hush! whisper in my ear," cried Puzzleton, with all the excitement of a child with a top. "Don't let 'em hear it. 'Niece by marriage.' Stuff and nonsense. The thing is not any foolish kind catch at all," and once more he glanced with hostility at Funnidog, at much as to say, "Such as he would ask you."

Nothing can be simpler than my question. "I've got a niece, that's ill," says one brother. "Thank heaven, I have not got a niece," says the other. "How can that be? You all give it up? Well the invalid was his daughter."

"Oh I see," said Mrs. Housewife despondingly. "How very stupid in us not to find it out."

"Yes, indeed, ma'am," answered the remorseless savant. "That failure only shows how difficult it is for ordinary minds to grasp more than one idea at the same time. The attention is solely fixed on the different varieties of nieces."

"And, also," observed Mr. Aloys (who was much displeased at being classed among "ordinary minds") and also, the attention is naturally distracted from the point at issue by the brutality of the father's remark. Now that is in itself 'a catch' in my opinion."

"Well, sir, I will give you another simple exercise for the understanding that has no such distracting element," observed the Professor, coolly. "A blind beggar had a brother. The brother died. What relation were they to one another? Come tell me that."

"Why, they were brothers," exclaimed the colonel, with the rapidity of a small boy at the bottom of his class, who hopes to gain promotion.

"No, sir," answered the Professor, regarding Thunderbomb with interest, as a significant type of some low order of intelligence, "they were not brothers, or I should scarcely have asked the question."

"They might be brothers-in-law," suggested Funnidog.

"Undoubtedly they might," replied Puzzleton, with a pitying smile; "but they were not."

"Stop a bit," said McPherson, hurriedly one who has got his answer quite ready, but yet doesn't wish to be anticipated. "The blind beggar, you said, had a brother and the brother died. Well, of course, if one was dead, you know they could not be brothers any longer."

"The idea is novel," observed the Professor, gravely, "but you have not hit upon the exact solution. The fact is, gentlemen and ladies, a blind beggar may be either male or female. In this instance she was a female. They were brother and sister."

"I call that a catch," said Aloys gloomily.

"Well, at all events, it was an easy one, and you all missed it," returned the Professor, with quiet triumph. "Now, I will give you one more example of social arithmetic, which will be in all respects bona fide. It is a simple question in subtraction, and all I shall ask of you is—since two or three guesses would arrive at the truth by mere elimination—to write down the reply on paper. A man went into a cobbler's and bought a pair of boots for sixteen shillings. He put down a sovereign twenty shillings, and the cobbler having no change sent to a neighboring public house, and gave it to him. Later in the day, the landlord of the inn sent in to say that the sovereign was a bad one, and insisted upon the cobbler making it right; which he accordingly did. Now, how much did the cobbler lose by the whole transaction? There is no play upon words, or anything out a common sum in arithmetic."

"Why, it's the easiest thing in the world," ejaculated Housewife. "Of course the cobbler lost just—"

"Be quiet," cried Puzzleton very angrily. "Write it down, will you, if you can write."

"Scratch a professor, and you find a Tartar," whispered Aloys. "You had better do as he wishes."

So we all wrote down what we imagined to be the loss which the cobbler had sustained; and it was wonderful how opinions differed within such narrow limits.

The colonel made him lose two pounds.

Mr. Aloys made him lose just a pound and the boots.

Mr. Funnidog made him lose six and thirty shillings.

Mr. McPherson made him lose sixteen shillings and the boots, minus the profit he made upon the boots (which, said the

Professor, it is not necessary to take into consideration.)

There would be little if any sickness during the hot months of July and August; if every one would take Dr. Carson's Stomach and Constipation Bitters, as they prevent and cure all derangements of the Stomach and Bowels. Sold in large bottles at 50 cents by all druggists. Geo. Rhyanae, agent, Goderich.

The most delicate, small, and least showy such are sewed in the neck and sleeves of French dresses. These are of lace and muslin more often than of the fragile crepe lisse formerly used, and are usually composed of three rows very finely pleated.

There are minor accidents liable to occur at any time, which, if properly treated, may prevent serious results. A burn or scald is always painful; but the pain can be instantly relieved by the use of carbonate of soda, or common baking soda (saleratus). Put two teaspoonful of soda in half a cup of water. Wet a piece of linen cloth in the solution and lay it on the burn. The pain will disappear as if by magic. If the burn is so deep that the skin has peeled off, dredge the dry soda directly on the part affected.

For a slight cut there is nothing better to control the hemorrhage than common unglazed brown wrapping paper, such as is used by marketmen and grocers, a piece to be bound over the wound.

Nose bleed, if not in excess, should not be checked. It is nature's method of relieving congestion. It sometimes, however, passes a healthy limit and wants attention. Put the hands in mustard water and apply cloths wet with ice water or vinegar water, to the forehead and over the nose. In aged persons and those who are great eaters nose bleed shows a tendency to apoplexy. The bowels should be kept free and the diet regular.

CANADIAN NEWS.

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The following figures show the distribution of the License Fund in the East Riding of Huron: McKillop, \$89.08; Hullett, \$34.82; Morris, \$34.82; Grey, \$191.87; Brussels, \$454.45; Turnberry, \$58.29; Wroxeter, \$82.23; Howick, \$246.98; Provincial Treasury, \$471.06.

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A man named Stanley, belonging to Moretown, committed suicide on Saturday night by jumping into Lake St. Clair from the steamer Omar D. Conger. Although several persons witnessed the act, it was done so coolly and quickly that none interfered to prevent it.

Mrs. McMaster, wife of the new member for Glengarry, has been dangerously ill from inflammation of the lungs, but it is hoped that she is now out of danger. The bitterness of the contest in the contest in this county may be judged from the fact that Mrs. McMaster's father signed the nomination paper for the rival candidate on the day when his daughter lay at the point of death.

The latest despatches from London indicate that the British Government has at last determined upon decisive action in Egypt, and if the gossip of the lobby of the House of Commons can be relied on the British squadron will bombard Alexandria unless the construction of Egyptian forts is discontinued. There seems yet to be some difference regarding the intervention of Turkish troops in Egypt, and the knowledge of this, coupled with the fact that matters had arrived at a point where further delay may prove disastrous to British prestige in the East, has probably led the Government to arrive at this conclusion. In case of hostilities breaking out, strenuous efforts will be made by the British troops to protect the Suez Canal from injury by fanatical natives, and for this service the native troops which await embarkation in British India are, it is thought, admirably adapted and better able to endure the extreme heat of the climate.

Hall's Ostarth Cure is taken internal. It acts directly upon the blood and the mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75 cents. For sale by George ... 1843-5m

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