

## FOOLISH FRANCESCA

By Olive Wadsley

She remembered her start on the platform at Charing Cross, and Reg. gaily telling her jokes while he looked all the while as if he were wanting to cry.

And Leon, a splendid, famous, conquering person had been a beast about him, had accused her of being unfaithful to him. Justice to herself made Frankie's anger deeper.

It was the meanness of it all which hurt so; she would have believed where she loved, whatever had happened, but Leon had failed her. The stove glowed through a mist of tears, which did not fall.

"Day-dreaming, Bebe?" Madame Kain's voice said.

Frankie had told her nothing and Danvers had been given a royal lunch and had then, armed with Mme. Kain's card, gone out for an afternoon's amusement. Frankie knew that if she told Carissima the truth it would upset her, and she did not mean to do that today, whatever happened.

"About tonight," Mme. Kain said. "I, too, feel so excited. Himmell, Frankie, do not forget to make that pause in the second song. You take it too quick and your breath is short for the E. Pour l'amour de Dieu, remember."

"All right," Frankie said rather wearily. Yesterday, the event of the evening had seemed the one thing to live for, now its interest seemed to have faded somehow.

"You haven't a headache?" Mme. Kain inquired anxiously. "Do not say that you have." She rose and came across to Frankie and laid her hand on Frankie's head.

"Burning," she said dramatically. "Stage fright, Bebe, pull yourself together, you have the voice I tell you. All you have to do is to forget that you exist at all and just sing. An egg and brandy you will take at once."

"Oh, I couldn't," Carissima. Frankie said almost piteously. "Really I couldn't darling."

"Circles beneath the eyes," Mme. Kain went on impetuously. "This is what comes of love-making. Leon should have waited. He was always so wild, irresistible if he wanted anything. Oh, that Russian temperament."

She went on describing its idiosyncrasies, and Leon's selfishness in having ever loved Frankie and loved her so, with almost vindictive force, quite forgetting she herself had prompted the interview of the evening before, and earnestly striven to influence Frankie.

She knelt down despite her best stays on the hearth-rug, and put one arm round Frankie. During the eight months they had lived together she had learned really to love the queer little English girl, as she had called her at first.

Herr Friedrich Kain—minus the Schubert—had died ten years before, and his widow had never married again.

She had really loved her first husband and their greatest grief had been that they had no children. Frankie had received in some part, that maternal love lavishly.

She bent now over Frankie's dark head with its broad band of black velvet and lapsed into the German "Du."

"What is it with thee, Bebe, tell thy old Carissima? Is it that thou dost not love Leon? For marry him thou shalt not, if that is so. Tell thy old teacher."

She drew Frankie's head gently against the soft laces of the negligee. Frankie put her arms round the bent neck and clung almost despairingly for an instant. She wanted comfort and sympathy dreadfully but she knew that if she told Mme. Kain the truth a scene would ensue, Leon would be fetched, there would be an endless explanation, and she had at last made up her own mind, and decided upon her plan of action, and that plan held no suggestion of explanation.

"Then I go to prepare the egg brandy," Mme. Kain said, rising briskly and going toward the door. It opened and Leon came in.

With a little cry of surprised embarrassment, Mme. Kain fled, Frankie and Leon were alone.

She sat on the hearth-rug, looking at him steadily, praying inwardly that her heart was not really beating as loudly as it seemed to be doing to her.

Leon put down his gloves on the table and came over to her. He looked at her, then knelt down beside her.

He felt, for him, very nervous, and like a good many people strove to hide the fact by a sort of stupid flippancy.

"Hello, Frankie," he said with assumed cheerfulness. "Still feeling cross?"

To Frankie, for whom the world had been standing still, and whose whole being had been in tumult for his sake, his attempt at gaiety seemed an insult.

The cold anger, which the sight of him had dissipated a little, returned. She looked directly into his eyes, her own unfathomable.

"Perhaps all your behavior was a joke this morning," she said gravely. Leon laughed short again. He was born to be supplanted. He had never cultivated the talent of suppliance and he did not quite know what to do.

"It was deuced silly when one thinks it over, both of us acted pretty idiotically," he said.

"I haven't got such an abounding sense of humor as you, I'm afraid," Frankie said.

"Look her, let's make it up," he said rather roughly. He put his arm around her.

At his touch she struggled and leaped to her feet.

"Do you think I can be taken up again and left just as you please?" she asked breathlessly.

He made his greatest mistake then, his own temper was rising again.

"You don't seem so jolly particular about the taking-up part," he said; then, instantly, he repented. "I don't mean that, Frankie," he said.

"Look here, I'm a fool at saying things. I love you. I made an ass of myself this morning. Of course, you don't care for that boy, how could you?"

"How could I possibly care for any one while you are in existence?" Frankie said bitterly.

"It is no good going on like this," Leon said doggedly. "I'm sorry for all that's happened, will you make it up?"

He came nearer to her as he spoke. Lack of self-confidence had never been a characteristic of his and he was just going to stretch out his hand to take Frankie's, when she said in quite a level voice:

"No!"

He gazed at her, a look of actual bewilderment appeared on his face. He had known a good many women in his time, and he had felt for them what passed for love at the moment of his infatuation, and he had been utterly spoiled by them all.

His fame, his looks, his personality had made life far too easy for him.

He had told Mme. Kain, he was hopeless despairing; yet at the back of his mind he had never despaired. He was not of that type. His own opinion of his powers or loving was quite excellent, a very sure sign that his love was not a supreme thing. Also, the humility. He was really amazed at Frankie's answer.

"I am sorry to give you such a great surprise," Frankie went on quickly. "I am sorrier still that I made the mistake, I did last night. I don't love you."

"I—I'm sorry for you in a way. It's such a poor, mean, little way of loving that you have. I have been thinking about you all this afternoon. I see now that you just love me because you happen to want me, perhaps because I told you twice that I hated you, I think you're the sort of man who would be attracted by that; you'd like to feel you'd conquered it and won."

"And I saw in my mind how dreadfully miserable we'd be both of us if we married. You'd be jealous and you'd misjudge me often, and—and I couldn't bear it. Love ought to mean that you believe, whatever happens, and such a very little thing happened and you didn't believe. You failed the very first time."

Leon's face was flushed deeply. "When you have quite finished your interesting dissection of my character," he said quickly, "perhaps you will tell me what you really mean. Am I to understand that you wish me to release you from our engagement?"

His blue eyes were glittering; he was angry with the bitter mortified anger of a self-appreciative man.

### CHAPTER XXII.

#### Before the Premiere.

Long years afterward Frankie used to wonder how she lived through that afternoon. The strain was almost unbearable.

Mme. Kain fussed over her, old Mrs. Baggs came, summoned by wire by Danvers, as another "treat" for Frankie, and had to be entertained—gaily entertained.

Frankie was really tired out, and yet strung up by the excitement of her recent trouble.

As the hour approached for her to go to the opera she began to shiver uncontrollably. Mme. Kain fussed more than ever. Danvers kept on saying "Buck up, buck up," until Frankie could cheerfully have muzzled him; old Mrs. Baggs alone showed common sense by administering a good strong cup of tea to Frankie and supplying her with a hot-water bottle to her feet.

"Fellin' better, aren't you, deary?" she said in her comfortable voice as the trembling passed.

There, calling upon just Heaven to assist the evening, came in with Frankie's cloak. Mme. Kain wrapped two mufflers round her throat, and Mrs. Baggs gently took one off when she was not looking to that Frankie could breathe.

"The car is there. There's an announced, tears in her eyes: 'the car is there.' She said it about as cheerfully as though the executioner were waiting by the curb."

Frankie went down stairs feeling shaky and queer, and as if her mouth

## CUTICURA HEALS PIMPLES

In terrible rash on face which made skin sore and inflamed. Irritated face by scratching and was disfigured. Could not sleep well and made feel unpleasant. Trouble lasted 3 months before used Cuticura and after using 2 cakes of Soap and 1 box of Ointment was completely healed.

From signed statement of Miss Gladys Neabel, R.R.3, Brussels, Ont. Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Talcum promote and maintain skin purity, skin comfort and skin health often when all else fails.

Soap 25c. Ointment 25c and 50c. Sold throughout the Dominion. Canadian Depot: Lyman, Limited, St. Paul St., Montreal. 50c Cuticura Soap shaves without lugs.

had been filled with cotton-wool and some of it had stayed there.

Mme. Kain followed her.

Together they crossed the hall and walked down the steps. A man at the bottom of the steps came forward; in the light of the electric globe Frankie saw it was Leon. A mist came up round her, involuntarily she clutched at the railing.

Leon was speaking in an easy, pleasant voice to Mme. Kain, who said "Yes yes, very well," and went on quickly to the car.

Frankie was about to follow her when the footman shut the door and the car moved off. She gazed at Leon; quite naturally he took her arm and led her forward to his car, which had been waiting behind.

"I am to drive you to the opera-house," he said simply, helping her in. It was all done so quickly, so naturally, that she had only time to think that the drive was a short one, and that after all nothing mattered very much.

(To be continued.)

### HOW HAIL INSURANCE WORKS.

Hail insurance is practically only a term in Eastern Canada, but in the West it signifies something of vivid importance. Measures known as Municipal Hail Insurance Acts are in force in each of the Prairie Provinces.

These Acts provide a system of mutual insurance under which rural municipalities can operate to tax each other for the granting of compensation to individuals for losses incurred by hail, which are often very serious. How the system works out and the extent to which it operates in Saskatchewan and Alberta are set forth in the November number of the Agricultural Gazette of Canada. Each claimant is entitled to receive not more than five cents per acre for every one per cent. of damage from hail he has sustained. To some this may not appear a very liberal provision, but when it is understood that the number of claims filed in 1919 in Saskatchewan were 7,838 and that the total indemnity paid amounted to \$1,911,776 a different view will obtain.

For one storm alone that occurred in July of the year referred to claims amounting to \$1,100,000 were satisfied. In Alberta the total losses for the same year were \$506,000 against a valuation of \$12,000,000 insured. Besides the system under Government supervision there are 3 companies in Saskatchewan that accept hail insurance and that paid out \$1,750,000 in 1919 for losses caused by hail.

### OLD MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

Honored Customs of Giving Piece of Bacon to Happy Couple Recalled.

The death recently of W. Smith Shaw, for forty years agent to the Wichnor Park estate, near Lichfield serves to recall the fact that recently, there was honored at Wichnor, a custom similar to that of Dunmow, in Essex, or giving a piece of bacon to a married couple who were able to declare on oath after a year of wedded life that they had "passed no cross words," repented not of their marriage, and that, were they single, would wed each other.

At Dunmow the reward, which is regularly given, is that of a gammon of bacon, but at Wichnor it used to be a fitch of bacon and half a quarter of rye. For many years the bacon has not been given at Wichnor, and for it a painted wood fitch which hangs over the chimney in the hall, has been substituted; but it reminds one of the curious tenure under which the Wichnor Manor was held in the reign of Edward I.

There appears in an old number of The Spectator of facetious record of the claimants of the Wichnor fitch, of whom it is stated only three were successful. One was that of a sea officer and his wife, who from the day of their marriage to that of the ceremony of claiming the bacon had not seen each other; in the second instance the wife was dumb; and the third had the fitch taken from them again because they quarreled as to how it should be cooked.

Soft corns are difficult to eradicate, but Hollister's Corn Cure will draw them out painlessly.

## Magic Carpet

Visits to New Worlds

Sakhalien.

Cable despatches a few days ago announced that the Soviet Government at Moscow was prepared to grant concessions in certain portions of Russia's outlying territory in exchange for foodstuffs, the machinery so badly needed for rehabilitations. Among the areas designated was the island of Sakhalien. While it was not specified what portion of this island Soviet Russia was willing to allow foreigners to exploit—for a consideration—yet she has only the northern half at her disposal, for by the Treaty of Portsmouth which brought the Russia-Japanese war to an end all that part of the island lying south of the fiftieth degree of latitude was ceded to Japan.

Sakhalien is separated from Asia by the Strait of Tartary, the distance being only about four miles. This island is 585 miles long and varies in width from 12 to 90 miles. The Japanese portion has an area of 13,148 square miles, while the Russian portion is somewhat larger. The western coast consists of a series of high bluffs, while the eastern coast is high and mountainous. The climate is severe owing to the cold and the rainfall is exceptionally heavy. The aboriginal inhabitants are now few and in the Japanese portion known for their hairiness. Discovery of the island is credited to the Japanese in 1813, the first European to visit the island being Martin Vries. The Chinese later obtained dominion over the northern part of the island in 1700 and a century later Lieut. Koster took possession for Russia. In 1860 by the Treaty of Peking the island was formally ceded to Russia, but in 1905 it was conquered by the Japanese. There are some Christian churches, but the majority of the Japanese are Buddhists and Shintoists, while the Ainus have many interesting religious observances. Most of the island consists of primeval forests and the means of communication are poor. There are some coal mines, but the main industry of the island is fishing, salmon and herring being caught in large quantities and exported dry. The population in the Russian area is rapidly dwindling, while in the Japanese section it is growing fast.

## Uncle John's Joke

WHEN SETH ELKINS TOLD HIS WIFE THAT EVERY THIRD BABY BORN IN THE WORLD WAS A CHINESE SHE SAID SHE WAS OLD SHE ONLY HAD THE FIRST TWO



### 13TH CENTURY TOMB.

An interesting 13th century tombstone has been discovered at Workshop, England Prior Church, which is being restored as a war memorial to the local men who fell in the war. The tombstone which is beautifully carved has been identified as that of Lady Furnival, who built the church in the 13th century as a thankoffering for the return of her son from Palestine, where he had gone in order to bring home the heart of his brother Gerald, who was killed by the Saracens. The tombstone bears evidence of elaborate brass work, but the metal itself has disappeared, apparently having been stolen or torn off. The Lady Chapel is one of the most characteristic specimens of early English architecture in England, and its lancet windows are considered among the most perfect in the country.

Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

Have used MINARD'S LINIMENT for Croup; found nothing equal to it.

CHAS. E. SHARP, Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

Hawker—Any old rage today, str?

Henpecked—No, no; my wife's

Hawker (rubbing his hands)—Ah!

Any empty bottles?

Minard's Liniment For Croup in Croup

## A MOTHER'S TRIAL

CARE OF HOMES AND CHILDREN OFTEN CAUSES A BREAK-DOWN.

The woman at home, deep in household duties and the cares of motherhood, needs occasional help to keep her in good health. The demands upon a mother's health are many and severe. Her own health trials and her children's welfare exact heavy tolls, while hurried meals, broken rest and much indoor living tend to weaken her constitution. No wonder that the woman at home is often indisposed through weakness, headaches, backaches and nervousness. Too many women have grown to accept these visitations as a part of the lot of motherhood. But many and varied as her health troubles are, the cause is simple and relief at hand. When well, it is the woman's good blood that keeps her well; when ill she must make her blood rich to renew her health. The nursing mother more than any other woman in the world needs rich blood and plenty of it. There is no way to get this good blood so necessary to perfect health, and that is through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These pills make new blood, and through their use thousands of weak, ailing wives and mothers have been made bright, cheerful and strong. If you are ailing, easily tired, depressed, it is a duty you owe yourself and your family to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a fair trial. What this medicine has done for others it will surely do for you.

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through any dealer in medicine or by mail at 50c a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## WHY THE CLOCK SAYS "TICK, TOCK."

Why do we always regard a clock as saying "tick, tock," and not "tick, tick," like a watch? Is there really any distinction between the alternate sounds, or is it a matter of psychology?

The general opinion, it seems, has always been that it was merely a matter of chance whether the "tick" accompanied the left and the "tock" the right beat of the pendulum or vice versa.

The first important discovery an authority made, according to Science and Invention, was that the "tick" always marks the amount when the pendulum reaches the extreme point of detonation from the perpendicular.

No its beat to the right, while the reaching of its swing limit to the left is marked by the "tock" in pendulums of all lengths. It was found that owing to the fact that the anchor of the escapement mechanism is above the rotating escapement wheel and in the same plane with it, the conditions under which its arms strike the cogs of the wheel are not the same for both arms.

One of the arms of the anchor strikes a cog of the wheel moving upward, in a direction opposed to that of the anchor, while the other arm strikes against the cog while it is moving downward, nearly in the same direction as the anchor. The result of the unequal conditions under which the two arms of the anchor engage the cogs of the escapement wheel is naturally an acoustic difference in the sounds produced by the contact of the parts.

## TO-DAY! BUY CATARRHOZONE

Gives Effective Relief in Five Minutes, and Cures Perfectly

FINE FOR COUGHS OR COLDS

It was their inability to reach the real source of catarrh and bronchitis that caused the medical profession to drop liquid cough medicines and adopt "Catarrhozone" instead. This wonderful inhaler provides a method of breathing into the lungs certain rare medicinal vapors which are so healing and comforting as to entirely banish coughs, catarrh and throat trouble in a very short time.

The most wonderful thing about Catarrhozone is, that no matter where the germs of bronchitis or catarrh are hidden, Catarrhozone will reach and destroy them.

Get the large size, lasts months, is sure to cure you, price \$1.00; smaller size 50c; sample or trial size, 25c. All dealers.

### MOTOR ROADS IN FRANCE.

The excellence of most of the French main roads has long been recognized; but the war inflicted on them immense damage, directly and indirectly, by destruction in some parts and by excessive wear, with reduced opportunities for maintenance, in others. In making good their roads the French are looking carefully to the character of the traffic which will pass over them and are developing particularly concrete construction.

A feature of the new roads will be the massive concrete abutment on each side, where heavy traffic is expected. The roadway itself in these cases will have a minimum thickness of 4.7 inches of concrete, the camber being 1 in 250.

**WEEKS' BREAKUP-A-COLD**  
TABLETS TRY THEM  
PRICE 25c