

His Matrimonial Spurs

How After a Defeat by a Man He Won Them From a Woman

By F. A. MITCHEL

The shores of Lake Lemnan, commonly called elsewhere Lake Geneva, are thick with historical incidents. The city of Geneva was the home of Calvin, Rousseau, Voltaire, Mme. de Staël and other celebrities. At Chillon is the castle where Bonivard was so long a prisoner, as related in Byron's poem. At Vervey, on a hillside some distance back and above the town and partly hidden by the trees surrounding it, is the old castle of Blonay. There is a story—a true story—of which this castle is connected dating away back to the twelfth century. Those were the days of feudalism, and the Blonays, who built and owned the castle were feudal followers of the counts of Savoy. They seem to have been in favor with their sovereigns, for they filled various offices of trust under them. The Blonays came across the lake from Chaillass and built the castle in 1175.

One day a number of knights of Turin, the capital of Savoy, were wrangling over the question whether marriage made a man more efficient as a soldier or less so. The married knights claimed that a wedded soldier would not only be sensitive to his reputation for bravery on his own account, but also on account of his wife and children. The unmarried knights declared that they were more efficient because they had only themselves to live for, whereas having a lovely wife and little ones the dread of separation from them by death would sap their courage.

The dispute between the knights of Turin waxed hot, and, since the question could be settled only by being put to the test, challenges began to fly between the bachelors and the bachelors, and it looked as if many families would be made fatherless and many young men well fitted to become progenitors would bite the dust.

Perhaps it was that the reigning Count of Savoy, fearing to lose so

chest, and De Bresse tall and slender, no superfluous fat mingled with his hard muscles. At the signal the two, poised their lances, made a dash at each other.

At this first onset neither was unhorsed, neither wounded. Again and again their lances came together, and at last in one of these encounters De Bresse's lance was shattered, and he was left defenseless. The married knight had won.

Corsant de Bresse rode up before the queen, dismounted, knelt and with hanging head cried for mercy. He repeated the ceremony to the other ladies to whom the terms of the tournament compelled him to subject himself and then rode away to Vervey to bend the knee to the wife of his conqueror.

Now, in those days there were no telephones or telegraphs in that land. Indeed, there were no regular mails. One afternoon Mme. de Blonay, who was ignorant of the tournament, was sitting on her castle terrace with her baby on her lap, looking out on the placid waters of Lake Lemnan. A mailed horseman ascended the hill and, dismounting below where the lady sat, came up on to the terrace and, bending the knee, said:

"Mme. de Blonay, I cry you mercy." "You cry me mercy!" exclaimed the astonished woman. "You, an armed knight, cry mercy of me, not only without weapons, but incumbered with my baby."

"Yes, madam. I am Corsant de Bresse. I have met your husband in battle, he the champion of the married knights of Turin, I representing the single knights. I have been conquered by him, and by the terms of the tournament I have come to cry mercy from his wife."

As soon as Mme. de Blonay understood the situation, recognizing the fact that her husband had won a victory for marriage, she conceived the idea of winning a second victory, not with lance or battlements, but with woman's own weapons.

"Arise, Sir Knight," she said. "I grant you mercy on one condition."

"Name it, good lady."

"That you be my guest at a feast which I shall give in your honor with the nobles living around about."

"Thanks, madame, that you accompany your mercy with a boon instead of a penance. I will be your guest most willingly."

Immediately Mme. de Blonay dispatched messengers to those to be invited to the feast, including her young and beautiful cousin, Yolande de Villaforte. When all were assembled Mme. de Blonay placed Yolande beside her, seating Corsant de Bresse where he could feast his eyes on her beauty. There was a clinking of glasses and many a word of good natured derision fired at the bachelor cause in the recent contest.

"Alas!" he said. "Would that I had a wife to defend me against this rivalry!"

He accompanied the words with a look of appeal at Yolande, who blushed and lowered her eyes. "Cries of 'Desertion!' 'Renegade!' and the like were hurled at him from the bachelors present, while 'Come over!' 'Welcome to our ranks!' and similar badinage came from the married persons."

After the guests were gone De Bresse declared to Mme. de Blonay that he had had enough of the unmarried side and since he had become smitten with her niece, begged that she would intercede for him with Yolande.

"How, now, Sir Knight," said the lady. "Having been beaten at feats of arms by a married man, do you now beg the assistance of a married woman?"

"By my spurs, madame! I am more afraid of the girl than of either you or your husband."

"Well, then, you must either win your matrimonial spurs as you have already won those of knighthood or remain a craven."

With that she opened a door and ushered him into a room with Yolande. What took place there has not been handed down, except that after a while De Bresse came out, strutting like a peacock, and informed his hostess that he had won this fight far more easily than her husband had vanquished him in the tourney.

After a brief courtesy the young fawn rode back to Turin. He bore a scrap of paper from Mme. Blonay to her husband, on which she had written: "You have conquered with man's. I have gained a victory for the same cause with woman's weapons. You feared with an insensible lance, I with a beautiful girl."

Corsant de Bresse, returning an affianced husband, excited a great deal of merriment in Turin. The married knights welcomed him among their number, and the single knights talked of another tournament in which the renegade should defend his newly chosen side against one of their number, who should punish him for his desertion. But the Count of Savoy forbade any further fighting, and, there being demoralization among the bachelors both on account of their defeat and De Bresse's joining the enemy's ranks, many more deserted, and many maidens gained noble husbands.

And you who visit northern Italy take a little steamer plying around the lake and among other sights viewed from the boat look at Castle Blonay. You can fancy a good woman sitting on the terrace 700 years ago with a baby on her lap and a plumed knight riding up the slope to cry her mercy. And, remembering how he rode again down that same slope an engaged man, having turned his back indolently on the side for which he had so recently fought, you will say to yourself, "Verily, a woman's wit is mightier than the sword."



"ARISE, SIR KNIGHT," SHE SAID.

many of his best officers to no purpose interfered. Perhaps some women who feared to be made widows or young girls who dreaded to lose their lovers objected. At any rate, the married and single knights met in conclave and decided to settle the matter by champion ship. A few on each side were appointed to arrange the terms and select the champion. Those agreed upon were these: A married man was to meet a single man in contest. If the married knight was defeated he should go to Mademoiselle de Savoy and all other marriageable women of her house, as well as another lady to be named by the victor, and on his behalf cry her mercy. The bachelor knight, if defeated, should humiliate himself to all the married ladies of the ducal house and especially the wife of his conqueror.

A gay scene marked the trial of this important question. Today contrast between married and single men are unprofessional and usually burlesque. Not so this tournament. All knights were fighters, and he who was considered the best married knight was pitted against the best single knight. Si mon de Blonay was to represent the married side, while Corsant de Bresse defended the cause of the bachelors.

There were ladies present headed by Mademoiselle de Savoy, the ancestress of one of the most beloved women of the royal blood of the present day, the dowager Queen Margaret of Italy and others of the ducal house and the nobility. But whether they were unanxious or divided in their sympathies between the two sides has not been handed down through the centuries. Naturally the good wishes of the maidens would be with the bachelor, but as all women are in favor of marriage, or were at that time, they should all have prayed for the success of the married knight, for would not his victory prove that a married man is a better one than a single man and the result be conducive to matrimony?

Be this as it may, when all were seated in the enclosure where the fight was to take place, amid a waving of fans and bonnets and a flourish of trumpets, the two champions, armored and armed, rode out in waist and

Sixth Annual Show Carleton Co. Poultry & Pigeon Ass'n

3 BIG DAYS—FEBRUARY 18, 19, 20

Generous Premiums Winnings Guaranteed
Get a Prize List Get Busy and Boost

N. B.—See Additional Announcements in Locals

FRANK A. AITON, President. ANDREW BLACKIE, Superintendent. CHAS. M. SHAW, Secretary

Western Assurance Co.

(INCORPORATED 1831)

ASSETS \$3,213,438.25

DIBBLEE & AUGHERTON, Agents

Woodstock, N. B.

Telephone: Office, 18-51.

Residence, 18-1.

YOUNG MEN

We prepare young men for positions with the Railways and young women for positions with the Commercial Telegraph Companies. We guarantee to secure positions for all our graduates. The C.P.R. pays from \$55. to \$75. a month for its operators. We are turning out young men and women who are getting these salaries. Let us tell you about it. Only \$50 for a course. Students can enter at any time. Day and Evening Classes. Call or write, C.P.R. SCHOOL OF TELEGRAPHY, 13 Mill Street, St. John, N. B. M. B. Innis, Manager.

YOUNG WOMEN

Great Bargain Sale February 1 to February 15

Here is the Greatest Real Bargain Sale on Staple and Seasonable Goods ever offered to the people of this county.

Compared with all others, it trims them to a standstill. Given in appreciation of the liberal patronage we have received at our two stores at East Florenceville and Mount Pleasant and to reduce stock before stock taking. Read every word carefully, for every one offers a Real Genuine Bargain.

Groceries

20 lbs. Best Granulated Sugar, \$1.00 (XXX Standard, in bbls.)
21 lbs. Rice, 1.00
Five Roses, Snow White Royal Household Flour (bbl), 6.30
1 lb. Pure Cream of Tartar, .22
10 lbs. Soda, .25
8 lbs. Rolled Oats, .25
13 bars Soap, .50
3 lbs. Seeded or Seedless Raisins, .24
3 lbs. Cleaned Currants, .24
3 lbs. Iceing Sugar, .24
3 lbs. Mixed Starch, .24
3 lbs. Corn Starch, .24
3 lbs. Tapioca, .24
35c Teas (all kinds) 3 lbs. for, .85
40c Teas (all kinds) 3 lbs. for, .95
5 gals. Kerosene, .89
10c Tobaccos (all kinds), .99
15c Tobaccos (all kinds), .13
3 cans Corn, .25
3 cans Peas, .25
3 cans String Beans, .25
3 cans Tomatoes, .40
3 cans Peaches, .45

Ready-to-Wear Clothing for Men and Boys

Including Suits, Overcoats, Jackets, Reefers, Pants, etc. Our suits are new and up-to-date and, at the prices mentioned, are really great bargains. The same applies to our Overcoats, etc., and can only be appreciated by actual examination. 85 Men's Suits, all new goods, tweeds and worsteds.

\$10.00 Suits, \$7.48
12.00 Suits, 8.98
15.00 Suits, 11.48
18.00 Suits, 13.98
21.00 Suits, 16.48
35 other suits at 30% discount

Boys' 2- and 3-Piece Suits, Bloomer and Straight Pants

Boys' 2-Piece Suits, 4 to 7 yrs., \$1.15
Boys' 2-Piece Suits, 7 to 12 yrs., 2.15

Boys' 3-Piece Suits, 9 to 13 yrs., 2.65
Boys' Overcoats and Reefers, 5 to 14 years, at 25% discount.

Men's \$10 Overcoats, \$6.98
Men's 12 Overcoats, 8.48
Men's 14 Overcoats, 9.98
Men's 16 Overcoats, 11.98
Men's 18 Overcoats, 13.48

A lot of about 15 Overcoats, prices \$7 to \$12, at 50% discount.

9 Men's Overcoats, black beaver shell, quilted lining, rubber interlined and fine fur collar, warm, good wearing, and dressey, all new goods, regular prices \$20 to \$22, for, \$16.00 and 18.00

4 only Men's Black Dog Fur Coats, regular \$20, for, \$14.98

2 only Men's Russian Lamb Fur Coats, regular \$28, for, \$22.98

15 pairs Men's Pants, best all wool 16-oz. all full twists, warp and filling (Hewson's very best), sold for \$3, now, \$2.48

40 pairs Men's Bannockburn All-Wool Pants, reg. \$2.65, for \$2.08

35 pairs Men's Working Pants, all-wool, different patterns, regular \$2 to \$2.50, to clear for, \$1.48

14 Men's Fine Dress Pants, regular \$2.50 to \$5, sizes 32 to 40, to clear at 33 1/2% discount.

Underwear for Men, Women and Children

In Fleece Lined and All-Wool, including Standfields, Hewson's and Penman's, in heavy, medium and light weights for men, in all sizes. 25% discount on all.

Men's and Boys' Top Shirts

Heavy and light weight working, also Fine Dress Shirts. All kinds at 25% off.

Happy New Year



Swing into 1913 with a determination to discount the past at every point, and keep this the best Clothing, Hat and Furnishings store in Hartland.

May the recollections of the dying year live as a pleasant memory of a time that's gone. And sorrow may be buried by the goodness and the joy which the New Year has in store for you.

Happy New Year

The John McLauchlan Co., Ltd

The Up-to-Date Clothing, Hatters and Furnishers
Hartland and Woodstock

Hosiery and Gloves

A large range of Many kinds and prices, all to go at 25% discount.

Boots and Shoes

All lines of leather goods have advanced from 10 to 20 per cent. during the last few months, but we have a large stock of all lines, bought before the advance, and when we offer you a discount of 20 per cent. you can easily see it will pay you to buy your spring boots now. We have a large stock of the latest styles in all the popular leathers such as famous brands as the Hart, Linton, McCreedy, etc. Don't miss this bargain.

Another lot of about 100 pairs at half price.

Men's and Boy's Cloth Caps

Famous Eastern Brand at 30 per cent. discount.

Corsets

Famous Bias Filled and D. & A. A large number of styles, all new, prices from 50c to \$3.50, at 20 per cent. discount.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's Coats

New this season. The latest notions in style, trimmings and cloth.
\$10 Coats for, \$6.48
12 Coats for, 7.98
15 Coats for, 9.48

A lot of sample coats, good goods and very serviceable, to clear at 60 per cent. discount. Don't fail to see these. They contain some rare bargains.

Ladies' Skirts and Underskirts

to clear at from 30 to 50 per cent off

Sweaters

For Men, Women and Children. A very large range and all new goods, to be cleared out at 25 per cent. discount.

Fur Goods

A very large range of Neck Furs and Muffs at prices away below today's cost, will be cleared at from 25 to 50 per cent. discount.

3 Ladies' Astrachan Fur Coats, \$23 to \$38 regular, to clear at \$11.98 to \$19.98. Be sure to see these.

2 only Ladies' Fur Lined Coats. Real beauties in shell and lining. Latest styles, regular \$80, for \$56.

1 only Ladies' Coats, Beaver Shell, Sable Collar, Astrachan Cloth Lined and Rabbit Interlined, all new, very warm, dressey and durable, regular \$19 at \$22, to clear at \$14.98 and \$19.98.

Millinery

A small assortment left on hand and will be sold at half price.

Furniture

Our line is not very large, but every one is a good one and a bargain. 20 per cent. discount.

Gasolene

Fine Motor Gasoline, the kind that is always good, at low prices in bbls. or small lots.

Rubbers, Overshoes, Shoe packs, Moccasins

All these have advanced in price since bought, and at 15 per cent. discount are great bargains.

Compare this with other "Sales" and "Discounts" now advertised and be convinced that we excel in all lines

All kinds of Produce Taken in Exchange for Goods at Highest Prices.

Terms of Sale Strictly Pay Down.

Any Goods Charged will be at Regular Prices

10 cents advance per barrel and 1 lb. less Sugar per \$1 at Mount Pleasant store to cover cost of hauling. All other lines at same prices at both stores.

S. W. SMITH

TWO STORES:
Mount Pleasant and East Florenceville