

# The Domain of Woman

TALKS BY "TERESA"

The opening of the annual Christmas sale in Confederation Hall Building last week was a very busy one for the ladies in charge of the various tables.

From an early hour in the morning express wagons began to arrive with boxes of articles and the elevator man again himself to the inevitable with a heavy load of boxes.

What a wonderful time and breath-giving elevator is to be sure and what an appropriate name it has— "The Elevator"—but "elevator" takes on a more direct meaning.

"The Elevator" is, of course, the one that lifts the goods up to the top of one of the highest buildings in Toronto.

Through the windows one obtains a splendid view of the lake and the surrounding city.

But there is no time to look at views, at least, the interior view is the one that engrosses the most attention.

Here tables have to be becomingly draped, innumerable boxes and baskets unpacked, and the contents disposed to the best advantage. The question of space came up; there were so many articles, the stalls were so well supplied that it really became a matter of difficulty to find means of displaying them to advantage. But feminine ingenuity is inexhaustible; where a man would sink down in utter despair, lovely woman rises to the occasion, and soon evolves a scheme that is well supplied with the fairest of things.

The fancy table was especially admired, being draped artistically in white and blue, the colors best adapted to show off the beautiful articles on sale. Festoons of blue silk on a white ground decorated the front of the table, within the same combination was arranged in a kind of festooned canopy overhead, the fabric of the table being in a corner just opposite the entrance making this arrangement both possible and pretty.

Next came the almanac table, a picture in red and white, and furnished with an abundant supply of decorative articles—books, pictures, calendars, etc.

The doll table attracted a good deal of attention, the magnificent doll table being an especial object of admiration; the bride and the queen coming in, for their share of commendation. The baby table, devoted to candy, was a constant rendezvous for sweet toothed youngsters, and oldsters, too, for most of us have some lingering remanents of our childhood affection for lollipops, wherefore is a candy store usually a place of pleasure and profit, and the obliging ladies in charge found their occupation as dispensers of jubilee dainties by no means a disagreeable one.

Due mention must be made of the tea table provided by the generosity of the Kinross Club, where who gave to the table used, and also offered a prize of five pounds of tea to the person guessing the number of pounds of tea in the pyramid behind the table.

The young ladies in charge were indefatigable in the efforts to provide everyone with a cup of the refreshing beverage, which, I must remark, was properly made, not boiled, and in consequence the delightful flavor and aroma was fully retained. It will be remembered that this company gave all the tea that was used at the Sunnyside Garden Party, and their good fortune to assist our charitably, and make their excellent tea better known, should meet with full appreciation. Of the lunch rooms it is unnecessary to speak. Every Catholic business man in the city and a few Protestants also, who know the excellence and deliciousness of the fare provided, the attention of the fair waitress, and the moderate price of everything. The cafe at last was delicious. It is enough to say that a French chef could not have acquitted himself more creditably in the directing of a Parisian cafe than did the sisters in charge of the kitchen attached to the lunch room. The lottery table had a large assortment of beautiful articles on show. Last, but not least, the exquisite decorated china occupied the place of honor. This large and beautiful cabinet is the sole work of a lady much interested in the good sisters, and the great value of her contribution to the annual sales, together with the artistic genius and tireless energy necessary to the production of such finished works of art, renders the table of decorated china and Venetian glass the most unique thing of its kind that can be seen anywhere. I have seen the finest specimens of Doulton and Saxe, the French pottery works, and the magnificent china in the British and South Kensington Museums, and I may say without exaggeration that the work of our talented and charitable lady will compare favorably with them all.

One piece exquisite miniature copy of Bouquet, "Flight into Egypt," is most finely and artistically executed; the fortunate possessor of this beautiful piece will have a work that will undoubtedly increase in value with each year. The figure of St. Anthony of Padua with the Divine Infant in his arms is another piece of the figure painting. The portrait of Marie Antoinette is beautifully executed. An too crown not represents a May Day celebration. The Venetian glass, is decorated in various designs the scrolls associated with jewels in various colors. Visitors began to arrive at an early hour in the evening, but there was no sign of the quarterly dividend to be seen, everything was quiet and snug. Only "behind the scenes" one could see the skeleton of all this artistic

drapery. Wooden boards and trestles, with various articles baskets boxes and paper of all kinds, were piled up to the eyes of the spectators, but they were not more troubled by the artistic arrangements of their sanctuaries, they were intent upon pleasing the eyes of the public and selling their wares, and as the latter had no desire to go behind the scenes it did not matter.

The entire room was well up to the standard, special praise being due to Mrs. Fanny Sullivan for her able directing of the evening concert and to Miss Falconbridge for her valuable assistance on Tuesday evening when her piano solo was much appreciated, and for a very nice and well selected list of compositions that led to the success of the evening. Many thanks are due to those who so kindly gave the services. Comparisons are often made and it is true that the display of Mrs. Wm. J. Smith's South-west young ladies is, by reason of a talent that will undoubtedly lead her into the foremost ranks of amateur violinists.

Mrs. Sarah Smith accompanied upon the piano with much skill. The string quartet was one of the good pieces only in their rendition of the airs from "The Gondola." To mention all the performers individually would be impossible, suffice it to say that they were all excellent.

She looked like a strong-minded woman, anyhow she was decidedly masculine in appearance. She wore a hard felt hat, a large fringed vester with a deep collar, and a pair of very large and wide linen cuffs, exactly like a man's, with dogskin gloves. Her hair was cut short by which I mean the way gentlemen usually wear their hair clipped close at the back of the neck.

She boarded the steamer at the corner of Queen and Sherbourne the other evening, and the only vacant seat being at the other end of the car, she stalked majestically towards it with a stride resembling that of Irving in Hamlet.

She was half way up the car when the conductor pulled the string, the motorman turned the indicator, and the current did the rest. That is to say it propelled the car and the man in blue livery forward with a violent jerk. When one is a strong-minded female, it is not only a matter of dignity, it is also a matter of safety, to be suddenly thrown off one's balance, and compelled to subsist with a heavy flop into a seat one had contemplated slipping into majestically, to say nothing of having to endure the insane giggles of a couple of frigidly-balded and red-nosed girls and their young lot of an escort.

The masculine lady glared fiercely as only her unfortunate sex can glare when it is irritated, but the mischief was done, her majestic entrance had terminated in a most unbecoming and transitory manner.

Speaking to a friend the other day about prohibition and the probable results, she remarked that she was not in favor of it, but she often wished, when she saw the poor degraded woman and girls in the jails, that it were made impossible for them to obtain drink at all. I think that a great step would be made in the right direction if the sale of "drinking" were made in the jails, and the sentences made commensurate with the length of time necessary to effect a cure.

All the authorities on temperance are agreed that it is the "physical crave" for stimulants that is the worst they have to contend with, and not, in most cases, the moral depravity of the unfortunate victims of intemperance.

Unless something is done to counteract this "physical crave" all the lectures, and exhortations, and pledges in the world are to no lasting good.

Certainly some people have overcome the craving for drink, but they were possessed of exceptionally strong wills, such as most jail birds are completely deficient in.

If a cure for the drink habit has really been found, it is undoubtedly an immense boon to humanity, and the government of the country should not be the last to avail itself of such a means of reforming its unfortunate victims of drink.

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## A VISIT TO OTTAWA.

The Capital - Healthy Growth and its Improved Neatly Beautified

I have one brief visit, I had not seen the Dominion Capital for over 20 years before. But even in the distant previous at had most of its fine Parliament Buildings, its busy Sparks street and Sussex street and its commodious Innes Hall, and many evidences of material prosperity which led the mind to conclude that Ottawa was, at no distant date, destined to become a great commercial centre in addition to its official prestige as the capital of the country, yet with all these reasonable probabilities in view, I really wondered when I entered the city last week and witnessed its changed appearance and rapid growth. It struck me that the town had nearly tripled its size and its population in the interval of years mentioned, and the substantial character of the new buildings and new streets of the business activity told of the city's improved status in every way as in quantity.

As I took a drive to the country from the far end of London street down to the new Alhambra Hotel I saw new houses and new thoroughfares stretching out in all directions, and as we gazed at the grand erections on Parliament Hill we noticed their augmented number and beautified appearance outside and their splendid internal arrangement. The great Parliamentary library of to-day was in its meagre state in the earlier period above named, still it was an object of interest then but now it is a spectacle of wonder and delight, for it has 200,000 volumes and the books are of rare value and import. Well-seasoned travelers from Europe admit that the old world has but few finer libraries than that which is housed in the Federal buildings, and it is allowed that the structures themselves are as noble as anything found on either side of the Atlantic. On emerging from the stately piles the heights of Nepean point were quickly reached, and from that natural viewpoint the scene that meets the eye is simply magnificent. The day was clear so that attractive objects could be seen very vividly, and as we looked in the direction of Hull and Aylmer, and towards the distant landscape, across the Ottawa river, we felt instinctively that nature's bountiful hand had dealt liberally with this favored city and district. The famed Chaudiere Falls were near by, from the elevated point where we stood a great part of the city came under view, the Dominion's official buildings were behind us, the "Lover's Walk" directly underneath, the great river which divides the city of Hull, in Quebec Province, from the Capital rolling in close proximity, the Rideau Hall in the rear distance with the sloping hills further away and the general panoramic outline from a picture not much behind what the vision takes in from Dufferin Terrace or on the Ottawa heights of Quebec city itself. Combining this natural advantage, which nature and Providence bestowed with the social, political and material gain derived from being the seat of Federal power it is little wonder that Ottawa should advance rapidly on the road of progress, or that her citizens should feel an honest pride in residing in such a place. Then it is reckoned that Ottawa has not yet received half the pre-eminence and perfection in future years for, as Hon. Premier Laurier has officially declared that he desires that his government should make of the fair capital the "Washington of the North," and as the Premier is an honorable man and his word, this authoritative promise will, in all human views be strictly fulfilled. The completion of the great project as it seems to us would not be very hard to accomplish, because it may be logically inferred that Ottawa, as the central seat of the Federal Government, has already drawn together to itself the best elements in the several provinces in the political and social sense. Nor is she much behind in the material and commercial aspect, for among her well-to-do citizens are millionaire lumber merchants, wholesale and retail mercantile firms of first-class standing and solid financial strength. In her departments of law and medicine she has representatives equal to any in the country. Prominent names could be listed in this connection, but it were unwise to make invidious distinction in a field where even the modest are creditable. In the vital question of city municipal administration, the city stands high in the moral line, under its capable and energetic head, Major Bingham, and in his energetic council corporation affairs get prompt attention, and civic obligations are discharged in an honorable way. But after all the real test of a people's moral worth must be gauged by the religious and educational status they may have attained to. In this respect the inhabitants of Ottawa have made a good record for themselves. The city abounds in churches of the different creeds, and a striking feature is the number and excellence of its Catholic convents and temples of worship. The Basilica on Sussex street is an imposing edifice, both in size and profuse ornamentation, and affiliated with the various parishes within the archdiocese numerous charitable institutions are co-operating with the Church in her

merciful work of relieving the poor and afflicted. In the paramount work of sound moral education, no community is better situated, considering the high standing of the University of Ottawa and of the colleges and schools. It does seem to me in accord with "the eternal fitness of things" that the capital of a nation should have a superior standard of educational culture and refinement, and that it should aim to produce the best of everything.

It is a conception of this kind that prompts the head of the Government to propose a still higher ideal in the domain of literature, culture and art. Past experience goes to prove that Canada will push forward rapidly in the years to come, all the great things that go to make a country great and respected, and from that ideal he naturally argues that the capital will assume higher status and increased responsibilities and it is a wise forethought to make provision to meet the legitimate demands of the future. This is the reason why Sir Wilfrid Laurier intends to encourage and foster a high spirit of culture, science and art in the capital. Of course the whitey problems of State have the first call on the Minister's attention, but the latest high-culture idea will manifest its strength in the near future. As the country advances in population, political purity, material strength and beneficent laws, so will the inspiration towards lofty moral and literary culture take deeper hold upon the minds of the commonwealth. One very essential factor in the capital's progress is the improved railway facilities.

In '77 we made the approach to the city by way of Prescott, leaving the mainline of the G. T. Railway at that point, we are not sure if it could be reached by rail any other way in those days, what a change in this regard they is to-day. Besides the old pioneer line, look at the new erections, for instance, the Ottawa and Parry Sound road running through the fertile fields of Muskoka, and other lines in various directions, but above all take due thought of the meaning and commercial importance of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, with its enormous wealth and power in opening up new channels of trade and business, and its continual inflow of traffic to the capital through the medium of its main line, via Smith's Falls and the auxiliary lines from Brockville.

A country owning such a vast and perfect railway system must necessarily take high rank in the commercial world.

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Annual Order of Hibernians' Div. No. 1 hold their regular meeting Sunday, Nov. 14th, in St. Pauls Hall, Power street, the president, Bro. R. J. Talty, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members. About twenty-four visiting brothers were present. Two new applicants were initiated into the order and three applications for membership received. Our Division is growing rapidly and hopes to have one hundred names on the roll by the end of this year. Under the heading of "Good and Wellfare" Bro. Hugh McCaffery, Provincial President, gave a splendid address to the members on the good of the order, stating that the order had grown 16 per cent, since the insurance system had been adopted in Ontario. He also stated that the Insurance Secretary had filled out 26 policies in October, which speaks well for the order. At the close of the address a vote of thanks was tendered to Brother McCaffery after which the following members contributed to a good program: Bros. McWilliams, Patton, Findlay, Eigney, Conlin and Kennedy. The meeting then adjourned to meet Sunday, Nov. 28th Brothers and Sisters Divisions are cordially invited to attend.

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