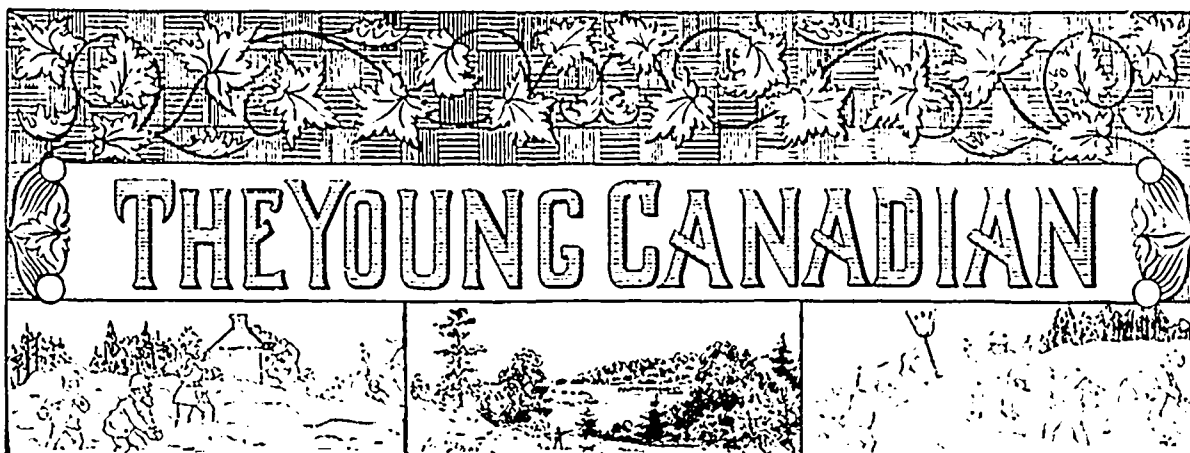




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SECOND THOUGHTS ARE BEST.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "MADGIE'S HERO."

CHAPTER I.

"I don't like Miss Lyster, there! She's an old frump, and she don't know how to pronounce German," and Blanche Trent flung her grammar on the floor and threw herself into an easy-chair in a most unladylike manner.

"Blanche, dear, you shouldn't speak so," Mrs. Trent said, in a feeble voice, from her invalid sofa near the fire. "You know your Uncle Derwent took great pains

to secure Miss Lyster, and he thinks her a very competent person!"

"I don't, and I mean to tell her so one of these days. I play quite as well as she does, and I'm sure I know German better. I don't see what I want a governess for at all, mamma; I think I'm quite old enough to take care of my own education!" Blanche cried, impatiently drumming with her fingers on the table.

"Your Uncle Derwent does not think so, darling," Mrs. Trent replied, with the same feeble indecision in her voice; "he fancies you require to learn a great many things yet, and I do wish, dear, that you would try to be a little more obedient and attentive."



"I DON'T SEE WHAT I WANT A GOVERNESS AT ALL FOR, MAMMA."