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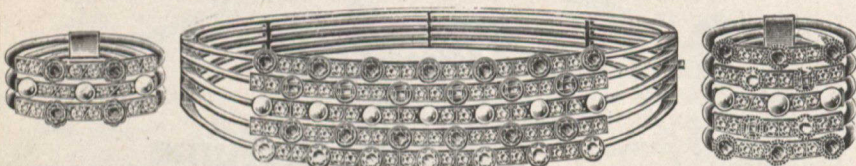
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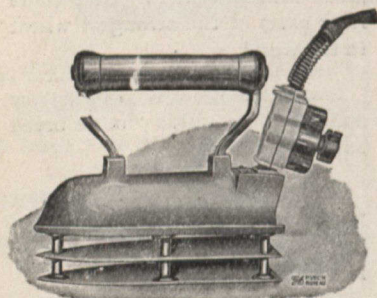
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"Yes, with pleasure!" to a question which seemed to be thrown at her from some obscure and dismal region? It took her all the minutes Mrs. Fitzallen was away "putting on her bonnet," to make the words clear and the situation intelligible to Cicely.

Mrs. Fitzallen had said:

"I was going to make a call, dear, and I'd like you to come with me, if you are not too tired. I'm sure you will like Mrs. Talbot, she is the wife of that nice man you got on with so well at my garden-party, if you remember?"

And she, Cicely, had promised to call on Mrs. Talbot, the wife of "the nice man she had got on with so well at the garden-party."

Half-an-hour later Cicely was calmly drinking tea in Mrs. Talbot's drawing-room. She had the impression of being in a theatre and watching the movements of the gentle-faced, pleasant-voiced woman as if she were on a stage. She did not fully awake to reality until Mrs. Fitzallen stood up to go. Then some words were said so tonic in their effect, that they sent the blood back to Cicely's cheeks, the grip into her nerves. She became as alert, as spirited, and as daring as a young race-horse.

"I wish you could wait until my husband comes in," said Mrs. Talbot. "I am expecting him every moment. He loves pretty faces so much, that I should like him to see Miss Hammond."

Then, before anyone could reply, Mr. Talbot entered.

Cicely was the first to speak. She was smiling so brightly that no one noticed that the light from her eyes was of the quality reflected from steel.

"I have already met Mr. Talbot," said Cicely.

Mrs. Talbot smiled kindly.

"I was just saying," she said to her husband, "what a worshipper of beauty you are. I did not know you had already discovered her."

Cicely still smiled.

"We met at Mrs. Fitzallen's garden party," she said.

"Yes," said Mr. Talbot, "the day you were so cruel to that nice boy—Mr. Ludlow."

The steady, unemotional tones of the voice turned Cicely's heart to ice. One thing in the world now only mattered to the girl, that this cool, matter-of-fact man of the world should not know that he had made a fool of her—that his amusement had meant for her the most serious days of her life—that she loved him. She forgot in her blind anger her own cultivation of the intimacy which had sprung up between them, his unknowingness of the fact that she regarded him as a single man.

She looked at him full in the face as she said, a little ripple of amusement lending music to her full voice: "I happen to be engaged to be married to that 'nice boy.'"

Mr. Talbot had moved a little into the shadow behind his wife, and Cicely saw a peculiar rigidity settling over his features, and his eyes for a moment had the wild glare of fever.

She learned in that moment that the amusement had been as serious for him as for her, and the finger of aged experience seemed suddenly to press very hard on her young shoulder.

She felt sorry for him and for herself, and for Sam and—for Mrs. Talbot.

In the meantime Mrs. Fitzallen was offering congratulations.

"I am so delighted! Sam must have at least four thousand a year. I was always afraid that, with all your dilly-dallying, someone else could come along and pick him up. I'm so glad, my dear!"

For such is Life.

Professor Wrong on the Attitude of Canada

PROF. GEORGE M. WRONG, of the University of Toronto, has something to say about the "Attitude of Canada" in the October number of the "Nineteenth Century." Mr. Wrong believes that the average green-capped Englishman knows more about Canadian rivers and wheat than the every-day citizen of the Dominion of the baronial castles and peers of Merry England. John Bull's "Times" blossoms with Canadian news, while our "provincial" newspapers, dependent on a one-horse cable system, are noticeably defective in supplying us with the doings of the Dukes in the old land. Canadian ignorance of Britain is resulting in a differentiation of the people of Canada and of Britain. The variance is best illustrated in the outlook of the Canadian and that of the Englishman upon the society of which he forms a part. England is aristocratic; Canada is democratic. Canadian democracy is not "Yankee." "The traditions of society in the United States are not understood or regarded in Canada; the new citizen of the West is respected as little as the Boston Brahmin."

Politically, the outlook of Canada and Great Britain is more substantially now than at any time in their history. The same type of government is the ideal of both countries, and the grievances and misunderstandings of the past are by-gones. Separation from Britain, Mr. Wrong thinks, extremely improbable; nor does he affirm that Canada will be led to a closer organic union with Britain. The vast territory of the United States has great difficulty in maintaining the centralisation of its government at Washington. What a problem for one parliament to administer all the units of the Empire! Canada has an independent destiny of her own to work out. In fulfilling her aim of becoming a great nation, Mr. Wrong points out that Canada cannot always expect to be protected by any arm but her own.

A Model Building

EVERYWHERE in Canada the merchants are pulling down their stores and building great after the manner of a man mentioned in Holy Writ. Every large business in this country has growing pains. Toronto has its share of these new buildings and among them the new home of the Gerhard Heintzman Company is one of the most beautiful. Every such building should be adapted to the purpose of those who are to occupy it. The Heintzman building is especially beautiful and harmonious as a building devoted to the sale of musical instruments should be. It is situated on Queen Street just opposite the City Hall and not far from the corners of Queen and Yonge Streets, which form the retail business centre of the Queen City.

The front of the building is a combination of maximum of utility and attractive ornamentation. Though for the greater extent the two first floors are designed of glass, marble so enters into the scheme as to produce a harmonious and dignified effect. The upper stories are of red brick, set off with four columns of grey cut stone. The interior is beautifully decorated along lines which are entirely new in Canada wareroom decorations.

Visitors to Toronto who are interested in modern decorations, in musical surroundings and in high-class musical instruments will be welcomed if they should pay a visit to the musical mansion of the Gerhard Heintzman Company.