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CENTURY SALE. MUSSELMAN, 198 DUNDAS STREET.

The Queen's Veil.

Something there seemed to hold her spellbound for a moment; then the tears gathered slowly in her eyes and rolled over her wrinkled cheeks. "A poor girl seeking employment," she repeated after her, adding, "Child, you are too pretty to be working for your living. I'm sorry for you—you look like someone whom I used to know. What's your name?" "Tina Flaxen," the girl answered simply, and wondering to see her so moved.

The old woman shook her head, as if disappointed that there was no familiar sound in the name. "I never knew anyone by that name," she said, sadly; "but you are the only young person who has spoken so kindly to me this many a year. If you ever need a friend come to Madame Beza, No. 15 Rue Delphine."

Monsieur La Fort interrupted her with a loud laugh. "Madame Beza—the female miser—anybody's friend," he said, in derision. "Why not?" she demanded, turning directly upon him, her features hardening again. "I'll wager I've more friends now than you, monsieur, with all your boasted wealth; and I'm not always bragging to my left hand of what my right hand is doing either."

"No, only when you come to me with all this lace, which I begin to think the witches help you to make," he answered, good-humoredly. "Well, what if they do, so that your work is done, and well done? But give me your due, and I'll be off—I've no time to waste in useless tattle with you."

"What do I owe you?" "Just twenty francs, monsieur." "So much?" she exclaimed, mockingly. "You know as well as I that no one ever gets a centime too much out of your close pockets, Monsieur La Fort."

"There, that is all right," she added, after she had counted the money, which he dropped into her bony hand piece by piece. "Now, I'll go to Madame Fouchard for more thread, and I'll bring you a dozen meters more one week from today."

She turned to leave the room, and encountered Tina's gaze again. "You do not laugh at the queer old woman," she said, abruptly, and pausing before her.

"Why should I laugh, madame?" Tina asked, gently.

"I don't know why, but they all do; there isn't a girl in Monsieur La Fort's shop but makes sport of Barbara Beza. I suppose they think I'm cracked, and don't mind, but the Lord has put everybody's heart in the same place, and my skin isn't any thicker than anyone else's. If it isn't the same color, but old Barbara's your friend from this time, pretty one, if you choose to make her such," and with

these words the strange creature turned and disappeared.

CHAPTER II.

As soon as the door closed after her, Monsieur La Fort turned to Tina, with a light laugh.

"Madame Beza is the greatest natural curiosity in Brussels," he said. "She has lived here for years, and worked for me for the last ten; one can make this coarse lace so rapidly or so well as she, with those skinny, yellow fingers of hers. But no one knows any more about her than they did the first day she made her appearance here. She comes when she least expects her, and disappears as suddenly, and is always short, sharp and crusty. She lives by herself, and to my knowledge, and she has worn the same garments ever since I knew her."

"She must be very lonely to be so friendless," Tina said, in a tone of pity. "Friends! she does not need or want them—she is sufficient unto herself," monsieur said, shortly, adding: "Come, we will go to the work room now."

Turning to the right, Monsieur La Fort led her the length of it, passing on their way an open court, in the midst of which a fountain was playing, and which was surrounded, outside the marble pavement that inclosed it, with palms, ferns and beautiful flowers in full bloom, while here and there were rustic chairs and tiny tables.

Tina turned eagerly at the sound of the cool waters splashing musically as they fell into the marble basin, and her eyes lingered longingly on the pretty place, while a sigh escaped her lips, as if the sight reminded her of something sad and painful.

Passing on, her companion opened another door, and conducted her into a room in which there were at least fifty girls and women at work. Monsieur La Fort led her to an unoccupied table.

Upon it there was a cushion, to which was attached a piece of parchment, with the pattern of the lace to be wrought traced upon it. Pins were stuck through this into the cushion, and around these, following the lines of the pattern, the filmy threads, wound upon their numerous bobbins, were carried.

"This is quite an intricate pattern, mademoiselle; do you think you can do anything so difficult?" monsieur asked, pointing to the cushion, from which about a meter of lovely lace was hanging.

Tina bent forward to examine it more carefully.

"Yes, monsieur," she answered, quietly. "Will you let me see you weave a little?" he asked, smiling.

Something about the fair girl seemed to compel him to address her differently from what he was in the habit of speaking to most of those in his employ.

Tina sat down before the work, a bright flush on her cheek, as she realized that every eye in the room was fixed upon her with eager curiosity. She gathered some of the bobbins up in her white fingers, and began plying them dexterously back and forth, her every movement full of grace, while monsieur stood by watching her, a look of admiration and deep interest in his eyes.

Suddenly she stopped in her work, bent lower over the cushion, then, reaching over, she took up the end of the lace that was finished, and examined it carefully.

"Is the pattern too intricate for you?" she asked monsieur.

"No, monsieur; but there is a defect in it," she answered. "A defect! how so?" he demanded, with a scowl.

"Letting the lace slip through her fingers, she touched here and there places where the threads had not been crossed as they should have been around the pins.

"Monsieur will observe," Tina said, pointing at the pattern, "that there was a mistake in putting in the pins, and it has made a break all along the lace. It is not very much, but a critical observer would discover the flaw at once."

"That is so," the manufacturer replied, sternly, and then beckoned authoritatively to a woman at the opposite side of the room, and who seemed to have the general supervision of the lacemakers.

She responded at once to his gesture, all smiles and suavity. "How is this, Madame Fouchard? There is a defect in this pattern,"

Monsieur La Fort said, in an angry tone.

"No, monsieur is mistaken; there is no defect; the pattern is all right," madam returned, soothingly, but with assurance.

"I tell you there is a defect," her employer returned, excitedly, "and you are very careless not to have discovered it. Here is more than a meter of fine lace spoiled. The pattern is for Monsieur Jacques, one of my best customers. Who set up this pattern?"

"Monsieur knows that I set up all the difficult patterns, and that I make no mistakes," asserted Madame Fouchard, confidently, but with an injured air, while her eyes rested somewhat anxiously upon the piece of lace under discussion.

"Well, you have made one this time, at all events. See! here, and there, all along the piece, and that fool of a girl did not find her better than to go on making it, while you have overlooked it. What will we do with it? It is ruined," and monsieur was very much excited, while madam's face was also blank with dismay.

"Pardon, but will monsieur tell me how many meters are ordered of this pattern?" Tina here interposed.

"How many meters, madam?" thundered the enraged manufacturer.

"Six, monsieur," she answered sullenly. "It did not please her to have this storm break over her head in the presence of a stranger, and of one whom she began to suspect she was indebted for it."

"Then the defect can be remedied with very little trouble and expense," Tina said, flushing beneath the woman's lowering glance.

"How?" monsieur asked, eagerly. [To be Continued.]

THE WORLD OF SPORTS.

Second Day of the Big Shooting Tournament in Brantford.

Progress of Six Day Race—Baseball Magnates and Players in Conference—Gans-McGovern "Go."

TRIGGER.

THE BRANTFORD SHOOT.

Brantford, Ont., Dec. 12.—The second day of the tournament was even more successful than yesterday's shooting as regards the number of entries, the morning trains bringing in shooters from St. Thomas, Dunnville, Montreal, Woodstock, Simcoe, and Hamilton, Bob Emslie, Jack Fanning, Bob Coffey, Forest Conover and C. J. Mitchell carried off a good share of the money. H. Bates was the first to make a brace score in the blue rocks, namely, the sixth event, Jack Potter, with a party of friends, arrived from Detroit tonight, and will shoot in the events tomorrow. The tournament will close tomorrow night.

First event, 15 targets—F. Conover, New York, 9; C. J. Mitchell, Brantford, 13; M. J. Miller, Winnipeg, 4; C. McDuff, Dutton, 8; H. Coffey, St. Thomas, 10; F. Westbrook, Brantford, 8; R. Emslie, St. Thomas, 9; H. Bates, St. Thomas, 12; E. Mack, Simcoe, 8; D. J. Lewis, Brantford, 9; J. S. Fanning, New York, 9; H. T. Westbrook, Brantford, 8; R. J. Dracey, Galt, 7; C. Montgomerie, Brantford, 11; E. Danskin, Brantford, 10.

Second event, 15 targets—R. J. Dracey, Galt, 12; C. J. Montgomery, Brantford, 6; D. J. Lewis, Brantford, 10; R. Emslie, St. Thomas, 13; E. Danskin, Brantford, 10; H. Bates, St. Thomas, 12; M. J. Miller, Winnipeg, 4; D. Miller, Woodstock, 6; F. Fick, Simcoe, 8; Mrs. R. J. Dracey, Galt, 4; C. J. Mitchell, Brantford, 10; R. Coffey, St. Thomas, 12; George Reid, Dunnville, 8; H. T. Westbrook, Brantford, 9; F. Westbrook, Brantford, 13; F. Jones, Montreal, 8; Gen. Grant, Woodstock, 8; Geo. Stroud, Jun., Hamilton, 9; J. S. Fanning, New York, 7; H. Conover, Brantford, 13.

Third event, 10 birds—H. Bates, St. Thomas, 8; R. Emslie, St. Thomas, 8; W. McDuff, Dutton, 5; R. Coffey, St. Thomas, 10; F. Westbrook, Brantford, 10; M. J. Miller, Winnipeg, 7; R. Emslie, Brantford, 4; C. J. Montgomery, Brantford, 9; F. Donley, St. Thomas, 10; F. R. Deaky, Dunnville, 6; G. Reid, Dunnville, 7; C. J. Fanning, New York, 10; G. Robins, Dunnville, 5; M. J. Miller, Winnipeg, 7; R. Emslie, Brantford, 5; J. Stroud, Hamilton, 7; D. Frazman, Dunnville, 7; G. Danskin, Brantford, 6; R. J. Dracey, Galt, 8; E. Mack, Woodstock, 6; H. T. Westbrook, Brantford, 4; H. Bates, St. Thomas, 7; H. Fick, Simcoe, 8; C. Summerhayes, Brantford, 7; J. Wheeler, Paris, 5; W. Kerr, Brantford, 8; F. Foreman, Brantford, 7; H. Thompson, Woodstock, 6.

Fourth event, 15 targets—R. J. Dracey, Galt, 7; D. J. Lewis, Brantford, 8; F. Westbrook, Brantford, 12; C. J. Mitchell, Brantford, 10; C. J. Montgomery, Brantford, 11; H. T. Westbrook, Brantford, 13; C. Summerhayes, Brantford, 11; J. Wheeler, Paris, 5; W. Kerr, Brantford, 8; F. Foreman, Brantford, 7; H. Thompson, Woodstock, 6.

Fifth event, 10 birds—H. Bates, St. Thomas, 16; M. J. Miller, Winnipeg, 11; H. Westbrook, Brantford, 12; D. J. Lewis, Brantford, 12; C. Summerhayes, Brantford, 13; C. J. Mitchell, Brantford, 10; E. Mack, Woodstock, 6; H. Fick, Simcoe, 8; R. Emslie, Brantford, 14; C. Montgomerie, Brantford, 10; F. Fanning, New York, 13; Mrs. R. J. Dracey, Galt, 10.

Sixth event, 15 targets—C. J. Mitchell, Brantford, 11; R. Emslie, St. Thomas, 8; F. Westbrook, Brantford, 13; R. Coffey, St. Thomas, 9; H. Bates, St. Thomas, 15; D. Lewis, Brantford, 7; Gen. Grant, Woodstock, 8; H. Fick, Simcoe, 8; H. T. Westbrook, Brantford, 14; C. Montgomerie, Brantford, 10; F. Fanning, New York, 13; Mrs. R. J. Dracey, Galt, 10.

Seventh event unfinished. BASEBALL. New York, Dec. 12.—After trying for two days, the National League magnates finally got into session at the Fifth Avenue Hotel tonight. When the meeting was called to order by President Young there were present: A. H. Soden, W. H. Conant and J. B. Billings, Boston; W. W. Kerr, Barney Dreyfus and P. L. Auten, Pittsburgh; A. J. Reach and Col. John I. Rogers, Philadelphia; F. A. Abell, Edward Hanlon and Charles Ebbetts, Brooklyn; Fred Knowles, New York; James Hart, Chicago; John T. Brush, Cincinnati; and F. De Haas Robinson and Stanley Gibson, St. Louis.

The committee appointed to hear the grievances of the Players' Protective Association went into session. In stating the demands of the play-

ers' organization, Mr. Taylor said there were just three defects of the present form of contract that the players wanted corrected. They are: A modification of the reserve clause, the entire elimination of the "farming out" clause, and the modification of the clause relating to the power of club owners to buy and sell players or claim them without first getting the player's consent.

Both Chairman Soden and Col. Rogers assured Mr. Taylor that the matter would be more expeditiously treated if presented to the committee. "This matter is a serious one to us," said Col. Rogers. "Contracts are nine-tenths of the assets of a club. This committee will make a fair and truthful report to the league of what you say to us."

Mr. Taylor, after receiving a promise of immediate action, presented his case. "We believe," he said, "that the players and club owners can get together and adjust these matters without resorting to war. We are not looking for trouble. We are simply moving with an idea of putting the game on a higher plane. The salary of the player, we know, is regulated by the law of supply and demand. If we can make the game more popular, then our salaries will increase. The public has ideas about the ball player. Today, under the present contract system, a ball player is looked upon as a slave. He is a slave under the reserve rule. We know that the reserve rule is the bulwark of baseball, but it should not be abused. What can be done to modify it? The players suggest that it be limited, and that no player be reserved by a club for more than five years. We do not think you have the right, morally or legally, to hold a player for an indefinite period. Would not baseball be improved by the changing of star players from club to club? What we want is a modification of the reserve rule. Let each club not reserve more than ten men. As to the farming out system, we want it abolished altogether. There is no justice in it at all for the player. If a man ceases to be valuable to a club, or you have somebody that can play his position better, don't farm him out. Give him his release. Let him have a chance to play with some club that needs him. As to the system of buying, selling and claiming players, the players want the contract modified so that he will have something to say in the matter. As the matter stands now, the contract is all one-sided. The player is powerless to do or test."

At this point Col. Rogers brought up the famous contract offered to the league in 1888 by John Ward, as showing the weakness of Mr. Taylor's contentions. "That is an isolated case," said Mr. Taylor, "and dealt not with the transfer of a player, but with an entire club. Should, in the course of events, the magnates desire to transfer one entire club from one city to another, the players would not object. What we want is to help the magnates put the game on a better status. The question of stopping the rowdy ball is in the contract. We want these things put in the contract. We realize that the magnates could easily get together and have a secret understanding that would render inoperative the changes we ask for, but we believe you will be fair to the players with us. Do as we ask, and we believe baseball will take on a new life."

At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Taylor submitted a draft of the contract the players wanted put in vogue. The committee promised the players to consider the matter at once, and give them a decision tomorrow. Immediately after the hearing the league's circuit committee, composed of Messrs. Hart, Brush, Rogers and Soden, went into session. At the conclusion of the meeting of the circuit committee, Col. Rogers said the meeting was informal, and he could not tell what was done. A memorandum of the players' demands was submitted to the committee. Subsequently Mr. Taylor made public the principal points covered in the memorandum, as follows: First—Club owners not to have the right to "reserve" players at a salary less than that provided for the ensuing year, for more than three years. Second—Not to buy, sell, assign, trade, loan, accept, select or claim service of any player for any period in any way without his written consent. Third—Club owners to pay physicians' fees for injuries received in actual play. Fourth—No player to be suspended without pay more than three times a season, for two weeks at a time. Fifth—Committee of arbitration, one member to be chosen by owners, one by players, and a third by those two; such committee to pass on all differences between players and owners.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. After the meeting broke up, President Young said there was nothing to give out for publication. The magnates took up the demand of the players and discussed it. Nothing definite was done. The matter will be taken up at tomorrow's session, and something will be done. The players' demands was the only matter taken up at tonight's session.

The circuit committee held another meeting after the league meeting had adjourned. What they did was secret. E. H. Cunningham, owner of the Norfolk Baseball Club, arrived in New York today. According to Mr. Cunningham, the New York Baseball Club, on receipt of Pitcher Matthews' last year, agreed to pay \$2,000 for release. Although Matthews has participated in several games in a New York uniform, Mr. Cunningham asserts the money has never been paid. The matter will probably be taken before the league. The Brooklyn club today completed the deal by which they get Shortstop Elberfeld from Detroit.

HOCKEY. ABERDEEN'S COMING. The Ottawa Journal says: The Aberdeen hockey club propose making a playing tour to Toronto, London and Peterboro, in the course of a few weeks, probably during the coming holiday season. The Aberdeens are going to have a strong team this winter, and they are under the impression that they can give some of the hockey men up west a good hard game.

FISTIC. GANS VS. MCGOVERN. Milwaukee, Dec. 12.—"All I can say is that I will do my best, and the best man will win," said Terry McGovern today, when asked as to his opinion of his fight with Joe Gans of Chicago tomorrow night, and he added: "I don't want to say anything that I might not be able to make good, as you all know here, and there can be no misgiving on that score. I will do my best and the best man will win."

WILL STOP THEM. Chicago, Dec. 12.—Warrants for prizes for promoters, principals, referees and managers were issued to Frank Hall by Police Magistrate Wallace yesterday. Hall declared he will stop not only the McGovern-Gans contest, scheduled for Thursday evening, but all future glove contests here. He even declared that he will try to secure a warrant for Mayor Harrison's arrest if the permit is not revoked. The promoters of prize fighting sneer at the



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complaints, whose efforts they denounce as spiteful, and offer to wager \$5,000 that the exhibition will be given Thursday night.

IN CINCINNATI. Cincinnati, Dec. 12.—Mayor Fleischmann today refused to recede from his promise to grant a permit for a prize fight at Saengerfest Hall, in February, between Jeffries and either Ruthin Sharkey or Fitzsimmons. A delegation of Methodist ministers called on the mayor to protest, but he refused to reconsider his determination.

FOOTBALL. OXFORD DEFEATS CAMBRIDGE. London, Dec. 12.—The annual Rugby football match between Oxford and Cambridge took place today at the Queen's Club. A magnificent game was won by Oxford by two goals to a goal and a try. There was a large and fashionable attendance.

BRUTAL AND DANGEROUS. Oswego, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Football has been tabooed in Oswego county schools and colleges. The Teachers' Association, at a recent meeting, denounced the game as brutal and dangerous.

WHEEL. THE TERRIBLE GRIND. New York, Dec. 12.—With over 1,400 miles clocked off in their pursuit of prizes in the six-day bicycle race at Madison Square Garden, which ends on Saturday, eight teams were still represented on the track at midnight tonight. The men have not been able to keep up the hurricane pace jumped into at the outset. For the first two days they were ahead of the record, but now are far behind, the 1,400 miles and 1 lap reeled off by the leaders being 12 miles 7 laps behind the record for 1899. The list of riders is now reduced to eight teams—Accouturier, the Frenchman, and his partner, Muller, the Italian, having pulled out of the race about seven o'clock this morning. Turville and Aronson have not been able to go back on the track since they were carried out of a serious tumble the night before. They were mixed up in shortly after Tuesday night. The former, the doctor said, may be able to resume his trick after a little rest, but it is doubtful. From midnight of last evening until this evening there was no special incident attendant on the riding except the withdrawal of Muller and Accouturier.

Score at 1 a.m.—Elkes and McFarland, 1,420.5; Pierce and McEachren, 1,420.4; Turville and Ginn, 1,420.2; Walker and Stinson, 1,420.2; Fisher and Frederick, 1,419.3; Kaser and Ryaer, 1,419.9.

WHAT AMERICANS SAY

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