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MADAME'S WARD

BY PAULINE BEVERLY.

Little Lotty had disappeared, and the couple by the fire had the kitchen to themselves. Nat's curly head still lay back upon the cushion, and the red cut was plainly visible upon her forehead, but altogether she looked as if being shot over her horse's head was rather a pleasant experience. Her great eyes were shining like stars, and the curious old and flow of emotional color made her cheeks as bright in tint as the cardinal velvet ribbon round her neck. Yorke had his chair close by, and his elbow rested on the arm of hers as they talked. Whatever they were saying was too quiet and confidential for me to hear, and it was not until I had closed the door noisily that they became aware of my presence. I wondered whether I had stopped away a discreet length of time.

"Why, Ned, are you back already?" cried Nat, turning round with a start.

"Already? I like that! I haven't been there a minute."

"Have you sent any one to 'Chavasse'?" asked Yorke.

"Oh, yes."

"That's right. Is Dazette in?"

"In where?"

"Redpots, of course."

"For all I know. I haven't been there a minute."

"Why, you said you had sent!" cried Nat.

"So I have, my dear; but I chanced to find a messenger before I got there. Outside the gate I stumbled over that sulky animal, Phil Flood. I dispatched him."

"Miss Orme made no reply, but sunk back against her cushion again. I strolled over to the fire, and started."

"I say, Roger, what a sullen brute that is!"

"Who is?"

"Phil Flood."

"Is he? He is lazy enough, at any rate," said Roger, indifferently.

"You're right. By the way, have you been giving him a lecture lately?"

"I told him a month ago that he'd done for in a week if he didn't mend his ways. Why?"

"Oh, nothing," I answered, thinking that just now was not exactly the time to speak of Flood's queer conduct and queer talk and peculiar conduct to a word or two which Yorke had let drop a long while previously to the effect that the sullen fellow was a smooth sometimes looked at to knock him on the head. He did not seem to be thinking of it now; his eyes were on Nat's face as she started at the fire.

"Flood used to be a steady enough fellow," I added. "It's an awful pity to see him going on in such a fashion."

"Yes, a great pity," Yorke assented. "It was a bad thing for that poor little girl upstairs if she marries him. It strikes me."

"What a pretty girl she is!" Nat struck in, before I could reply. "I have never really seen her before today. What was it that you called her, Doctor Yorke?"

"Lotty. Her name is 'Charlotte,' I suppose, but I never heard anybody call her so."

"I should think not. No one would ever think of calling such a pretty little rosy thing by such a big name as that; it doesn't sound natural somehow. Ned calls me 'Nat' on the same principle. Who is Phil Flood?"

"The blacksmith."

"Oh, yes—I remember! He is always lurking about and getting tipsy. Doctor Dazette told us, and poaching, too. He fancied I think that he had something to do with shooting the

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"His eyes?" Roger asked, and gave a short laugh. "I don't know anything about his eyes," he said.

"Well, I do. I know I don't like them. Is it because he will keep on smiling when he doesn't mean it?" Yorke shifted in his chair; but gave no answer, and there was a short silence. Opening my eyes when I thought it had lasted long enough, I saw him staring gloomily at the fire, for he had moved his seat so as to bring his face well within my range of vision. Nat's, too, I could see as she leaned forward in her chair, looking up at him eagerly. Presently with a pout she sunk out of sight again in the deep arm-chair.

(To Be Continued.)

WESTERN ONTARIO BIRDS WINNERS AT GUELPH

Judging in Poultry Concluded on Wednesday—Londoners in Big Concert.

Guelph, Ont., Dec. 8. — Mr. J. S. Willison, editor of the Toronto News, and Hon. Mr. Marshall, of the Alberta cabinet, were the principal speakers at a large gathering here tonight in connection with the Winter Fair. Addresses of welcome were delivered by his Worship Mayor Hastings and J. P. Downey, M. L. A. Lieut.-Col. R. McEwen, of Byron, president of the show, gave a short address. Mr. H. Baldwin, of Toronto, president of the Western Poultry Association, J. G. Rutherford, veterinary director-general, came up from Ottawa and gave a short address on the work of his department.

Under the direction of Capt. T. Robinson, of London, an excellent musical programme was rendered, consisting of solos by E. S. Crawford, Beatrice Hunt, and the musical director, C. E. Percy, of London, was the accompanist.

Mr. Willison's address dealt largely with the problem of transportation, and he came out strong for public ownership. In this way only, he contended, could the farmer reach his markets in the quickest and cheapest way.

Women's Institutes. Five hundred women are in attendance at the sessions of the annual meeting of the Women's Institutes, which opened in Market Hall today, and where Dr. Annie Backus, of Aylmer, declared that the recent change in the increase of the exemption from taxation should be made to apply to women as well as men.

London Birds Win.

The poultry judging ended today. Birds from around London swept the board. In ornamental bantams, Lamb and Middlesex exhibitors were particularly successful, as many of the classes, while A. E. Dean, of Watford, wins for the third year in succession the silver cup for the best display of Black Leghorns.

Shaw & McIntosh, of Forest, were winners of two silver cups and several specials on their Light Bantams and Buff Cochins Bantams.

H. Frazer, of Forest, was a fore-runner in the Blue Game class, and most winner in the Strathgairn, in nearly all his fancy breeds.

Rawlings & Bailey, of Forest, winners of nearly all of the prizes for Cotswold sheep at the Seaside and Fair, won all the prizes in this class here.

James Featherstone & Son, Streetsville, swept the best of their Yorkshire swine, carrying off nearly all the prizes.

Some Prize-Winners.

Southdowns, ewe, under one year—1 and 2, Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont.; 3 and 4, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 5, George Baker, Simcoe, Ont.

Three ewes, under 1 year—1, Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont.; 2, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 3, Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont.; 4, George Baker, Simcoe, Ont.

Three ewes, under 1 year—1, J. Lloyd Jones, Burford, Ont.; 2, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 3, J. Lloyd Jones, Burford, Ont.; 4, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 5, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.

Three ewes, under 1 year—1, J. Lloyd Jones, Burford, Ont.; 2, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 3, George Baker, Simcoe, Ont.; 4, Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont.

Best ewe, under 2 years—J. Lloyd Jones, Burford, Ont.

Hamshire and Suffolk, ewe, under 1 year—1, 2, 3, John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.

Wether, 1 year and under 2—1, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; 2, John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.

Wether, under 1 year—1, 2, 3, John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.; 4 and 5, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.

Three ewes, under 1 year—1, John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.; 2, Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.

Best wether, under 2 years—Telfer Bros., Paris, Ont.; Reserve, John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.

Southdown specials, ewe, under 1 year—1 and 2, Robert McEwen, Byron, Ont.

Export bacon hogs, two pure breeds—1, J. Featherstone & Son, Streetsville, Ont.; 2, J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont.; 3 and 4, F. Duck & Sons, Mitchell, Ont.; 5, J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont.; 6, R. F. Duck & Son, Port Credit, Ont.; 7, Charles Currie, Morriston, Ont.

Sweepstake, two best export bacon hogs, any breed—J. Featherstone & Son, Streetsville, Ont.

Special for the best bacon hog shown by any amateur exhibitor, resident of the county of Halifax—W. W. Brownbridge, Ashgrove, Ont.

Special for best bacon hog shown by an amateur exhibitor, resident of the county of Brant—M. A. McAllister, Ameranto, Ont.

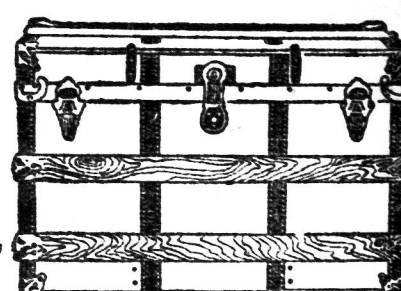
Mrs. Martha Mason, Marlbank, Ont., writes: "Just a few lines to let you know what Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills have done for me. I have been troubled with weakness and palpitation of the heart, would have severe choking spells and many remedies but got none to answer my case like your pills did. I can recommend them highly to all with heart or nerve trouble."

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Fine Boots and Oxford Ties, in Patent Colt, Vici Kid, Box and Velour Cali, Tan and Willow Cali, and Chocolate Vici; straight lace and Blucher cuts. Regular retail prices—\$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50 and \$5.00. Closing out prices, \$1.98, \$2.29, \$2.89, \$2.98, \$3.29, \$3.39, \$3.49 and \$3.69.

400 Pairs of Men's

Solid Working Boots, in Boston Cali, Kip, Chrome Grain, Box Cali and Oil Grain; both light and heavy soles. Regular retail prices—\$1.35, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50 and \$2.75. Closing out prices—98c, \$1.19, \$1.29, \$1.39, \$1.49, \$1.69, \$1.89, \$1.98 and \$2.19.

600 Pairs of Women's

Fine Boots, Oxfords, Gibson Ties and Hand-Turn Strap Slippers, in Patent Colt, Vici Kid, Velour Cali, Tan Cali, Chocolate and Ox-blood Vici Kid. Regular retail prices—\$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00, \$3.25, \$3.50, \$3.75, \$4.00 and \$4.50. Closing out prices—\$1.49, \$1.69, \$1.89, \$1.98, \$2.39, \$2.47, \$2.69, \$2.89 and \$2.98.

300 Pairs of Women's

Felt House Slippers, Oxfords, Strap Slippers and Southern Ties, in Turns and McKays. Regular retail prices—50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75. Closing out prices—25c, 47c, 69c, 89c, 98c, \$1.19, \$1.29 and \$1.39.

400 Pairs of Boys' and Girls'

Strong School and Fine Dress Boots and Oxfords, in Dongola, Oil Grain, Box Cali, Vici Kid, Tan and Chocolate Vici. Regular retail prices—\$1.35, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25 and \$2.50. Closing out prices—98c, \$1.19, \$1.29, \$1.39, \$1.49, \$1.59, \$1.69, \$1.79, \$1.89 and \$1.98.

300 Pairs of Children's

Boots, Oxfords and Slippers, in Patent, Dongola and Chocolate. Regular retail prices—50c, 75c, 85c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.40, \$1.50 and \$1.75. Closing out prices—29c, 39c, 49c, 59c, 69c, 79c, 89c, 98c, \$1.19, \$1.29, \$1.39.

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Mrs. Martha Mason, Marlbank, Ont., writes: "Just a few lines to let you know what Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills have done for me. I have been troubled with weakness and palpitation of the heart, would have severe choking spells and many remedies but got none to answer my case like your pills did. I can recommend them highly to all with heart or nerve trouble."

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Heifer, 2 years and under 3—1, John Barr, Blyth, Ont.; 2, Kyle Bros., Ayr, Ont.; 3, John Brown & Sons, Galt, Ont.; 4, L. Fred, Roseville, Ont.

Heifer, 1 year and under 2—1 and 2, A. F. and G. Auld, Eden Mills, Ont.; 3, J. P. and G. Auld, Eden Mills, Ont.; 4, J. P. and G. Auld, Eden Mills, Ont.; 5, Frank Smith, Scotland, Ont.

Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus—Steer or heifer, 2 years and under 3—1, James Bowman, Guelph, Ont.; 2, F. W. Stone Stock Company, Guelph, Ont.

Steer or heifer, 1 year and under 2—1, Thomas H. Broadfoot, Fergus, Ont.; 2 and 3, Hugh McDougall, Guelph, Ont.; 4, F. W. Stone Stock Company, Guelph, Ont.

Steer, under 1 year—1, John Lowe, Elora, Ont.

Heifer, under 1 year—1, Thomas H. Broadfoot, Fergus, Ont.; 2, Hugh McDougall, Guelph, Ont.; 3, D. McCrae, Guelph, Ont.

Steer or heifer, 1 year and under 2—1, 2 and 3, D. McCrae, Guelph, Ont.

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