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TALE OF SUPREME DEVOTION

Simple Explanation of Reason Why Romance of Abelard and Heloise Will Never Die.

Romance never dies, for lovers are born each springtime and the heart of the world is always young.

And so it is that to the modern thunder of the guns bombarding Soissons is set the tune of an old, old romance that has spun like a gold-and-scarlet thread through eight changeable centuries, spun and spun, and lost none of its color, none of its appeal. And the story winds about the town of Soissons and ends in a crumbling old tower dropping to its last decay.

And the romance was the tragedy of Abelard and Heloise, lovers who have typified the passion of devotion to all the lovers of the universe. The story itself was not uncommon—the love of a teacher for his beautiful pupil, her winning and her undoing. The tale of Faust has the same harsh note of betrayal. But it is the supreme devotion of Abelard and Heloise that make them types; that, and the setting of the romance which ran through Paris and other towns, and drew to a close in the tower where Abelard was a prisoner of those persecutors who held his writings to be seditious. His marriage to Heloise, his renunciation of her, and the final taking, by both of them, of the vows that sent her to a nunnery, and him to a monastery, all of this availed him nothing. There in the town of Soissons, lighted now by the blaze of bursting shells, he was compelled to burn with his own hand his book in which was set forth the "heresy" of which he was accused. What a contrast between the feeble light of that burning manuscript and the flare of the battle we are waging for the liberties of the world!

And yet the burning of that book was a momentous event at the Soissons council of ecclesiastics.

But Abelard had been a great teacher, and all the country had throbbed and thrilled with the serial story of his romance with the beautiful Heloise. And so, in the later years travelers have turned aside from the beaten tracks and sought the old tower on the outskirts of the French town for a glimpse of the prison where he languished. The steps were worn in grooves by the thousands of feet that went as on a pilgrimage to the shrine of a perfect love.

There today the guns roar and the shells take their screaming flight—there at Soissons—but under the curtain of smoke and the hail of lead there spins on and on the gold-and-scarlet thread of the romance that never dies.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Jerusalem Gets Water.

For the first time since the days of Herod, Jerusalem has a good supply of pure water, the British having provided it in the first year of their occupation. The city has relied for its supply on rain water which flowed into underground cisterns at almost every house. These were found in bad repair and most of them needed cleaning. The water from near Solomon's Pool was led by the Romans through an aqueduct, but this was not nearly enough, and under the Turks it was divided to the Mosque of Omar and the city of Bethlehem. The British found some springs and have raised the water from them to the top of a hill, whence it flows by gravity through a new pipeline into the city. Standpipes were placed on the streets, and the cisterns are filled on condition that they are first cleaned and repaired. Water consumption has increased tenfold, cholera has been exterminated and the health of the city is pronounced wonderfully good.

Air-Service Dress.

Air-service officers must wear regulation dress or become subject to disciplinary action.

An order to this effect has been sent from air service headquarters to the various air sections and stations. It has been inspired by the practice adopted by some air service officers of wearing split coats, bellows pockets and roll collars, which may be comfortable but are not regulation.

When a squadron commander recently lined up all his flyers for an unexpected and unheralded inspection, a lot of them looked nice but were not garbed as it is written in the manual. "M—m—m—m," mused the squadron chief. "You—and you—and you—you—you, too—step forward one pace." "I don't suppose you can fix the pockets yourselves," continued the major. "And I don't suppose you can fix the collars, either. But you can fix those splits in the back. Go to your quarters and sew them up."—Paris Stars and Stripes.

German Idea of Justice.

"The pigeons in Belgium," says Brand Whitlock in Everybody's for September, "had almost as hard a time of it as the people themselves. At Nivelles a poor man had some carrier pigeons and the Belgian's love for them. But he had no food for them and so was obliged to kill them. His children cut off their heads and ranged them along a window sill, and underneath wrote: 'Died for their country.' The Germans saw the little heads and the inscription and the man was sent for 15 days to the Kommandatur and fined 200 francs."

Not Guilty.

Lawyer—I suppose you fellows are forever trying to produce artificial life?

Chemist—Heaven forbid! We leave that to the white-light restaurateurs.—Buffalo Express.

BRINGS HOME HUN SAVAGERY

Contrast of Present War With That of the Spanish-American Conflict Twenty Years Ago.

One night, 20 years ago, I sat in an army camp in Cuba during the Santiago campaign, listening to a discussion of war weapons. That day some 2,000 men had been killed or wounded in a three hours' battle, which involved all of Shafter's army corps at San Juan hill and at El Caney. The matter which created the most comment was the very small per cent of mortalities in the casualty list. The wounded would nearly all recover, and, except here and there, without permanent injury. Two American staff officers were discussing it and praising the Mauser rifle, which the Spaniards were using. I remember substantially the words of one of the staff officers. He said: "It is a more merciful weapon than the Krag, which we are using, because it is of smaller bore, makes a cleaner wound and puts the other fellow out of business just as effectively as the Krag does without inflicting as dangerous an injury."

I remember that they both agreed that the science of modern war was to knock the other fellow out without slaughtering him. I thought of that odd American conception of that twenty-year-old period while visiting yesterday a hospital where Americans were being brought in from the field. Some of the men are indescribably mangled; some wounds lie open as though they had been made with a cleaver—others are of the crushed, ragged kind. I went from this dangerously wounded ward into a neighboring tent, where 200 gassed men with bandaged eyes tossed restlessly. As I thought of the desperately wounded I had just left and of those poisoned men, called upon to defend themselves against an inhuman weapon which gave them no chance to strike blow for blow, I realized the utter savagery to which we have reverted since that gentle day in which we sank the Spanish navy and made guests of the Spanish army until the hour arrived when we might send the conquered home in civility and in honor.—Kansas City Times.

Overcoming Hay Fever.

Hay fever is gradually becoming better understood. From the public health reports, it appears that recent investigations have shown only one person in a hundred to be susceptible, while the susceptibles differ widely in the effects produced on them by the various plant pollens that give rise to the disease. In the eastern and southern United States pollen of the ragweed finds the greatest number of sensitive subjects, the spring type of hay fever being therefore the most common. The smaller number of persons who are affected by grass pollen have the autumnal type of fever. Some persons have both the spring and the autumnal fevers, and about 8 per cent of the susceptibles are sensitive not only to the ragweed and grass pollens, but to various other pollens, including some tree pollens. Such unfortunate are liable to hay fever attacks throughout most of the year. Some patients are affected only when the specific pollen is at its greatest abundance, but others have the disease during the entire season of the plant's pollination.

Perseverance Does It.

"It's the allies' perseverance that is going to win the war," said Senator Lewis.

"The allies suffered defeat after defeat, but from each defeat they learned something."

"It's like the advice the editor of the Cinnamonion Scimitar gave to an unlucky wooer who had been rejected by seven girls in turn. The editor wrote:

"Unlucky Wooer: Go ahead. Don't be discouraged. Never say die. You must have learned a lot by what you have gone through. Strikes us you must hold something like a record. Well, stick all your experience together and make love to the next girl who comes around and takes your fancy. If she doesn't reciprocate try another. Remember, you only want one girl to say 'Yes,' and she'll probably last your life."

Army Nurses in Peace Times.

There is a corps of regular army nurses maintained in peace times as well as in war times. When nurses volunteer under the Red Cross organization and enter the army service they assume the same status as that of the regular corps of nurses. A nurse aid receives no pay for her services. Transportation and maintenance, however, are supplied. Nurses and nurse aids, sworn into the government service through Red Cross channels, and all nurses employed by the army and navy are under the order of the army and navy medical departments. If a nurse or nurse's aid is incapacitated through service, either in this country or abroad and thereafter, because of disability suffered while in the service, is unable to provide for herself, there is not known under the law any means whereby she can secure the benefits of a pension.

Deaf Mutes Not Good Flyers.

Contrary to a report which has been widely scattered, deaf mutes do not make good airmen, as has been shown by recent tests made by the war department, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. This branch of the government is endeavoring to ascertain the source of the false report, which has led many young men to seek enlistment as flyers. In examining a number of deaf mutes it has been found that they are lacking in an adequate sense of equilibrium.

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