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THE QUEEN OF
THE SEASON

"We will not quarrel about Marie," answered Lord Eselynn, more pacifically. "I cannot expect you to enter into my feelings. In your sight she was nothing more than a dependent, bound to obey all your whims as long as you paid her a certain salary; what she was to me you can never know."

"It is an infatuation which you must not blame me for deploring," his sister coldly replied. "Defer your pity till I am gone," he retorted, "for I cannot stay to listen to it. All I have to say now is, that I have been suggesting to Hatherfield that your nuptials had better take place the first week in July; so I give you carte blanche for your trousseau, on condition that everything is ready by that period."

"Am I to be given in marriage whether I will or not, and even deprived of the bride's privilege of naming the day?" Vivien demanded, with a forced laugh. "You granted me a few weeks for consideration; would it not be only fair to Sir Innis to offer him the same?" "What, still trifling?" cried Aymer, angrily. "I thought there would have been an end of this now. Hatherfield has more patience with your capricious ladyship than I could have with any woman. But my time is up, so adieu. Keep the peace with the mamma, if you can, and if you value your own happiness, don't play with the affections of a man of Hatherfield's character."

"I am tired to death of my very name," she answered, pettishly. "I wish, from my heart, that you would give up this wild-goose chase, put aside all thoughts of giving me in marriage, and agree to go on some lengthy tour, and take me with you. Think how delightful it would be to bid farewell to England and all that harasses one here and plunge into the magnificent scenery of the Andes or the Himalayas! I would not care where I went, nor how long I stayed, so that it was with you." "The idea is not a bad one, and if I do not find Marie I may be tempted to entertain it," the earl replied; "on my own account, I mean, for I cannot credit that your offer to be my companion is made seriously. Look me in the face, Viva, and say whether you are prepared to part with Innis Hatherfield, not for a few months, or a year or two, but forever?"

Vivien caught her breath, and the color rushed into her cheeks, then faded slowly away.

"I am answered," he said. "Whatever befalls my dear Marie is decided. You will be Hatherfield's happy and honored wife."

Honored! Why had he stung her with that word? But hastily assuring her that he would not let anything prevent his return by the first week in July, in order to give her away, he kissed her cheek, and was hurrying from the room, when Justine, who had been lingering in the hall, arrested his progress.

"Pardon, my lord; but if I might speak with you."

"Not now," said Aymer, consulting his watch. "I have not a moment to spare, unless," he added, anxiously, "unless what you have to say relates to Mademoiselle Deille."

Ah yes; was of her Justine had rushed to give him some information. Aymer could listen readily enough now. Had she heard any tidings of Marie? he questioned, eagerly; and if so, where was she residing?

"She was in England a week since," Justine told him. "It was just that time since I encountered her."

In England, while Aymer was seeking for her everywhere but there. What could be more provoking?

"Tell me all you know, and quickly," he entreated.

And Justine proceeded to explain how she had visited Covent Garden market one morning to procure some pomegranate blossoms, which Lady Vivien had been seized with a fancy to wear at a ball that evening, and while passing up the principal avenue of the market she had suddenly found herself face to face with Marie.

"I could not be certain that it was this June file until I saw in her eyes that she recognized me," Justine added, "for she was pale, and altered to a degree that was marvelous. Ah, ciel! she was as white as the snow, and trembled as she walked."

"She has been ill!" cried Aymer. "Alone—was she alone?"

"At first, yes; but before I could collect myself to address her, a young lady, fair and gentle, came up, and, with the saddest of blue eyes, came quickly from one of the shops, with her little basket of fine herbs that she had been to purchase, and prepared to lead her away."

"But you spoke to her? Don't tell me that you let her depart without ascertaining where she is residing?" cried Aymer, in an agony of alarm.

"Indeed, my lord, I would have learned this if I could," Justine assured the excited earl; "but when I began to inquire what had been her malady, the young lady interposed, and prevented it."

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"Ma cousin is not well enough to hold any conversation with you," she said, but very politely. "See how the meeting has agitated her! In mercy assist me to lead her back to the vehicle we have waiting."

"Well? Why do you stop?" "Because, my lord, I think I was careless to neglect to notice more particularly the driver of the cab; but I was so surprised and saddened by the changed looks and feebleness of my poor young countrywoman, that my head was confused until she had driven away, leaving me on the pavement with a flower she had taken from her belt and given me in my hand."

"And you have known this for a week, yet kept me in ignorance!" exclaimed Aymer, passionately.

"My lord forgets that he was not here to be told, and my lady Vivien has so discouraged any mention of la jeune fille that I have not cared to name the rencontre to her."

Aymer muttered beneath his breath an anathema on Vivien's harshness, and then resumed his interrogations; but Justine had very little more to tell. She did her best to satisfy the ardent lover, who asked her over and over again for the fullest particulars of Marie's looks, and then hurried her away with him to the cab-stands in the vicinity of Covent Garden to endeavor to identify the driver of the vehicle that conveyed Marie away.

For several days Aymer sought this man to no purpose, and Justine began to complain that betwixt her journeys with Aymer and her duties with Vivien, she was harassed to death. The poor soubrette had some excuse for murmuring, as Vivien, partly to avoid tete-a-tetes with Sir Innis, and partly to disgust him, was gayer than ever. Lady Eselynn, who was strangely ill at ease when alone with her step-daughter, encouraged her in this round of dissipation, and Vivien scarcely ever saw her brother, till Cressida called her attention to his haggard looks.

"He came home last evening, Viva, dear, just after you left for the opera, and sat down over yonder, and dropped asleep as if worn out with fatigue. And he moaned, and talked so, that I was frightened, and fetched Nanna, and she says—don't be uneasy, Viva, for perhaps she isn't right—but Nanna says that he is positively killing himself."

Vivien's conscience smote her. She had intended, by her seeming indifference, to protest against his folly; but it shocked her when she found that, in spite of warnings and protests, his affection for the lost Marie was burning as fiercely as ever. She had flattered herself that the merry, heedless Aymer would quickly overcome his tendresse for her pretty maid, and now that she found him too much in earnest to do this she was seriously perplexed.

[To be Continued.]

NEWS FROM
RAILWAYSBig Increase of C. P. R. Earnings
Compared With 1897.

Number of Deals Consummated in Cuba—
English Capitalists Largely Interested.

Receipts from traffic on the C. P. R. for the week ending Dec. 31, 1898, \$931,000; for the same week last year, \$701,000; increase, \$230,000.

The Metropolitan Elevated Road, Chicago, was sold yesterday by the master in chancery for \$6,000,000. The road was bought by Fred F. Olcott, of New York, chairman of the reorganization company.

It is again asserted in New York that President Sloan, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, will retire next month, and will be succeeded by Second Vice-President and General Manager Hollister. Mr. Hollister has been with the company 47 years, and worked himself up from a trackman.

A dispatch to the New York Herald from Havana says: By the purchase of a large block of stock of the Cuban Railway, L. Ruise & Co., bankers, representing English capitalists, have secured a controlling interest in that line. The same men have also been large purchasers of the Sagua and Cienfuegos companies. They expect to have soon a controlling interest in these concerns, and owning, as they do, the United Railway lines, will be in a position to dictate terms to the Juacaro Company, which is the wealthiest and most prosperous in the island. If the Juacaro stock cannot be purchased, the line will undoubtedly be paralleled, thus giving a trunk line from Pinar del Rio to Santa Clara. In securing control of the Cuban line, the Englishmen carried the price of the stock up from about 65 to 78, most of the stock being bought at about 75. The Cuban line has a capital stock of \$2,275,000, and a debt of \$330,000. The Sagua line, which will probably be the next system to be acquired, has a capital stock of \$2,000,000, and no debts. The Cienfuegos line has a capital stock of \$2,500,000, and debts of \$800,000. The United Railway, which is already under English control, has a capital stock of \$7,000,000, and a bonded indebtedness of \$8,000,000. This concern controls the Havana Bank of Commerce, the Regla warehouses, and much real estate. The Juacaro Company, which will fight hard against the English company, has a capital of \$8,000,000, and no debts. The line earned 3 per cent, even during the war, and in normal times earns 10 per cent, being a favorite investment with the Spaniards for trust funds.

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The dry cough is the chief and frequently the only symptom of consumption in its early stages. It indicates the presence of tubercles in the lungs or bronchial tubes. The next stage of the disease is decomposition and consequent expectoration. At this stage of the disease it is not yet too late to effect a cure by the use of Shiloh's Consumption Cure. This is what a prominent Southern lady says of the successful remedy:

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Shiloh's Consumption Cure is sold by all druggists under a positive guarantee that the purchase money will be refunded in case of failure. 25c, 50c, and \$1 a bottle in the United States and Canada. In England, 1s. 2d., 2s. 3d. and 4s. 6d.

THE SCIENCE
OF FARMING

Successful Institute Meeting in
Mount Brydges.

Addresses by President Young, A. P. Ketchum, N. W. Simpson and R. S. Munson.

Meetings of the West Middlesex Farmers' Institute were held Tuesday afternoon and evening in the town hall, Mount Brydges, President Wm. Young, the newly-elected reeve, in the chair. The attendance was good, considering the turmoil of the preceding day, when everyone was busy with elections. J. B. Ewing, who was to speak on "Dairy-Twelve Months in the Year," was unable, through illness, to be present.

In the evening President Young delivered a few practical remarks, among other good things saying that if more farmers would cater to the comforts of the young people, they would be disappointed in the homestead, instead of craving for life in the city. Farmers should devote as much attention to beautifying the outside of the home as the women devote to beautifying the interior.

Among those present were: Thomas Faulds, F. Thompson, A. C. Luce, Jas. Clark, Robert Francis, Robert Bond, C. Sisson, William Grigg, A. McGregor, Joseph Hoover, A. C. Waters, Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Faulds, Robert Pearce, William Grigg, sen., W. Healey, A. S. Wilton, Mr. Perceval, John Grigg, S. Bond, John Mahan, J. Thompson, Henry Waters, Hugh Brodie, Stephen Courtis, John Buttery, Samuel Sutherland, T. C. West, D. J. Donaldson, Wm. Trotter, R. Steer, Wm. Fisher, Jas. Mote, Wm. Wyatt, Henry Nagle, Robert Steer, Richard Tull, D. Cobbin, Chas. Dingman, William Veale, H. Badge, W. C. Robertson and Peter Toles.

AFTERNOON SESSION.
A. P. Ketchum, Brucefield, on "Culture of Corn, Field Roots and Potatoes," greatly interested the audience, and was thoroughly practical. The problem of how to produce a cheap ration was an important one to the raisers of cattle, since grain growing was practically a thing of the past. Corn converted into sweet ensilage was without doubt the cheapest winter feeding stuff that could be obtained. Turnips also were a splendid article with which to feed, even though they were valued as a large proportion of water. The real value of food cannot always be determined by a chemical analysis. It was said by one in the audience that corn grown on sod plowed in the fall was very successful where the land was light, while the speaker claimed spring plowing was more advisable where land was a heavy clay loam. He thought planting corn in hills produced better results, especially when there was about 3½ feet between the rows, and was sown as early as the land was warm, allowing it to be fully mature.

The value of ensilage as a food for cattle intended for export provoked an educative discussion. Too much was said as to too little. Cattle fed too heavily on ensilage became too soft, so care should be exercised to mix rations thoroughly. Many farmers cultivated corn very deeply, a great mistake, because between the rows was a mass of roots, the very life of plants which were utterly destroyed. Soil cultivation was advised, especially when the plants were high. Deep cultivation among young plants was considered by some most advisable.

"The Cultivation of Potatoes" brought out the fact that many were no longer hilling up as in former years. The speaker claimed, however, were produced by going through the rows with a scuffer, and covering only enough to protect the roots from the sun's baking rays. Caradoc is noted for its splendid potatoes. Both methods are practiced with good results through the township.

Henry Waters, well-known in Caradoc, thought raising wheat was still the main source of profit to the farmer, as it had been for many years. Any farmer who ever made money made it by wheat. If a farmer was to invest the same amount of money in wheat that is put into expensive fancy buildings to house cattle, Mr. Waters claimed, he would be better off, with much less labor, and this idea seemed popular with the audience. W. W. Simpson read a paper on "The Value of Artificial Fertilizers," and later on imparted some information regarding potato-raising in New Brunswick, where 400 bushels to the acre was an average yield. In Caradoc 200 bushels is a great crop.

A long discussion ensued on the real value of commercial fertilizers, and was shared in by several farmers, who exchanged views seemingly at great variance with each other. Different methods had to be adopted in different localities.

EVENING SESSION.
A. P. Ketchum spoke in the evening on "Culture of Corn, Field Roots and Potatoes," greatly interested the audience, and was thoroughly practical. The problem of how to produce a cheap ration was an important one to the raisers of cattle, since grain growing was practically a thing of the past. Corn converted into sweet ensilage was without doubt the cheapest winter feeding stuff that could be obtained. Turnips also were a splendid article with which to feed, even though they were valued as a large proportion of water. The real value of food cannot always be determined by a chemical analysis. It was said by one in the audience that corn grown on sod plowed in the fall was very successful where the land was light, while the speaker claimed spring plowing was more advisable where land was a heavy clay loam. He thought planting corn in hills produced better results, especially when there was about 3½ feet between the rows, and was sown as early as the land was warm, allowing it to be fully mature.

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the most important plants with which to enrich the land. Farms practically worthless years ago had been rendered invaluable through cultivation. Clover sown in the spouts was the better way, undoubtedly, keep down the weeds is another way to keep up the soil's fertility. Weeds cost the farmers many millions of dollars every year, and are besides an injury to the land, an added expense, and yield no return. A good crop is of great assistance in keeping down weeds. Under-draining is another important feature, the expenditure for which was soon returned to the farmers' pockets in better crops. Plow the timothy sod as early in the fall as possible, but have some of the plowing done as late as possible. In spring stir the soil only, without upsetting it.

"Climbing Life's Ladder" was Mr. Ketchum's second subject. His advice to all young men who wanted to make a success in life was to have some object in view, and strive to attain it. Any cork could flat down stream, but it required energy and purpose to pull against the tide. The farm was a great educator. Many of the world's best men had been identified with agriculture, the pursuit of which was a sure way to success. The plodders are winners. The young man who utilized his long winter evening by mastering some subject could be depended upon to climb to the top of the ladder. Pluck was requisite to success, and the half-hearted man would always be preceded in the race for honors by the one possessing abundance of grit.

S. Munson advised anyone going into the poultry business to have a good house ready in which to put the chickens. Unless the house is warm, and the chickens are comfortable, people had better buy their eggs, for hens were not foolish enough to lay when half-frozen. Select the breeds in accordance with conditions. Well-saved clover hay put into a pile and covered with boiling water, in which was placed bran and chop well stirred, had proved an ideal food for their breakfast. Afterward giving the hens abundant green food, make them scratch for a living. At night feed heavily with warmed corn. Chicks should be hatched by April 1, when they will be ready to lay by No. 1. Wheat tailings and bread soaked in water is an excellent food for chicks.

At intervals during the evening choice selections were given by Messrs. Thomas Wilkinson, T. C. West and Misses Eva and Maud Tuck, the accompanists being Misses Mary West, and Annie Wilkinson.

A small but jolly party gathered at the Bignall House after the meeting, and enjoyed an oyster supper, tendered by George Bignall, and a most enjoyable time was spent.

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STATE OF NEBRASKA.....Jan. 19, 2 p.m.

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AGENTS—E. De la Hooke, "Clock" corner Richmond and Dundas. Thomas H. Parker, southwest corner of Richmond and Dundas streets, and E. B. Clarke, 416 Richmond street.

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

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

A rural exchange says: "Silver is less valuable than eggs." Perhaps it is, but a pocket full of the former causes less uneasiness than the same quantity of the latter.