

A Day in the Life of a Modern Young Lady.

(From her diary.)

Feb. —th 1880. Rose at seven, awfully fagged, having danced till two, last night—but I couldn't give myself another second. "Dancing in Lent?" you will exclaim, dear Diary. Let me explain. *There were no programmes*—so it wasn't a bit of harm, there! Had forty minutes before breakfast for the *Data of Ethics*. That horrid little FLORA A. was actually quoting HERBERT SPENCER last night. The ideal well, I mean to quote him to-night.

Papa very sarcastic over my toast and strong coffee at breakfast. Carried my third cup to my work-room, and painted at that tile for twenty minutes, then learned by heart a list (about a yard long) of potters' names and marks. Oh, goodness! what a worry ceramics are! I had actually to run to get to the cooking-school at ten, and there was JACK ARABESQUE taking leave of FLOSSIE GRAY at the door! You should have seen the extraordinary look he gave me. Deprecatory, supplicatory, appealing, apologetic, (thinking of our talk on the stairs last night, I suppose.) Ridiculous! as if it mattered to me whom he walked with. I bowed to them both with impartial sweetness, but FLOSSIE's eggs wouldn't come light, and her *omelette aux fines herbes* was like a piece of wash-leather flavoured with custard and onions. On the contrary, everything I tried turned out splendidly, and I was glad enough by that time to eat some of my own *tete de veau en tortue*, and a plateful of *Macedoine*.

Went from there directly to our German club. We met at Mrs. W.'s to-day, and she has old brass andirons too, if you please! Of course, if they're going to be as common as that!—Continued to read the *Wahlverwandtschaften*, and discussed GOETHE in his relations with MINNA HERZLIEB, LILI and COUNTESS VON STEIN. Rushed home, dressed, took a minute to glance over "*Pessimism*," and hurried to Mrs. MARMADUKE H.'s to luncheon. She tries so hard to be æsthetic, poor thing—but after all she is very ingenious, and she has some really pretty bits of china. I enjoyed one minute of triumph, and felt repaid for all my trouble, when she turned up her plate and teapots and said to me, "Now, my dear, you know all about these things, tell us if this is a real Spode." Little FLORA D. who was there, grew perfectly green (she's so sallow, anyway,) when I began on the "Mission of the Staffordshire prints." Of course I didn't waste HERBERT SPENCER there.

Home again. Our crewel-club met here at half-past two. Went on with the *portiere-band-yellow* sunflowers on an olive ground. Half-past three to four. Painted at the frieze in the reception room.

At four, while dressing, studied part of the chapter on Capital in MILL's Political Economy (and saw Mr. ARABESQUE coming up town from his office, followed ten fatal minutes after by FLOSSIE GRAY from her tour down town, and looking so glum!) Of course they missed each other, and I was so amused that I couldn't get a word of Capital into my head, so I put on my bonnet and went out to make a call. It was at the K.'s, and they are having mantel-shelves put in! Impossible that they recognize the "feeling" of mantel-shelves. This is the debasement of Art! And such weak tea as they give one.

Lenten service at five. And there was JACK ARABESQUE across the aisle looking into his prayer-book with the devotion of a Brahmin (which reminds me that I must get up Buddhism.) TOM ALLEN was before him at the church-door offering to carry my prayer-book, so goodness only knows what

became of JACK. Home in time to read the concluding article on "*Modern Atheism and Mr. Mallock*" before dinner. After dinner, studied WAGNER for half an hour, and prepared my SHAKESPEARE. For it is SHAKESPEARE Club night, and I am jotting all this down while waiting for the *coupe*.

11 o'clock at night. Completely done out. We discussed "mobled," its derivation, its signification, its pronunciation, its—its—ah. —(I'll think of the word to-morrow,) until FLORA D. created a sensation by announcing it as her opinion that "mobled queen" was a "popular potentiality." Under cover of the confusion that followed, First Grave-digger (JACK ARABESQUE) took me out to cool in the hall, and explained how FLOSSIE GRAY waylaid him this morning while he was hovering about waiting for me to appear. He says FLOSSIE's ideas of perspective are totally incorrect, (wouldn't she be mad?) and when we got back, they had utterly demolished poor FLORA's potentiality. I made my quotation from H. SPENCER at a most opportune moment, and came home triumphant in the sweetest moonlight! But I wonder if JACK really—

Good night, Diary. FLORENCE GRAY.

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