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The E. B. Eddy Co. Limited

Hull, Canada.

THE SEVEN AGES OF WOMAN.

At first the infant's cap, soft, warm and white. With strings well mouthed and muffled, in sorry plight.

The giddy schoolgirl's hat, a wail and stray. Any old thing that hinders not her play.

The budding maiden's hat, pert, smart or trim. According to "sweet sixteen's" mood or whim.

Braves of all, the bridal wreath and veil. Which marks life's great event and turns the scale.

The new-fledged matron's "dream," by Worth designed. Which bubbly pays for, sighs and looks resigned.

The well-planned bonnet of the chaperon. Which hides time's ravages from her alone.

Last scene of all, the widow's ruche and weeds. Sans feathers, flowers, ribbons, lace or beads.

—J. K. Oliver in New York Sun.

"A KISS, A WORD."

A Story of a Woman Who Could Not Keep a Secret and How She Paid the Penalty.

By MAURUS JOKAI.

When the Princess Alexandra Serbatoff was presented at the luxurious court of Catherine II, two men found the most influence in the empire. One was Gregory Alexandrovitch Potemkin, the mighty minister, the other Prince Monomoff, the handsome favorite of the czarina.

The gossiping world said that the pretty eyes of the favorite had just as much share in governing the land of all Russians as the great brain of the famous statesman.

The quick eye of Prince Monomoff noticed at once the extraordinary beauty of the new court lady, and of course it was only natural that so wide awake a statesman as Potemkin, whose less pretty but nevertheless watchful eyes were always open, couldn't help seeing and admiring.

Both men fell in love with the young princess, and in the ensuing ardent but secret struggle for her love the czarina's favorite, Monomoff, was finally the more successful. He became the devoted admirer of the princess, and the wise Potemkin, knowing that he was "not in it" any more, withdrew, buying his malice in his diplomatic heart.

Thanks to his intrigue, the new love of Prince Monomoff now became known to the czarina, who, to avoid a scandal, ordered her favorite to marry at once the girl.

The "punishment" was taken by the prince with resignation, which was only natural, knowing that the young princess was not only bewitchingly beautiful, but also enormously rich.

The wedding took place with great pomp and ceremony. The young pair was overwhelmed with the costliest presents, among which the most valuable was that of the czarina. It was a large solitaire diamond. Its wondrous fire had a beautiful color.

Nothing marred the happiness of the young couple, and their honeymoon passed in joy and pleasure.

Once in a happy hour the young wife approached her loving husband with this inquisitive question: "What is the value of that large diamond which you have on your finger?"

Monomoff looked upon the czarina's present and did not answer for awhile. "Tell me honestly, sweetheart," continued the princess, "how much was given for that stone?"

"A kiss," thoughtlessly replied Monomoff. They both laughed at the joke.

"Won't you sell it to me? I will pay you double that much for it." And the charming young woman demonstrated right away her generosity by allowing her husband to "help himself."

And the price, two kisses, was willingly paid—in fact, overpaid—but of course that is none of our business.

"Alexandra, if you value our lives you must not tell of this bargain to any one. You know the czarina."

"I do promise to you, dear," that no soul shall learn from me the price of the diamond.

"I have also promised to Catharina and told you just the same."

"Yes, but I won't."

And she didn't until the next court reception. Of course she didn't mean to tell it to a soul, and it was only by mere chance that the secret escaped her lips. During the evening her most intimate friend, the Princess Orloff, had admired the sparkling gem and (we must remember that all this happened in Russia) inquired about its value.

Princess Monomoff smilingly whispered into her rosy ears: "It was given to my husband for a kiss. I gave him double the amount for it. But I said this only for you and to no one else. Don't let it go farther, or it may bring us into danger."

Of course Princess Orloff did not want to tell the secret to any one and, in fact, did not tell it to a soul except to the wife of General Romanoff, but she was such an intimate friend of hers that she could be trusted without fear. And she knew also perfectly how to guard an intrusted secret. No body learned it from her but her bosom friend the Princess Kerchikoff.

The Princess Kerchikoff told it to no one except to the Princess Daskoff. So the well kept secret reached Princess Potemkin shortly after midnight, whispered confidentially by an unrecorded lady's rosy lips under the promise of strict secrecy.

Princess Potemkin hated Princess Monomoff, and being the wife of a great diplomat, she was herself a great intriguer. She had maneuvered so skillfully that she approached the empress unopposed, and when the Princess Monomoff paraded by she remarked innocently:

"Oh, how beautiful that diamond

the Princess Monomoff wears! Splendid!"

The czarina recognized at once her gift to her former lover, but nevertheless nonchalantly said:

"Yes, it is a fine stone. It must be very valuable."

The princess tells everybody that it was given to her husband for a kiss, but she gave two for it.

After the court ball, in the early morning, Prince and Princess Monomoff retired, giving orders to their attendants not to disturb them until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

It happened, however, that hardly one hour after they were rudely awakened by somebody who executed a lively tattoo on their bedroom door.

"Who is that? Who dares?" called out indignantly from their bedchamber the sleepy prince.

"His excellency the chief of police wishes to pay his respects."

In Russia every door must open before this "essence," and in the next minute Prince Monomoff appeared in the half opened door.

The chief of police was polite.

"I must beg your pardon a thousand times, your excellency, but I must disturb you at this unseasonable hour. I regret it very much, but duty compels me to do it. My most gracious czarina has bid me to deliver to you this order and also to carry it out personally and without delay. Knowing good manners, I do not wish to intrude into the sleeping apartment of a lady, and have brought with me lady attendants to help me in executing it. I must beg your kind indulgence to allow these ladies to enter."

Prince Monomoff threw a troubled look in the direction of the "lady attendants," who were lined up nicely in the hall. They were all six feet high, very well built "ladies." They were all richly, although a little negligently, dressed. They wore very large French hats with large feathers, and their faces were thickly veiled. On their large hands the fine suede gloves nearly burst. But the most extraordinary thing was that instead of a fan every "lady" had a rod of birch in her hand.

The chief of police delivered his order to the prince. It was a sweet little perfumed, rose colored billet doux containing these words:

"One kiss—one word, then women—hundred rods."

Monomoff paled. The chief of police politely withdrew, and two of them advanced in orderly steps. Two of them took the arms of Monomoff, and all entered into the bedchamber and closed the door.

What kind of a ceremony they performed we don't know positively, but one thing is certain, that when they emerged again from the sanctum of the princely pair their rods were used up to a great degree.

The chief of police took polite leave of the prince, and the "ladies" arranged themselves in line again and filed away in a nice, solitary manner.

Before leaving the chief of police assured the prince that all those "ladies" were selected especially for one merit, their knowledge how to keep a secret.

But, in spite of his assurance, the story soon became known all over the world.—Narrated From the Hungarian For New York Journal.

The Star of Bethlehem.

It was a cloister fancy of the dark ages that the star of Bethlehem was some especially created starlike body, probably within our atmosphere, designed wholly for the leading of the wise men. The law of parsimony rejects such explication, and science, with silent scorn, turns its back upon the humble star, for in the glorious depths of heaven are matchless orbs which, swinging on their way into mortal ken for awhile, meet all the demands of poet and of prophet for the "Star of the King."

History affords data for determining this wonderful star.

When the marl arrived in Jerusalem, Herod was within a few weeks of his death. The massacre of the babes of Bethlehem was one of the last of his tragic deeds. Herod died in the year of Rome 750. When "Herod inquired diligently what time the star appeared," the reply was evidently such that he thought it safe to exterminate all baby sons of Bethlehem from 2 years old and under, showing that "the star" had been known to the wise men for at least two years before their arrival in Jerusalem, and whether its appearing had marked the conception or the birth of "the king" Herod could not decide.—New Lippincott's.

Flintaring.

Not long ago two commercial travelers started from Birmingham on a night train to Holyhead. Wishing to have the compartment to themselves, however, they sat thinking for a moment how they would manage it. At last one of them said that he would put it right, and, stepping out on the footboard, told his companion to sit still and stare in front of him. As the people came to the carriage door to get in the traveler on the footboard whispered something to them, and the passengers were seated, the train started, and the traveler stepped into the carriage to join his companion, saying as he did so:

"Done it, haven't I?"

His companion replied:

"Yes, I see you have, but how did you manage it?"

"Oh, I told them that you were a flintar, and I had you in charge."

A Well Meant Act.

"How did you happen to give that footpad such an unmerciful drubbing?"

"I felt sorry for him. You know that they are talking of giving footpads public floggings, and I thought I'd save the poor fellow the open disgrace by licking the hide off of him in private."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

We all covet strength and admire it. We look at the marvelous muscular development of a Sandow with envy and straight way resolve to buy a pair of dumb bells and get strong, as if the secret of strength lay in muscles.

Strength begins in the stomach. It begins there because there the strength elements are manufactured, and from there they are distributed to blood, bone, brain, muscle and nerve.

If you want to begin to be strong, start with the stomach. Put the digestive and nutritive organs and blood making glands in perfect working order.

That is the foundation of strength. Exercise puts on the superstructure of development.

To establish the stomach and the digestive and nutritive functions in perfect health, there is no medicine so sure and so satisfactory as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, enriches the blood, nourishes the nerves, and regulates the functions of every vital organ of the body.

About twelve years ago I was suddenly taken with a pain in the pit of the stomach which was so violent I could not walk straight," writes O. S. Copenhagen, Esq., of Mount Union, Huntington, N. Y. "It would grow more severe until it caused waterbrash and vomiting of a slimy yellow water. I consulted a physician and he told me I had a form of dyspepsia and treated me for about six months with but little benefit. I then tried another physician and he told me my liver was out of order and that I had indigestion. He gave me a treatment and I got some better but only for a short time. I then took to using several widely advertised patent medicines, but received no more than temporary relief while using. I then tried Dr. Pierce's medicines, using his Golden Medical Discovery, 'Favorite Prescription' and the Pleasant Pellets, and in two months my stomach was better than I had for years before. I can truthfully say Dr. Pierce's medicines did me more good than any I had ever taken."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, 100 pages, illustrated, is sent free for 31 cent stamp (cost of postage and mailing only for paper edition, or 50 cents for edition bound in cloth). Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

ANIMAL LIFE.

Peculiar Characteristics of Species of the Dumb Life

In southern Russia camels are much used by farmers for field work. They even stand the climate fairly well farther north.

The otter is the fastest swimming quadruped known. In the water it exhibits an astonishing agility, swimming with a speed equal, if not superior, to that of many fishes.

Horses, giraffes and ostriches bear the largest eyes of all terrestrial animals, but among marine animals there are cephalopods, or ink fishes, which have eyes as large as a plate.

Of the American bison there are believed to be not more than 200 in existence. "Buffalo" Jones has a few on his ranch in Kansas, there is a herd of 50 in the Yellowstone park, 30 or 40 are distributed among different parks in the larger cities and a small herd is reported to be still running at large in Canada.

THE ROYAL BOX.

Notes of the Persons and Characteristics of Blue Blood

The Prince of Wales, it is said, tips the scales at 200 pounds.

The czar's widow was a telegrapher before her marriage.

For a private audience Queen Victoria is usually plainly attired in black silk.

Grand Duke Frederick William of Mecklenburg-Strelitz has asked the president for facilities on his eighteenth birthday and give it to the press.

The queen of Portugal, who is said to have taken up medicine as a hobby, became so interested in it that she completed the course and took the degree of M. D. She is now the chief physician of her husband, herself and her children.

Habit gives endurance, and fatigue is the least night.

Gluttony is the source of infirmity and the fountain of disease.

For the success of an epic poem, half the ideas and half the story should be already known to its readers.

The poet then has to deal with a public which is anxious to hear what he himself is anxious to tell. So both author and readers are in an epic view—a coincidence which is really indispensable.

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