

from him as it rarely did, and the sensation was a new one. Noiselessly the maid entered with tea and in silence he watched Tiny's slight hands moving over the silver tray. She looked very childish and miserable, and her eyes failed to meet his in the very satisfying understanding that had existed between them. She handed him a cup and pushed the dish of toast towards him. Then, settling back in her chair, she watched a lump of sugar dissolve in her spoon.

"Oh, Tiny—it's—it's a damned shame. Can't you fix things up? A patched friendship is better than a broken one any day." He spoke with the soft, persuasive way that few could resist—either men or women.

"No, Ross—the cracks always show, and it has to be handled very carefully for all time. It won't stand the hard knocks again. Of course, I'll always care for Millicent—I'm not the changeable kind, unfortunately. They seldom suffer pain—of this sort."

"I'm desperately sorry, Tiny. What can I do?" His tea was untasted, and he was thinking far more of the girl's misery than of what it all meant to Millicent and himself. This break had to come sooner or later, but it had always seemed an indefinite climax to their game.

"I don't think that there is anything that any one can do," she answered somewhat wearily. "Millicent spoke rather—decidedly—she left no loop-hole, so I fear it has come to a choice between us. Her way and mine will be somewhat divergent now." She uttered the ultimatum in the straightforward way that he had always admired in her.

"Choose between you—and Millicent? Lord, Tiny, what are you saying? Do you realize the sort of proposition you are putting up?" Hilliard's brain seemed to work sluggishly—he could not make himself realize the full meaning of what she had said. There must be some way out of the tangle. He couldn't give Millicent up and—. The alternative set his pulses throbbing wildly and the colour swept into his cheeks. Some strange, subtle revelation was struggling for recognition, and he fought against it with all the force of his physical and mental natures. All he was able to grasp was the sight of the girl before him—her winsomeness, her bravery, her loyalty to himself and Mrs. Angstrom.

"Do without you," he gasped. "Do without YOU! God—I couldn't, Tiny."

His tones struck her with compelling power and she looked into his eyes for a moment. What she saw there made her own drop as quickly and he saw that she was trembling. Instantly his arms were about her and her heart was beating tumultuously against his. That sudden, blinding revelation had illumined their little cosmos with a divine light, and there was no need of explanations. After a few minutes she raised her face to his and said very softly, "And what of Millicent?"

"Millicent? She'll be glad. She never cared as I did."

"Do you really think she will be glad, dear? I wish I could think that." Her woman's sympathy was aroused and a superb generosity of soul awakened strange doubts in her own happy heart.

"I'll go to-day—right now, and tell her. And then I'll come back. May I?" He spoke quickly, eagerly.

"Well, are we really engaged, Ross? It is your turn to make the arrangements this time." She laughed happily as he kissed her lightly on lips and brow and hair.

Within the half-hour he was with Mrs. Angstrom, telling her of his blindness, of his joy, of her own wisdom and foresight.

"And so Tiny is the cure? Dear boy, I'm so glad. You'll be very happy together." She took his hands in her own and looked frankly into his radiant face.

"Yes, Millicent, and I do want you two to be friends. Can't this miserable misunderstanding be cleared up? I can't realize that you have had a quarrel." His face had grown very serious.

"You dear, foolish pair. You can't see, because Love is blind, but—I forced the quarrel on Tiny so that you would have to make a choice between us. Can't you see? It was all part of the cure!"

"Then you—you—Millicent, you are the best woman in the world—next to

# THE FIRST BALLOT

## IN THE CANADIAN COURIER CONTEST

### Get Nominated and Make Use of These Ballots Towards Your Success.

This ballot is good for 50 votes in the CANADIAN COURIER EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

For Miss .....

Address .....

if forwarded to the CANADIAN COURIER to be credited in the official standing on or before March 20, 1913.

Judging from the interest displayed in the CANADIAN COURIER Educational and European Trip contest the event will be the most interesting and successful of the kind ever attempted in Canada. Throughout the Dominion the utmost interest has been shown, and over 500 letters have been received by the Courier Contest Department in regard to the offer.

Once the Contest is well under way it is evident that a great many of the brightest and most ambitious young ladies in Canada will have entered and will work enthusiastically to win the splendid rewards offered by the COURIER. This is but the third announcement of the offer in the COURIER, and already widespread attention has been attracted, and the offer has been heartily praised on all sides.

The first ballot will be found on this page. It is good for 50 votes for any properly nominated candidate in the race, if sent to the CANADIAN COURIER, Contest Department, on or before March 20, 1913. There will be a new expiry date on each ballot weekly and about 20 days will be allowed to get the ballots returned to the Contest Department, properly filled out for some candidate.

The Contest starts with this issue of the COURIER, March 1, and will end Saturday, May 31, 1913. Suitable provision will be made so that ballots near the end of the race can be properly taken care of, and count for the candidate for whom they are intended. This arrangement will be announced later.

Nominations will be received up to the end of March, or early in April, but the importance of getting an early start cannot be too strongly im-

pressed upon the intending candidates. Get going early in the race and it will make the work easier throughout the contest.

Complete rules of the contest will be mailed to each candidate before March 10th, and to new candidates nominated after that date as soon as the nominations are accepted.

A list of the candidates with the official standing will be published early in March. Bright, ambitious girls who wish to win any of the rewards offered should be sure and see that their names are included in the list.

A nomination blank will be found printed at the bottom of this page, which should be properly filled out and sent to the Contest Department, CANADIAN COURIER, for acceptance. The candidates will be promptly notified of receipt of nomination, and if no notification is received the candidate should send in a second nomination to replace the one lost in transit.

The rewards in this contest are too important to be disregarded. By the terms of the Contest 14 young ladies will be sent to a ladies' college for a year, and 10 will have a five weeks' trip to Europe under a very careful and efficient chaperon. It is the most splendid offer ever made in Canada, with all expenses paid in each case.

Each candidate will endeavour to win in her own district, but can secure support from any place she may have friends. Last week's COURIER gave the arrangement of districts and prizes for each district.

The important thing is to get nominated and give the race a trial. It costs nothing to make the start and there is no obligation to continue in the event that some unforeseen reason makes it seem wise to drop out. The candidate herself is the judge of that matter. But be sure and get nominated and make sure of a chance in this magnificent opportunity.

The ballot above is good for 50 votes for you. Ten ballots will give you 500 votes. Each new yearly subscription to the CANADIAN COURIER will get you an additional 2,500 votes.

Send replies to Contest Department, CANADIAN COURIER, Toronto.

## Nomination Blank

I Hereby Nominate Miss .....

Address .....

whom I know to be over 15 years of age, of good character, and to be a proper person to enter "THE CANADIAN COURIER" CONTEST.

Signed .....

Countersigned by .....

Address .....

Pastor of .....

Church or Parish .....

The first nomination received for any candidate is good for 10,000 votes for the candidate named thereon, provided the nomination is accepted. The votes on only one Nomination Blank will be counted for any candidate.

IN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS PLEASE MENTION "THE CANADIAN COURIER."