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rose to her feet. Her cheeks were very
slightly flushed, but there was a sig-
nificant sparkle in her eyes.

"Oh," she said, with utter contempt.
"How sickening! Are there men like
that?"

There was a little silence, emphasized
by the snapping in the stove, and if Miss
Barrington had spoken with an object
she should have been contented. The
girl was imperious in her anger, which
was caused by something deeper than
startled prudery.

"It is," said the little white-haired
lady, "all quite true. Still, I must con-
fess that my brother and myself were
a trifle astonished at the report of the
lawyer he sent to confer with Lance
in Montana. One would almost have
imagined that he had of late been try-
ing to make amends."

The girl's face was very scornful.
"Could a man with a past like that
ever live it down?"

"We have a warrant for believing it,"
said Miss Barrington quietly, as she laid
her hand on her companion's arm. "My
dear, I have told you what Lance was,
because I felt it was right that you
should know; but none of us can tell
what he may be, and if the man is
honestly trying to lead a different life,
all I ask is that you should not wound
him by any manifest suspicion. Those
who have never been tempted can
afford to be merciful."

Maud Barrington laughed somewhat
curiously. "You are a very wise
woman, aunt, but you are a little
transparent now and then," she said.

"At least, he shall have a fair trial
without prejudice or favour—and if he
fails, as fail he will, we shall find the
means of punishing him."

"We?" said the elder lady a trifle
maliciously.

The girl nodded as she moved to-
wards the doorway, and then turned a
moment with the folds of the big red
curtain flung behind her. It forced up
the sweeping lines of a figure so deli-
cately moulded that its slenderness
was scarcely apparent, for Maud Bar-
rington still wore a long, sombre dress
that had assisted in her triumphs in
the city. It emphasized the clear pal-
lor of her skin and the brightness of
her eyes, as she held herself very erect
in a pose which, while assumed in
mockery, had yet in it something that
was almost imperial.

"Yes," she said. "We. You know
who is the power behind the throne at
Silverdale, and what the boys call me.
And now, good night. Sleep well, dear."

She went out, and Miss Barrington
sat very still gazing, with eyes that
were curiously thoughtful, into the fire.
"Princess of the Prairie—and it fits her
well," she said, and then signed a little.
"And if there is a trace of hardness in
the girl it may be fortunate. We all
have our troubles—and wheat is going
down."

(To be continued.)

Sir William Macdonald

(Continued from page 7.)

to the Maritimes if he persisted.

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And there is no possible way known
to man to flimflam this marvelous old
Scotch-Canadian who gives away mil-
lions to education. Listen to the man
at the cigar-stand of a Montreal hotel,
spinning legends about Macdonald and
tobacco, that might be put into Homeric
verse. Note the accent of complete ad-
miration. To other millionaires in busi-
ness there may be some virtue in a mere
system. Here is a man whose word is
law, whose personality is bigger than a
system, who in public or private life
was never known to warp himself one
iota to please anyone merely for the
sake of pleasing. From the plantations
of Cuba and Virginia, where the leaf



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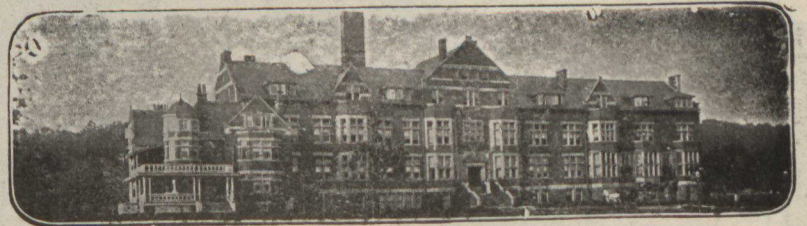
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