

"We ask for meat," said the soldiers
"and ye give us a bone."

But an expert is an expert, and is
glib of tongue and resourceful.

And one that was the most expert
said: "Why do ye trouble us? Verily,
ye are like unto small children that
have no understanding. Know ye not
that it is written in the Book of Worldly
Wisdom that unto him that hath
much, much more shall be given, and
that unto him that hath little, even
that he hath shall be taken from him
and that he that hath naught is "na-
pooped," which meaneth, is no more,
and is as though he were dead.

"Show us the soldier, therefore, that
hath riches and unto him shall we
show good land; for it is not meet that
the Realsters that hold all the good
land in fee, be robbed of their dues."

And they that were returned from
the front marvelled at the words of the
expert and said among themselves:
"Dammit!—" which being interpreted
meaneth a whole lot.

Verily, it was so at that time; but
verily also it is written in the Book of
Life that the wicked shall not triumph
and that the greedy shall perish by
their own greediness.

Yea, it is so!



Tale the Fifth

*Concerning the Ways of a Maid with a Man and how they do
spin webs to catch the unwary*

And behold! it came to pass that
when the Great War was finished,
there dwelt in the City of Van that is
near unto Stanley Park, many Eves.

And these were wise in their day
and generation; yea, wiser were they
than the coiled serpent ready to spring,
and as harmless as doves that do not
exist.

And some were good to look upon
and others were ill-favored; but in the
afternoon and the night time ALL
were beautiful.

For they did transform the pale
cheek to a rosy blush and the lips to
the color of the scarlet poppy by the
use of many ointments.

And their eyes shone, and their eye-
brows had been attended to likewise.

Verily did they become beautiful for
a space; for the secret of modern art is
to hide nature behind a painted mask
of grease paint and a mist of talc and
other things.

Yet in the morning time did they
not venture forth in Granvillium St.,
nor stand about near unto the great

stores, nor hang them about in the
lounges of great caravanserais.

For in the youth of the day, they
were unadorned as to their faces and
were more or less appalling.

But after they had done all those
things unto themselves that are neces-
sary, and put upon themselves wonder-
ful and costly apparel, then did they
go forth seeking their prey.

And they that wore Sam Brown belts
were marked down first on the menu
and were looked upon as luscious pick-
ing.

And next to these were those that
looked as though they could stand the
racket and afford the cost of furs and
gowns and rings and all those things
that lend unto Eve her enchantment.

For Eve is abounding in the art of
judging by appearances, and is it not
written in the Book of Worldly Wis-
dom: "Show me the man that hath
wealth, and I will teach him how to
spend it." Verily, it is written so.

And presently one would smile and