

and in the distance Wynyard. There is a wonderful beach for bathing, the water so impregnated with salts that it is almost impossible to sink in it. Some day the Big Quill is going to be a health resort. Just now it is a beauty spot, where a few wise ones go yearly to camp. We rested our horses for a brief time, sat upon the hillside and gazed over the beautiful lake, and then took up once more the burden of everyday business, with all afternoon in our ears the cool wash of water on the shore.

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### **The Retort Uncourteous**

It was the winter fair, that great gathering of horsemen from all over the west. It was the first day, and we sauntered through the great stables, looking at the splendid horses and listening to the exchange of courtesies between the grooms of the various studs. Much caustic wit, by the way, is to be heard at any such gathering. Presently we ventured the enquiry as to where was Uncle John, head stud groom for one of the big horse-breeding establishments. Geordie, the second in command, assured us that Uncle John had gone to get married. Our interest was instantly aroused, and we asked if the lady in question were a certain gay blonde who had lavished many blandishments upon Uncle John at a gathering of horsemen the previous summer. Geordie admitted that that was the lady, but informed us, with a giggle, that she had turned Uncle John down at the last minute. He had just gone to Ontario by himself to "see the boys." Later in the day Uncle John appeared, and no rejoicing bridegroom could have been more gorgeously appareled. He sported a suit of tweeds that literally "smote your eye," and whose emphatic stripes of green and red had a brown ground. His crimson cravat was fastened with a glittering horse-shoe pin. His fur-lined overcoat had a collar of richest otter. His stiff felt hat was startlingly new, and there was a white carnation in his buttonhole. But Geordie, probably in revenge for many snubs, had circulated the story of Uncle John's jilting and of his cunning statement that he had "just been down to Ontario to see the boys. A little travel was good for your health." He was hailed upon all