

WHEN
COAL
IS
DEAR



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F. R. BROWN,
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FOR BLUENOSE WOMEN.

Then she said, "If you had heard me yester eve, I'm sure my friend, You would say I was a champion who knows how to defend."

And she left me with the feeling—most unpleasant, I aver—

That the whole world would despise me if it hadn't been for her,

Whenever I encounter her, in such a nameless way

She gives me the impression I am at my worst that day.

And the hat that was imported (and which cost me half a sonnet),

With just one glance from her round eyes becomes a Bowery bonnet.

She is always bright and smiling, sharp and pointed for a thrust,

Use does not seem to blunt her point, nor does she gather rust.

Oh! I wish some hapless specimen of mankind would begin

To tidy up this world for me, by picking up this pin!

IMPULSE.

If a thoughtful woman were asked; "What is the greatest curse of your sex?" she might well answer, "Impulse." It is responsible for almost all the mistakes made by the good hearted among us. May it not be safely said that a few minutes' thought before speech or action would prevent most fatal blunders?

Many of us are in positive bondage to our bird-like quickness to feel, to show our feeling, to retort or to respond. If we are hurt, we must immediately "give ourselves away," as the phrase runs, if not by bitter speech, at least by look and manner; yet reflection frequently brings the keenest regret for the lost dignity, the betrayed secret. Many a one has wrecked her own happiness for the want of the patient stoicism which would have led her to stand aside for awhile, watching events until they brought with them her opportunity.

Even when we are happy, it is not always well to let the bright stream bear us away rudderless. The impulsive manifestation of affection, the hasty proposal of marriage, the hastier acceptance, have they never proved the beginning of misery? Or has a rash word never sundered true lovers, true friends?

If these things are true, it is likewise true that the fault in the commencement has been that of feminine impulsiveness. The defect is a generous one, and therefore, commoner with us than it is with men, so that it handicaps us unfairly in the struggle of life.

And truly it is a weary task to be always "with a host of petty maxims preaching down" one's heart.

But we must do it; either we must rule feeling, or feeling will rule us.

It is a good servant but a bad master. Our loving women's hearts are like the fire of the domestic hearth—the light of the home when duly controlled, warming the whole house—but if the fire be not kept in its subordinate place, what a conflagration ensues?

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