

The Prince Edward Island Magazine

Vol. 4

May, 1902

No. 3

The City Home.

THIS word—Home—usually the symbol of quiet restfulness and freedom from the worries of the outside world, seems to lack significance in a great city like New York. Here the word refers to a crevice in one of the great walls of brick and stone which compose the city, and is called a "flat" or "apartment" according to the amount of rent. Its chief recommendation is the superabundance of "cosy corners." The parlor is a nice large cosy corner where the sun peeps in upon rare intervals, says "hello and then goodbye," and as if afraid of crowding somebody, departs for more congenial climes. Now and then the lady of the house is startled by the ray of real sunshine filtering in through the maze of clotheslines and fire-escapes at the rear of the flat, but before she has had time to acquire that familiarity which is said to breed contempt, it has become a dream of the past.

The neighbors of the city family are the eight or ten families which live under the same roof. Their names are learned from the letter boxes in the entrance, and usually that is about the extent of the acquaintance; although incidentally a good idea of their general character, whims and wishes are gradually formed through the dumb waiter