

..The Planet..

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

LOVE LETTERS.

This is the age of love letters, says the Hamilton Post. Everybody is reading them and a great many people are writing them, and among the readers of the fictitious article are to be found some whom one would not suppose to be driven to this resource for want of receiving such epistles of their own. It is a curious phase of the popular taste, for the real love letters (unless they happen to be addressed to one's self) are in these degenerate and sentimental days invariably thin and wishywashy to a degree, while the imitation product becomes less and less convincing the more it departs from the thinness and wishy-washiness of reality.

In these facts lie the basis for a hope that the love letter craze will shortly work itself out, and go the way of its literary predecessors. In the case of the real article—such publications as the Browning love letters, it is certain that refined taste would lose nothing by their being withheld from publication, and when the public begins to realize that they are interesting, we shall not be far from that ideal. For the real love letter is almost always a patchwork of trivialities, well-worn epigrams, and little details of ordinary life which have a halo of significance in the eyes of the two who alone have a right to be interested in the correspondence, but which to the ordinary public can only be absurd and unimportant. In the great scheme of things it has been decreed that love-making should seem to an outsider a ridiculous and reprehensible thing, and the fact that a man is a genius does not make his love-making a scrap less ridiculous. The love-making of art, the love poems, and the love music which make their audience at once a part and parcel of the emotional process are an entirely different thing, and when a poet is writing love letters, he cannot be expected to have his eye on the probable sensations of the public.

The fictitious love letter is in a somewhat different category. It is open to the one serious criticism, that it is unreal. It is a false method of depicting passion, because no actual passion ever displayed itself in this particular way. It is this feeling, the idea that the girl was written, not to her lover, but to the public, that mars the entire effect of that powerful book, "An Englishman's Love Letters." In the imitations thereof it becomes simply appalling. Rosa Amorosa, the latest production of the lady who writes over the pen name of George Egerton is a whole volume of fine writing no tone line of which any lover would ever write to any mistress, or any mistress to any lover, but it is a regular dictionary of endearment. We have a strong hope that the public passion for love letters has reached the anti-climax stage when it can buy and tolerate a volume which addresses a map in the following extremely un-British and un-20th-century terms: "My twin soul," "you dear, dear, fine spun silk of a man"; "dearest, dear, thing"; "heart friend, true lover, and shaper of my destiny"; "dear, good little man"; "my golden-tongued little man"; "most weaver of the fabric which makes life golden"; "you whimsicality in breeches."

After this it will be refreshing to turn to the correspondence of a young lady of the early Victorian period, and read her letters uniformly addressed up to the day of her marriage, "My dear Mr. Smith."

ON HONEST LYING.

We have been waiting to see somebody come out boldly in defence of necessary lying, and we have been rewarded, says the Woodstock Express. The London Spectator, a journal of considerable influence and some authority, declares that when indulged in in moderation society lying is in no way injurious to the moral health. Indeed, following out the Spectator's view, judicious society lying is necessary, not only for moral, but for the physical well-being of the community. Supposing people were to tell the truth, say for a week—oh, dear, would the old world ever get to rights again? Suppose, when invited out to dinner, instead of regretting a previous engagement, you were to tell the truth and say you feared to be bored to death. Suppose, when Mrs. Blank, whom you properly detest, comes to pay her afternoon call, instead of playing the hypocrite and showing welcomes upon her which she knows are not intended, you were to tell her the truth at once and desire that she should no longer inflict her presence upon you. One can readily see that two or three persistent truth-tellers in any community would be quite sufficient to shake the social fa-

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blie to its very foundation. And think of the fate of the amateur artists, the budding orators, and the young preachers—and some old ones—if the truth were only told to their face as freely as it is told behind their backs! The graveyards would soon be filled with mute, inglorious Miltons and undeveloped Patis, dying of broken hearts as of a pestilence. Imagine the effects of a few words of straight truth in a political campaign speech. Remember the member of North Oxford addressing his constituents something after this fashion: "You poor deluded chumps, we politicians call you the free and intelligent electorate; but we know that you are neither free nor intelligent, otherwise you would not find us conducting this campaign as we are doing. We know you are full of ignorance, superstition and bigotry, and that clever politicians like ourselves are able to play upon your weaknesses and your prejudices to our own profit. You are as much the slaves of your masters as if you lived in the days of feudal tenure. (All you are fit for is to pay taxes and keep us clever fellows in office and salary. Therefore, come up and poll your votes as your grandfathers did or be anathema."

Why not frankly justify square lying? Everybody knows that everybody else is lying, and practically nobody is deceived. Mrs. A. knows in her heart that when Mrs. B. says, "Oh, dear, Mrs. A., I am so glad to see you," she means "I wish the old termagant was in Halifax"; yet if Mrs. B. said what Mrs. A. knows she meant, wouldn't there be a row? A few such simple statements of fact would soon make visiting a thing of the past. The line must apparently be drawn somewhere, either at telling the truth or at wrecking society. The Spectator puts it this way:

"In the matter of true speaking, as in wine drinking, no one can define what moderation means, though we all believe that in our own persons we illustrate the word. But, granting this vague moderation, we are prepared to maintain that a certain number of false formulas are necessary for the defence and maintenance of the spirit of sincerity and truth. We all have entered into a tacit agreement that under certain circumstances we will deceive each other for our common comfort, and if any large number of people took to avoiding these defensive forms and spoke on all occasions nothing but the naked truth the world would have to be made over again, and we think that the new one would be worse and less ingenious than that in which we live."

"One would hardly dare to ask a friend to dine in so many words if it were not permissible for him to make the false reply that he was sorry but he was engaged, and could not come. Ordinary social intercourse, instead of becoming more direct, would have to be carried on by an elaborate system of hints; otherwise society would be a shambles."

After this it will be refreshing to turn to the correspondence of a young lady of the early Victorian period, and read her letters uniformly addressed up to the day of her marriage, "My dear Mr. Smith."

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become, metaphorically speaking, a bear garden in which sensitive persons would be battered to death. It would be impossible to get used to being told "I do not like you, and your friends bore me," or "I could come quite easily, but I do not care to identify myself with the very second-rate people among whom you live." Neither could we improve matters by reversing the ordinary procedure by allowing guests to invite themselves. The rebuff of being refused hospitality would be almost unbearable."

Has the Spectator made out a case for honest lying? It would be interesting to hear further evidence on this subject before deciding finally.

POSSIBLY AN INSINUATION.

London Advertiser.
Sarcasm I now see to be in general the language of the devil—Carlyle.

The Hamilton Spectator is strong on sarcasm.

WHAT HE ESCAPES.

Brantford Examiner.
Hamilton has a Methodist clergyman by the name of Hockey. Fortunately he is a married man, or all the Hamilton girls would be trying to work up a Hockey match.

AND LESS EXPENSIVE.

Hamilton Herald.
In future the Herald will be more careful in criticizing the assessors for missing people in their annual count of the population. Evidently the assessors are better counters than the census men are.

THE WARLIKE MOTORMAN.

Belleville Intelligencer.
That brave motorman in Toronto is coming in for a lot of praise. Very properly he slugged the man who tried to run away with his street car. It makes one shiver to think what a Belleville motorman would do in a case of that kind.

DANGEROUS HIGH JUMPING.

Montreal Witness, Grit.
We all remember how scathing were Sir Richard Cartwright's criticisms upon Conservative expenditure, when it averaged yearly around \$42,000,000, and a leap from \$40,853,727 in 1893 to \$45,334,281 in 1899, and \$62,717,466 in 1900, with \$67,426,729, including the 1902 supplementary estimates, voted during the present session, does look like dangerously high jumping.

SIGNS MULTIPLY.

Toronto Telegram.
Canada is likely to be exposed to the wrath of heaven and the scorn of man as the only nation on earth which has not brains enough to manage the enumeration of her own citizens. Signs multiply and all point towards the lamentable truth that the census of 1901 has been gloriously bungled.

CANADIAN JUSTICE.

Buffalo News.
Over in Canada, where they have the habit of enforcing the laws, a man who commits murder feels it is just as well to kill himself as wait for the authorities to do it.

Buffalo Express.

Foreign criminals who ply their trade in Canada and get caught would appear to be justified in their fear of Canadian justice. There is a disposition on the part of those who dispense that article in the Dominion—especially Ontario judges—to punish with the utmost severity any law-breakers who transfer their operations from this country to Canada. Judge McDougall, in sentencing the bank burglar at Toronto on Friday, said: "We have quite enough to do to deal with our own criminals, and we have no intention whatever of allowing Canada to be a hunting ground for foreigners." Then he imposed a sentence of 21 years in the penitentiary.

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weave and shade, suitable for skirts,
waists or children's dresses, all
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75c. Silks for 39c.—
23 pieces novelty silks in latest
checks, stripes, plaids and figured de-
signs, large range of seasonal
shades suitable for ladies waists, regu-
lar price 50c, 60c, and 75c yard, group-
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39c.

40c. Ribbons for 15c.—
30 pieces rich heavy pure satin rib-
bons, wide widths, choice range of
desirable colorings, regular 35c to
40c yard, your pick Saturday at

15c.

\$1.00 Homespun Suitings at 49c.—
5 shades fine pure wool homespun
dress goods, 52 inches wide, guaran-
teed thoroughly sponged and shrunken,
regular 90c and \$1.00 yard, clearing
Saturday at

49c.

8c. Sheetings at 6c. yard—
1200 yards heavy unbleached sheet-
ing, fine even round thread, pure,
clean finish, full yard wide, not pos-
sible to buy the quality anywhere at
less than 8c. yard. Come and get your
supply Saturday, at

6c.

\$1.25 Ladies Straw Sailors at 36c.—
Seems almost impossible—but here
they are—10 doz. fine straw sailors,
plain and rustic braids, white, black
or mottled, with silk or satin bands;
regular 75c, \$1 and \$1.25 each, Satur-
day

36c.

Children's Trimmed Hats, worth \$1.50
for 95c.—
A choice assortment of over 20 styles
to select from, at each, Saturday,

95c.

Pretty Straw Sailors at 18c each—
Plain or rustic straws, with silk
bands, New York shapes, you may go
elsewhere and pay 35c to 40c for them,
or come here Saturday and make your
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18c.

Patent Leather Belts at 15c.—
10 doz. newest styles to select from,
the best values we have ever shown
at 40c, 45c, 50c, 20c, or

15c.

90c Wrappers for 68c.—

Men's Fine Cashmere Sox at 15c.—
Fine, all wool, English Cashmere,
seamless sox, double heels and toes, rib
top, sizes 9-12, 10, 10 1/2, and 11 in.,
good value at 25c. pair, Saturday

15c.

Men's \$1.25 Fine Colored Shirts, at
83c.—
10 doz. Fine Cambric and print
shirts, colored or white with colored
bosom and cuffs, soft or laundered
bosoms in pretty, fast colored stripes
and checks, regular \$1.00 to \$1.25 each,
all sizes, Saturday, at

83c.

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15 doz. Shirt waists, all new, fresh
goods, in pretty stripe patterns, new-
est colorings, fast dyes, made in latest
styles. Sold regularly up to 75c each,
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Bargains in Pretty Dress Muslins—
50 pieces newest novelties in Amer-
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colorings, fast dyes, wonderful values
at per yard 25c, 20c, 18c, 17c, 15c,
12 1/2c, 10c and

8c.

12 1-2c Indigo Prints at 10c yard—
20 pieces fine heavy indigo prints,
splendid range of new patterns, 32
inches wide, fast colors, not sold any-
where at less than 12 1-2c yard, our
price Saturday

10c.

20c. Art Muslins at 12 1-2c yard—
4 choice patterns fine art muslin,
new woven and printed designs, 48
inches wide, fast colors, good value
at 20c yard, Saturday

12 1-2c.

\$1.00 Lace Curtains at 79c pair—
16 pair fine Nottingham lace cur-
tains, 6 yards long, wide width, taped
edges, dainty patterns, good value at
\$1.00 a pair, special Saturday

79c.

85c all Wool Carpet at 65c yard—
3 good reversible patterns, extra
superior 2 ply all wool carpet, fast
colorings, full yard wide, not sold any-
where less than 85c yard, our Sat-
urday price

65c.

60c Tapestry Carpet at 44c yard—
2 pieces heavy English tapestry
carpet, desirable patterns and color-
ings, good value, regular at 60c yard,
to clear Saturday at

44c.

90c Wrappers for 68c.—

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Great Hosiery Bargains.

25 Doz. Pair Ladies' Hose, fast black,
Saturday, a pair,

5c.

20 Doz. Fine Ribb or Plain Hose,
splendid quality, fast dye, elastic
weave, any size, a pair, Saturday,

10c.

Fine Egyptian Cotton Hose, plain
or drop stitch knit, full fashioned,
seamless, double soles, matchless val-
ues, at a pair, 19c, 22c and

25c.

Little Thread Hose, fine German
make, superior quality, full fashioned,
Hermendorf dye, special, at a pair 40c,
and

35c.

Fancy Polka Dot Hose, fine quality
of best black dye, seamless soles, spe-
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25c.

Ladies' Half Sleeve Vests at 5 Cents
Each.

40 Doz. Ladies' Summer Vests, soft,
elastic weave with half-sleeves, spe-
cial, Saturday, each,

15c.

Ladies' Vests, Fine Quality with
half-sleeves, long sleeves or no sleeves,
elastic knit, fancy trimmed yoke, at
each 8c, 10c, 12 1/2c, 15c, 20c and

25c.

Ladies' 4-Ply, All Linen Collars at 15c
Each.

In all the newest shapes, styles and
widths, W. G. & R's best quality,
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Ladies' White Waists.

The prettiest styles and best val-
ues you will find anywhere at
any price you wish to pay from 75c
each up to

\$4.50.

Clothing Snaps.

Men's Summer Coats in black, blue,
tweed, mohair, Russell cords, linen
crash and colored lustras, all sizes,
extra values, at each 90c, \$1, \$1.25,
\$1.50, \$2 and \$3.

Boys' Wash Suits 50c. Each.

63 only. Boys' Wash Suits in per-
cale, duck, galatia, drills and linen,
nobby styles, prettily trimmed, as-
sorted colors, sizes 3 years to 12
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