

## IN SHOES AND SLIPPERS.

It came about in this fashion: The little woman wanted a pair of walking shoes, and the fair girl needed a pair of slippers. Thus in the course of a shopping tour, they found their way into one of the best known of Toronto shoe stores and sat down, with little sighs of fatigue, on one of the long



inartistic benches which, for unknown reasons, are popular in these establishments.

The fair girl pulled off her gloves, lifted her veil and threw off her cloak. "We might as well make ourselves comfortable; we'll not get through in less than an hour," she remarked. "One can't buy foot wear in a hurry. You choose your shoes first; then we'll look at the slippers. What kind do you want?"

The little woman answered doubtfully. "I think," she said, "I ought to buy a common sense shoe. Will you show us some please?" This to the attendant.

"You see," she continued, as the man went off, "I once heard Miss Willard say that when she became a Christian, the first thing she had to do was to exchange her dainty pointed shoes for a common sense pair, a size larger, and—"

"What are you talking about?" interrupted the fair girl, in amazement.

The attendant came back at this moment with his arm full of shoes, which he ranged in a row upon the carpet. "Some of these are just the fashionable shoe," said the little woman.

"Yes, I thought you would like to see a variety," he answered, with a quiet smile. "This, indicating No. 1, is 'the pronounced common sense shoe,—the Cuyler shoe, made by one firm in Philadelphia; it is a specialty, and they make no other. It is just the natural shape of the foot, with toe almost square. Will you try it on?"

The little woman put out her foot.

"It is very—comfortable," she said, "and I suppose," very slowly, "it is hygienic."

"It's abominably ugly, remarked the fair girl, cheerfully. "Most hygienic things are. What do you suppose Jim would say if he saw such clumsiness on you?"

"Many men buy them for their wives," said the attendant.

"Oh yes—for their

wives," retorted the fair girl, with significant emphasis.

"Here is the 'walking fast' shoe," said the clerk, picking up No. 2; a common sense shoe, but not quite so extreme; and this (No. 3) is the same style of shoe moderated again. It has long vamps, and extended soles, you see, and is really very comfortable, while it lacks the conspicuous plainness of either of the others."

The little woman tried each on in succession, then turned to some laced shoes of the fashionable pointed type.

"The laced shoe is much in demand again," said the clerk, "and will probably be worn during the winter. This (No. 4) is a neat shoe of calfskin, sufficiently heavy for walking and skating. We have it in tan also. Tan shoes will be worn all winter."

"It is quite pretty," said the little woman, "but it isn't—common sense."

"It wouldn't be pretty if it were," commented the fair girl.

"This is the fashionable pointed shoe," said the clerk, taking up No. 5; "patent toe, high heels, light soles, quite up to date."

The little woman tried them all again in turn; then put a Cuyler shoe on the left foot, a patent point on the right—and studied the contrast.

"Miss Willard must have been very much in earnest," she said soberly. "I'm afraid I can't possibly,—not yet, perhaps I will come to it by degrees."

"Take those pretty laced shoes; they are Canadian make, and you ought to encourage home industries," suggested the fair girl, artfully.

"Why, yes; so I should," assented the little woman, brightly. "Put those up, please."

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Then came the slippers, and as the fair girl promptly asserted that she would "rather be called vain than sensible any day," matters were much simplified.

He brought a very dainty variety for inspection, the majority having both straps and fancy bows. Even in the ballroom the strap slipper is now preferred; it is more secure.

An Austrian made slipper (No. 7) of pale blue satin, lined with white kid, and finished with a bow of ribbon, won the approval of the fair girl; also a dainty black French kid (No. 8) having the toe ornamented with jetted beading.

The little woman preferred some soft blues and pink (No. 9) in dressed kid. But both agreed that the prettiest effect was produced by a bronze slipper (No. 11) having a broad strap across the instep fastened by two buttons. Both strap and toe were slashed to show the stocking, and finished with bronze iridescent beading.

But it was a house shoe the fair girl wanted, so she turned away from the pretty array to study the neatest of black dongola slippers with strap across the instep, very simple, but of finest make and well shaped. Beside it stood a regulation opera slipper (No. 12) of patent leather, with pointed toe.

"They are nice," she said of the latter, "but they make one's feet tired." And after a few minutes of indecision she chose the finely wrought dongola slipper.

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