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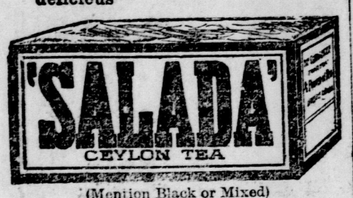

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THE QUEEN OF THE SEASON

Vivien reflected. One of her solitaires had caught in the fringe of her scarf, and she was too much engaged in disentangling it to notice her brother's looks.

"Well, yes; she has a few ideas of her own, and can suggest a new style of trimming without referring to the fashion plates, which is more than that stupid Benson could."

"But independent of this important item, she is—is different from——"

"From the Englishmen I have had about me? Of course she is. One of Lady Esselyn's false economies is to give such low wages that one cannot expect a really good servant to accept them. But Marie was, I suppose, so anxious to get into an English family of rank that she made no objection. She is the first maid I have had with intelligence enough to devise a more becoming way of arranging my hair. Do you like it?"

"Very much," said Aymer promptly, but without bestowing a glance on that fair head his sister was displaying for his inspection. "But what I wanted to know is whether you don't suspect that this young girl may be different from what she seems?"

Vivien was now considerably startled.

"Gracious, Aymer! have you heard anything to her discredit? Isn't she honest, or of good character? Really there is no trusting to appearances! She is so quiet and respectful that I was quite pleased with her, and now I suppose she will have to go!"

"Don't fly off to such extremes, Viva. That's just like all women; say but a word, and they imagine the rest!"

"But you undoubtedly said that my new maid is not what she ought to be," the young lady persisted.

"I most emphatically deny it. I asked you if she were not too ladylike, too refined, for the situation she holds—that was all."

Vivien began to survey the flushed speaker dubiously.

"Did you ask me that? It's odd that I did not hear you. Pray, sir, how did you discern that Marie is such a remarkable person? It is strange that I, who am so much with her, have not found out her perfections."

"Then I am answered at last. Could not you have said at first, 'No, she does not strike me as being in any way different from the run of French soubrettes, instead of wandering around the subject in this ridiculous fashion?"

"Now you are cross, Aymer, and I shall go away asking myself why my brother testifies such an extraordinary amount of interest in my new maid. When did she give you an opportunity of observing her so closely?"

"Take care what you are saying, Viva," her brother exclaimed, sternly. "It is astonishing how coarsely girls of your education and intelligence express themselves. If you speak of Marie Delille in my hearing, let it be with more consideration. She is a foreigner and a stranger amongst us."

"She is my hired servant, who can go back to her own country if she does not like mine," retorted Vivien. "And in spite of your strictures, which I cannot see that I deserved, I say again that your interest in her strikes me as extraordinary. You see, my lord earl, I happen to recollect that when Gaspard, our French cook, contrived to get tipsy, and spoil the dinner, his being a foreigner and a stranger amongst us did not prevent you from dismissing him in a very summary manner. But, then, he was not superior and refined, etc., etc."

"It seems my fate to be misunderstood," said Aymer, thrusting his hands to the bottom of his pockets and frowning savagely. "I am very sorry I spoke to you about your maid, and I shall be still more so if my well-meant interference does her any harm."

"Why should it? You reproach me for what I have said, but why not have frankly answered my questions? What has made you interest yourself in Marie? How did you discover that she is what you described her? Has she thrown herself in your way to try and evoke your sympathy?"

"Certainly not," he said, answering the last query only. "I have seen her but once since she came here. You sent her into the room where I was sitting. She would not have seen me if I had not spoken to her. Do you wish me to repeat the words I used?"

"No, thanks, for I want my breakfast. You need not have lost your temper about such nonsense, Aymer; I was only joking, and the poor little Frenchwoman shall have no cause to complain of her English mistress."

Lady Vivien gathered up the wraps she had thrown off, and hastened away, but Aymer looked after her uneasily.

"I wonder what fiend possessed me to keep back more than half the truth? Why did I not tell Viva that Marie and I traveled here together, and explain what reasons I have for suspecting that mademoiselle is not what she seems. Now, if Marie herself speaks of the journey, my character for veracity is gone for ever, and heaven only knows what will be thought of my reticence. I wish I had the sense to weigh the consequences before I open my mouth!"

With which wish he smoothed his brow, and joined those guests whom the signal for the matin meal had brought downstairs.

CHAPTER XVII.

The beauty of the bright frosty morning caused Lady Esselyn's proposal that they should all ride or drive as far as some picturesque ruins to be received nem. con., and the ladies presently gathered round the fire to decide which amongst them should don the riding-habits, and avail themselves of Lord Esselyn's gallant offer to place all his horses at their disposal.

"There are only two besides my Bonnie Jean that carry a lady well," remarked Vivien, as she looked around the party.

"Corsair and June will do for Miss Estridge and her sister," cried Aymer, "and Mrs. Carmichael can have your mare, if Hatherfield drives you in my dog-cart."

But his sister chose to demur to this arrangement.

"You forget Cressida. If Sir Innis will take her under his care it will be much better."

And politeness demanded that the baronet should bow and express his willingness, but he need not have done it with such utter indifference to the fact that Lady Vivien disdained his escort for herself.

"If I might have the honor, the pleasure," sighed Mr. Douceby, "of driving you in my phaeton, behind the pair of bays that you admired."

"Did I admire them? Ah! yes, I think I remember it. Then you have them here, Mr. Douceby?"

He bowed assent.

"Yes, Lady Vivien; in the hope that you would on some such day as this permit me to offer you a seat in my turn-out, as our friends rather vulgarly express it."

Mr. Douceby's voice, always weak and low, was wont to die away into such a faint murmur, that it was not always easy to know when he had finished speaking; so the brisker Aymer broke in:

"All right; then Viva goes with you, and the other ladies in the barouche with the countess. At what time do we start?"

[To be Continued.]

In Woman's Interest

Menu for Those Who Would Live Nine Times Their Maturity.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript writes: Rev. W. Kinnear, a London scientist, claims to have discovered how old age can be greatly postponed by abstinence from certain foods. Old age, he says, is to a great extent due to deposits in our systems of earthly matter, principally carbonate and phosphate of lime, mixed with other salts. They pass from the stomach into the blood. In early life they are found to be thrown off by the system. In later years they are not.

The anatomists all agree that man begins in a gelatinous condition, and ends in a bony one. An infant's skull is soft like rubber, while an aged person's bones are so brittle that they will not knit when broken. This, according to Dr. Kinnear, is almost entirely the result of diet. Of course, we have heard that water containing lime makes the bones develop unusually. Not only the bones, but according to this new theory all of the organs of the body become hardened as old age creeps on. The heart becomes partially ossified, and imperfect circulation results. The arteries become clogged and the body illy nourished. We have seen ossified men in side shows and museums. Are we now to believe that old age is a condition approaching this?

And this is how old age can be postponed: The foods which particularly contain the dangerous salts mentioned are found on analysis to be the cereals and those which contain hydrogen. If you wish to prolong your youth, therefore, after middle life, according to this savant, you should abstain from bread, beef and old mutton, among numerous other things. These three, however, are selected by the doctor as the most dangerous of ordinary items of diet.

And here is the diet for prolonged youth:

Eat an abundance of fruit. It is deficient in nitrogen. Raw, juicy apples are especially recommended. For other meats substitute fish, poultry, young mutton and veal. They contain very little of the dangerous salts. Eat moderately of everything. Drink daily two or three glasses of distilled water containing 10 to 15 drops of diluted phosphoric acid in each. This acid, says the doctor, is one of the most powerful influences known to science for shielding the system from old age. All drinking water used after middle life should be distilled. Ordinary water contains deposits which aid in the partial ossification of the body. This recipe should be more strictly adhered to as age commences to mar beauty. In youth it is not necessary to be so strict as toward middle life.

How Adelina Patti Preserves One of Her Loveliest Features.

Patti, the divine, was recently described by a newspaper as still youthful, "with eyes that are absolutely young." Now, be it remembered, that the birth certificate of Patti, unearthed in Madrid recently, shows that the prima donna was born in 1843. So at 55 she is still the admired of all the world, "with eyes that are absolutely young." Patti's eyes are the sort that shine. They are almost dazzling. Her lashes are abundant, a fact which she attributes to her habit of nightly anointing them with a cream. The secret of her young-looking eyes is something worth much money to many women. It was disclosed by Patti, on the occasion of her last visit to this country. "I never read at night," said she, "if I can help it. It does not hurt the eyes to cry, if you sleep afterward. I bathe my eyes in hot and cold water, as feels best. I do a great many things I am told never to do. But I also observe certain rules. I never read at twilight or when hungry. I sleep fully nine hours, more if I need it. I eat lightly many times a day. I keep by eyes free by not making them tired. That's all."

For the Older Women.

I saw the smartest creation designed for theater and calling wear. The woman who ordered it is the mother of growing daughters, and surely she had no cause to object to the costume that Madame said was "au fait."

This wonderful achievement of the dressmaker was of gray cloth with a vest of white satin and a lovely cape of cloth trimmed with black lace and sable, the whole lined with white satin. The bonnet to go with it was of forget-me-not blue velvet in coronet shape, with a high bunch of black satin loops and aigrettes at one side, held in place by a rhinestone ornament. Black velvet strings were to be tied in a close bow under the chin or dispensed with altogether as the wearer chose.

Now, there was nothing suggestive of the sere and yellow about this, was there? Yet any woman between 40 and 60 could appear thus attired and know that she did not look as if she were trying to ape the modes suitable for her children. Black corded silk and corded velvet in combination make very correct gowns for the middle-aged woman, and I notice that these materials have been chosen by many a bride's mother for the reception, jet being added as a trimming. I am so glad that women with white hair are beginning to realize that small bonnets are infinitely more appropriate and becoming than the hats they have clung to for so long. The little coronets made of velvet, roses or wreaths of jet wings, or graduated rosettes are, without exception, lovely and suitable and imbued with so much chic and grace that I wonder they have clung to the hats so long.

Worth Knowing.

I was reading in an old volume yesterday, says a writer for women, that a little bit of alum, not more than half the size of your finger-nail, used two or three times a week, will preserve the teeth as long as they are needed. It cited the case of an old lady who had not a speck in her teeth when she died, and those who followed her advice of letting the bit of alum dissolve in the mouth and then spit it out had teeth like rocks in strength and hardness. I have heard of this before, but have given it little thought and no trial. It is simple enough, in all conscience, and well worth trying.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS' DAY

Interesting Anniversary Services at Dundas Center Church.

Presentation of Diplomas to Nearly 200 Scholars—Average Attendance at Each of the Services 1,100.

Yesterday's anniversary services in Dundas Street Center Mehodist Church were perhaps the most impressive in the history of that congregation. The average attendance at the three services was over 1,100 people. In the morning the body of the church was reserved for the host of Sunday school scholars and the side seats and galleries were packed with their friends. The young people assembled in the school room, and then marched in a body to the auditorium of the church, the center of which they completely filled. The song service was exceptionally good, Miss Eva Roblyn taking the leading part.

In the morning Rev. Joseph Edge preached the sermon, taking for his theme the story of David and Goliath. From this he pictured the giants which the scholars had to fight, viz., selfishness, covetousness, hatred, ill temper, etc.

In the afternoon Miss Jessie A. Munro, corresponding secretary of the Provincial Sunday School Association of Toronto, gave a purview of the first quarter's lessons for the year 1899, with "Light" as the subject.

Mr. C. E. German, one of the assistant superintendents, addressed the large audience on "The Pay of the Sunday School Teacher." He illustrated his address by reciting the story of conversion and training of several of the world's greatest men, whose success was due to none other than their Sunday school teachers. Among these he mentioned D. L. Moody and Rev. Robt. Morrison, now a missionary in China, and who had accomplished the task of translating the Holy Scriptures into the Chinese language.

After the conclusion of the addresses diplomas were presented by Superintendent McDermid to nearly 200 scholars, for general proficiency in Scripture study and regular attendance, as follows:

Officers—D. A. McDermid, C. E. German, Wm. Yates, A. N. Udy, L. W. Noble, Dr. Ziegler, W. H. Hewlett, Arthur Beal, Winnifrid Cannom.

Teachers—J. H. Bowman, Miss Effie M. Cross, W. G. Ford, Miss Allie Bradford, Miss Percival, J. F. Kern, Hubert Ashplant, Miss R. Keenleyside, Miss Webster, J. A. Calhoun, Miss Mabel Cannom, Miss Nettie Keenleyside, Miss Bertha Bradford, Miss Dinah Scandrett.

Scholars—Miss G. Allaster, Miss Higgins, Mrs. J. Baker, Mrs. J. Fitzgerald, A. Maynes, Mrs. Winnett, Mr. May, Geo. Boyd, Chas. G. Williams, William Saunders, Wm. Bradford, Geo. Hall, Harry Waspe, Mabel Richards, Susie Keenleyside, Minnie Jenkins, John Bartlett, Leonard Skinner, Wilson Bell, Geo. S. Heaman, Percy Williams, Annie Chapman, Walter Werner, Chas. Shannon, Chester Westell, Edward Wilson, Mary McGuffin, Eva Hodder, Vina Phipps, Lily Bell, Wm. Bell, John Saunders, Flossie Kirk, Edna Hillier, Nettie Chapman, Lizzie Hodder, Ella May, Stanley Lovell, Clifford Adair, Arthur Lovell, Chas. Dickin, Lily Fessenden, Ralph Page, Frank Higgins, Frank Mayne, Helen Lewis, Pearle Johnston, Belva Chapman, Lowry Yates, S. Saunders, E. Rumball, Percy Whittaker, Frank Whittaker, Morley Stock, Beatrice Hunt, Lella Gould, Ethel Bradford, Edith Deeley, Lily Ford, Annie Shuff, Ethel Ford, Hally Watts, Kenneth McDermid, Fred Horning, Annie Phipps, William Wilson, Etta Thorne, Lena Thorne, May Ashplant, Robbie Boyle, Muriel Young, Rosa Johnston, Jessie Johnston, Muriel Ruse, Chas. Wortman, Harry Hooper, Wilfrid Maines, William Wortman, William Horning, Roy Ashman, Wilkins Shuff, Eddie Wilkinson, Katie Rumball, Muriel Boyle.

The following scholars will be presented with honor certificates next Sunday: Bell Stoneman, Yola Penhall, Crozier Tennant, Thomas Wilson, Edna Heaman, Ettie Deacon, Lily McBride, Grace Goodge, Lily Short, Alice Warner, Mrs. A. G. Pearson.

The members of Mr. T. B. Escott's class were presented with diplomas last year, and this year the red seals for the second year's perfect work were placed on the diplomas of the following: Miss Cox, Mrs. Cannom, W. Demonery, T. B. Escott, Mrs. Escott, Mr. Fessenden, Mrs. Fessenden, Mrs. McDermid, Miss Forsythe, Miss Ironsides, Miss Bella Magee, Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Skinner, Mr. Skinner, Miss Shannon, Mr. Wilkinson, J. C. Vandecar.

In the evening the edifice was packed to the doors. The service took the form of a young peoples' rally, and was extremely interesting. Addresses were given by Mr. R. A. Little, superintendent of St. Andrew's Sunday school; Wm. Jeffrey, superintendent of Wellington Street Methodist Sunday school, and the Rev. Dr. Saunders.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

The Western Ontario Mutual Benefit Society Chooses Officers.

On Saturday afternoon the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Society of Western Ontario held its general quarterly meeting in the rooms, Masonic Temple. The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year:

President, R. W. Coates; first vice-president, F. H. Crabb; second vice-president, C. W. Nicholls; treasurer, Joseph Pocock; directors for London, John H. Glass, J. R. Elliott, Alf Russell, A. E. Barbour, Joseph Pocock, J. W. Pennock, W. H. Mohan, H. E. Landon, Bruce Wanless, T. H. McCurdy; for Toronto, M. F. Irwin, F. W. Heath, R. H. Grecne, Frank W. Grew; Woodstock, R. G. Bickerton and A. H. Fuller; Hamilton, John Lennox; Chatham, A. E. Merritt; Stratford, James Dow; Windsor, Jas. F. Smith; Ingersoll, R. H. Cotter; New Hamburg, J. Ratz; Aylmer, R. G. B. Moore; Winnipeg, F. Morton Morse and T. Harry Slater; St. Thomas, B. F. Honsinger; Oshawa, E. O. Felt; Sarnia, Wm. Storey; Brantford, M. Wilbie.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., when a full attendance is requested.

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Afternoon Classes—Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oil, water color, and china painting, crayon drawing, etc

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LAURENTIAN.....Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Dec. 22
From New York.
MONGOLIAN.....Nov. 16, 9 a.m.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

First cabin, Derry and Liverpool, $52 50 and upwards; return, $160 and upwards. Second cabin, Liverpool, Derry, London, $35; return, $66 50. Steerage, Liverpool, Derry, Belfast, Glasgow, London, everything found, $22 50.

Glasgow-New York service—Cabin—$47 25 and upwards; return, $89 75 and upwards; second cabin, $32 50; return, $61 75; steerage, $23 50.

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

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GOOD TO RETURN NOV. 28.

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MAJESTIC, from New York Dec. 13, at noon, arriving at Queenstown Dec. 19, Liverpool Dec. 20.

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Saloon rates by this steamer $50 and upwards. No second cabin. Steerage $25. Passengers by these steamers will be able to reach any part of Great Britain and Ireland in time for Christmas.

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