

## With a Strong Love Interest

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hand upon her shoulder. They were walking across a breezy common — one of those commons still to be found within comparatively few miles of London—and all about them was the stir and sweetness of opening spring. Great patches of gorse flamed golden above the short grass; the blackthorns were clothed in snowy blossoms; on the hawthorn hedges was already a veil of tender green. Here and there upon the banks dog violets swung delicate little heads in the breeze, and above a garden wall across the road an almond tree was thrusting forth its dainty blossom. Larks soared singing into the pale blue sky, and a thrush sat upon a budding pear tree, pouring forth a flood of melody.

"Let us go out of town and have a real country walk," Heberden had said to Hilda, when he had met her that day at lunch in Lady Neville's house; and now they stood upon the breezy common, with its golden masses of gorse, and for a long, long moment looked silently into one another's eyes.

"Tell me why you can't understand me when I ask you a very simple question in very simple language?" Jack said, the mocking tenderness of his voice giving her little thrills of ecstasy, whilst the pressure of his hand upon her shoulder made the soft colour come and go in her face. Jack's eyes watched those soft, swift flushes of colour, and a tender little smile crept about his mouth.

"Don't you — understand — plain English?" he said, bending nearer to her and letting his hand slip from her shoulder till it caught and held her hand. "I asked you—whether—some day—you could care about me—as something more than a friend?" Her downcast eyes lifted themselves to his, and she faced him bravely, though the close pressure of his hand made her heart beat in almost suffocating beats.

"And that's—what—I can't understand," she faltered, a bewildered look stealing into her eyes. "I—oh! Don't you know—that in all my life—in all the forty years of my life—no man has ever wanted—me—to care? No man has ever wanted to touch my hand, or look into my eyes."

"More fools the other men," came the short reply, but she scarcely heard him, so anxious was she to explain the whole truth in all its nakedness.

"I want you to understand," she said eagerly, "there mustn't be anything of false pretences between you and me. You mustn't think—that—I'm not married because I don't choose to marry, or—or anything like that. It is because"—her voice dropped—"nobody ever wanted to marry me. In all my life no man has ever wooed me or wanted me to love him. You must know the truth. I can't be insincere to you."

They were alone on the breezy common, excepting for the larks and the thrushes, and he suddenly drew her close into his arms with a masterful, imperious movement.

"The other men were blind fools," he said. "I love you. I want you to love me—I want you—my dear—I want you."

"I—wonder—why?" she whispered, a tremulous smile on her lips; and he put his hand gently under her chin and lifted her face so that he could look deep into her eyes, where a great light was shining.

"Your love stories made me love you first," he said; "I felt that the woman who wrote as you wrote was a woman with a heart of gold, and when I saw you I knew I was right.

But it was your love stories that made me sure you were worth loving."

"How funny," she whispered, a laugh of irrepressible joy breaking from her. "The writing of those stories always seemed to me a sort of mockery—and they have brought me—"

"What have they brought you?" His lips touched hers, his arms held her in a close clasp.

"They have brought me—you," she said; "you, and all the glory of life—they are the keys that have unlocked the gates of Paradise."

## Canada House

In Old Berlin.

A NUMBER of those who are interested in German-Canadian business relations have established in Berlin a "Canada House." The purpose of this is to provide a central information bureau concerning all things Canadian; to distribute literature—which will be translated here into German if desired—relating to the various provinces, cities and towns of Canada; to make known the agricultural, industrial and other conditions and to call attention to the business opportunities offered and to the enterprises established or in contemplation; to furnish moreover a medium for trade inquiries between the two countries. Statistical and other information relative to the German market for Canadian products will be prepared and from time to time sent out. Many of the Canadian official publications, as well as trade journals, will be kept for purposes of general reference, and visiting Canadians are invited to make use of the facilities offered. It will be a Canadian publicity bureau in the widest sense of the word, and will assist in establishing business connections and in promoting commercial intercourse between Canada and Germany. A permanent exhibition, on a small scale, of the principal Canadian products, with a display of photographs and other views, forms part of the plan.

On March 1st a provisional arrangement went into effect under which the Canadian surtax upon German goods is removed and the most important Canadian products are admitted into Germany under the rates of the German conventional or special tariff. This arrangement it is expected, will be soon followed by a definitive commercial treaty between the two countries. Under these circumstances it is believed, that the present time offers a favourable opportunity for the establishment of an institution such as is here described.

It is important that the management should know as soon as possible how far it can depend upon the assistance and co-operation of those persons and business houses, as well as of those municipal and other bodies in Canada that may feel an interest in this institution. To this end correspondence is invited, and any and all proposals and suggestions will be gladly received and inquiries answered.

The manager of "Canada House," J. J. Blakeslee, lately made an extensive trip through Canada as the English adviser to the German-Canadian Economic Association, through whose efforts it is in large part due that a better commercial understanding between the countries has at length been brought about. Temporary offices have been opened at 58 Friedrich St., Berlin, Germany, to which all communications should be addressed.

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