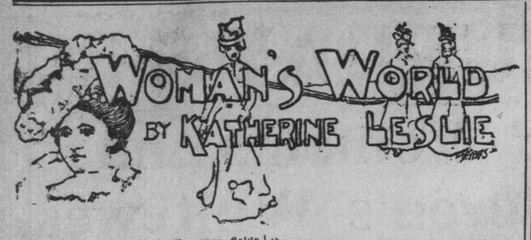


Every spring one sees in the open fields and of the city parks the figures of women and girls stooping over the new grass and diligently digging up dandelion roots or pulling the leaves. More than once wonder has been expressed at the sight. They are usually Italian women, dark eyed, dark haired, sallow of skin, and with big barbaric-looking ear rings hanging from the tips of ears that are partly hid by their gaily-colored kerchiefs, the inseparable head-dress of these women wherever they go. Picturesque looking creatures, known now in every city, whither they have come in company with little black-eyed swarthy men, vendors of bananas and southern fruits, or grinders of street organs and pianos. The other day a charming pair, a boy, beautiful as the famous Neapolitan, with wide open dark eyes and flying hair, and with a silver-mounted accordeon strapped to his back, sat beside a quaint little girl in a colored kerchief, caught up at the waist with an apron. On her head was a gorgeous red and green and yellow fringed handkerchief, and there lay in her lap a merry looking tambourine, upon which she strummed with one little brown hand, while with the other she nibbled dandelion leaves dug up by the boy. It was a beautiful grassy field, surrounded by trees in all their spring glory, and starred to the very edges with a glorious host of sunny dandelions, and, in the midst of it, this lovely, picturesque young pair, little, swarthy, great eyed, youthful exiles, eating dandelion leaves under the sunny Canadian sky. Curiosity and delight led me to their side, and while admiring the beauty of the picture they made, I gathered from them, in their queer broken English, that they eat the young green leaves of the dandelions as we do lettuce! Few of us but remember the bitter, yet not unpleasant taste of dandelion stalks that we have split and sucked into curls? Well, it seems that this bitter taste is not nearly so strong in the tender young dandelion leaves, before the flowers come, and, judging by the gusto with which this pair of pretty youngsters nibbled them, they are, to those who have cultivated a taste for them, delicious! I gathered, too, that when the plant grows larger and ranker and too strong for salad the leaves are boiled like our spinach and make a very wholesome and palatable vegetable. The roots are used for medicine. Their virtues are extracted by some traditionary methods known to these simple Italian herbalists, perhaps by steeping, and I was assured that it is good for those afflicted with that dread disease, consumption. This dandelion medicine is also believed to be a blood purifier of much use in the spring of the year. Thus it is that the Italians in town scour the fields and boulevards for dandelion leaves and roots, things that they regard as both food and medicine. And thus these youthful musicians, whose dark beauty formed so perfect a setting in the dandelion field, had paused by the way to rest and gather as they sat, the medicine and nourishing leaves that are the peculiar abhorrence of lawn-owners.

The hillside road with hawthornes gay,
How sweet, as, upward climbing,
The sea-winds round me swirl and play
And set my lips a-rhyming!

From lough to sea the breezes roll,
With scents of field and ocean,
And all the forces of my soul
Awake in blithe emotion.

Blue waves are leaping in the sun,
Red sails and white sails dancing,
And golden holt and fallow dun
In leagues of light are glancing.

Blow, winds of Ards, thru furze and may,
Your flight from heaven down-winging,
Blow, winds of Ards, from bay to bay,
And set my heart a-singing!
—G. F. Savage, in Ballads of the Downs.

An amusing sketch from memory of Bulwer Lytton appears in MacMillan's Magazine. The writer, who lunched with him in Grosvenor Square, found her attention "divided between observing the dexterity with which his lordship conveyed the tiny fish—whitebait, to his mouth, and the bitter, almost ferocious contempt with which he spoke of the author of "Vanity Fair," and dismissed George Eliot with a sneer and a wave of the hand to the limbo of puerile writers! But Thackeray found a champion in the godmother, who, tho as interested in the white bait as her host, yet paused in the consumption of that delectable fish to show fight for her favorite author. She was a woman of middle age, had the courage of her opinion, and loved Thackeray next to Shakespeare. "So great a scholar and student of human nature as is Your Lordship," she observed, looking straight at our host with her fearless eyes, "will surely allow that the author of 'Vanity Fair' is master of his art"?

"I allow nothing of the kind," was the chilling reply, accompanied by such a sardonic expression of countenance as made him positively ugly.

"Nevertheless," continued the godmother, whose temerity in setting up her opinion against that of Lord Lytton so struck me with amazement that I forgot my whitebait (a lapse of memory not unobserved by one of the colossal footmen, who promptly whisked away my plate), "nevertheless, I can but think that when the history of the literature of the nineteenth century comes to be written, the name of Thackeray will be found side by side with that of Your Lordship." His Lordship bowed at what he evidently deemed a very qualified compliment, shrugging his shoulders contemptuously at the prospect of his name being coupled with that of Thackeray as planets of equal magnitude. He, however, praised Dickens and Jane Austen and Mrs. Inchbold.

It is a popular error to suppose that the dwelling rooms at Windsor are very sumptuous, says The London Chronicle. The private apartments are scarcely worthy of the ordinary country gentleman's seat. Queen Elizabeth is responsible for a great number of them, and they were built rather hurriedly, at her orders. She had taken refuge at Windsor from the plague, which was raging in London, and her maids of honor and attendants revolted at the uncomfortable condition of these rooms, which were low, dark and cold. The Queen herself was furious because her dinner was invariably served up stone cold, but, being of an enquiring turn of mind, she discovered that the kitchen was nearly half a mile from the dining room, and straightway built the present kitchen, which is large and commodious. Elizabeth built the Octagon Library, which she is still said to haunt, and where she was frequently seen, it is said, last year.

In Paris this season is said to be the season par excellence for blouses. Everyone is wearing them, morning, noon and night, more or less rich in appearance, but blouses, nevertheless. At present red is quite the fashionable color for them, cherry red being the favorite shade. The silk-linen material, a washable combination, is very practical for them, and quite pretty when well trimmed and a fancy collar added. Here are some of the prettiest blouses worn upon the last spring day, which are to be particularly commended for their stylish appearance. One was of blue foulard, with a white classic design. The yoke was formed of white Chantilly lace, and the belt was of silver cloth, embroidered in steel spangles.

Another was of red taffeta silk, entirely pleated in small pleats, grouped together at regular intervals, leaving space for rows of lace insertion.

A third blouse was of electric blue taffeta silk, trimmed with guipure, crossed with bands of black velvet. The front of the corsage was of white mousseline-de-soie, and the puffs of the sleeves were of the same.

A most becoming and attractive style for women of middle age is that of the soft black satin blouses, tucked in perpendicular lines, cross-barred by cream lace, laid over any color becoming to the wearer. Some lovely sets for blouses, which deserve especial mention, consist of collar, cuffs and sometimes a yoke also (in which case the collar is a wide neckband in the shape of a dog collar) of cream, a highly original reverse of long-accepted ideas. Indeed, it may be laid down as a law that any arrangement of lace on any garment is stylish, from cravats of silk or muslin, with lace ends, to the whole dress of silk or gauze, plentifully sprinkled with designs in appliques, a variation, by the way, of the cretonne embroidery. In this last, the figures, cut from chintz, are set on underneath diaphanous fabric, hemmed down with invisible stitches, and thus show, veiled by the thin material over them, with an effect at once novel and pleasing. There is scope here for the woman clever with her needle. She can purchase chintz or cretonne, cut out the floral designs, veil them with mousseline, and then make a series of applications or bands of embroidery, that, if bought, would cost many dollars. It is these touches that give a gown distinction, and that at the same time add so much to its cost.

RAIN SPOILED THE CEREMONIES.

School Children Did Not Decorate the Monuments to Celebrate Empire Day.

A steady downpour of rain put an end to all hopes of the customary celebration of Empire Day, by the school children decorating the monuments in Queen's Park. In spite of the rain, such was the patriotic ardor of the children that, including the flower companies, close upon 1000 boys and girls assembled in the Armouries at 2.30 p.m., and would probably have desired nothing better than to march around the streets in the drenching rain.

This was considered unwise, however, and instead the drill corps were marched around inside the Armouries. Particular credit was reflected upon the Cadet Corps, with which Major Thompson has been laboring indefatigably for some time.

Not in vain, either, for under the command of Col. J. L. Hughes, the boys stepped out like veterans, manoeuvring with a precision and unanimity that merits unbounded praise.

After the flower corps had paraded with their precious burden of beautiful wreaths, the whole force were mustered against the south gallery, where short patriotic addresses were delivered by Dr. Spence, chairman of the Public School Board; Mayor Howland, Principal Alex. Muir, Inspector Hughes, colonel of the Cadet Corps, and Col. Delamere.

The children were then dismissed, the wreaths being carted away in wagons to a storehouse, where they will be kept until to-day, when, if the weather is fine, they will be placed upon the monuments.

Altho the rain interrupted the afternoon's proceedings, the morning program was zealously carried out in all the schools. The summer flowers were all planted in the school yards, while inside patriotic exercises were performed, many of the trustees embracing the opportunity to address the pupils.

For Canadian Homes.

The June Ladies' Magazine is one of the best among all the early summer magazines. It is an out-of-door number, and contains, besides the usual departments, a very readable program of summer articles and stories. The leading article is a discussion of "What Constitutes a Clever Woman?" in which seven of Canada's leading politicians and writers take part. "A Crucible of Love" is a prize story of the Ottawa fire. "A City Girl in the Country" gives some vacation experiences very entertainingly and somewhat humorously. "The Woman Who Travels" is of timely interest, and one of the most attractive features is a page of portraits of this year's graduates at the ladies' colleges. There are many other short articles and stories, and the whole number is handsomely illustrated and printed. The Ladies' Magazine is increasing in interest, excellence and popularity. (The Hugh C. MacLean Co., Toronto.)

One trial of Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator will convince you that it has no equal as a worm medicine. Buy a bottle, and see if it does not please you.

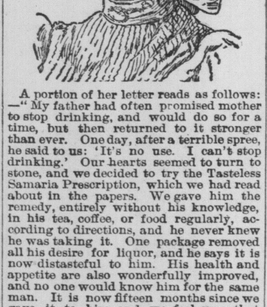
President of Police.

New York, May 31.—Major Richard Sylvester, Chief of the Police Department of Washington, D. C., was elected president of the National Association of Police Chiefs to-day. Deputy Commissioner William F. Devery of this city was chosen vice-president of the association by acclamation.

HER FATHER WAS A DRUNKARD

A Plucky Young Lady Takes on Herself to Cure Her Father of the Liquor Habit.

STORY OF HER SUCCESS.



A portion of her letter reads as follows:—"My father had often promised mother to stop drinking, and would do so for a time, but then returned to it stronger than ever. One day, after a terrible spree, he said to us: 'It's no use. I can't stop drinking.' Our hearts seemed to turn to stone, and we decided to try the Tasteless Samaria Prescription, which we had read about in the papers. We gave him the remedy, entirely without his knowledge, in his tea, coffee, or food regularly, according to directions, and he never knew he was taking it. One package removed all his desire for liquor, and he says it is now distasteful to him. His health and appetite are also wonderfully improved, and no one would know him for the same man. It is now fifteen months since we gave it to him and we feel sure that the change is for good. Please send mo one of your little books, as I want to give it to a friend."

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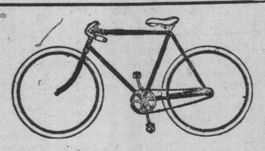

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What Constitutes a Clever Woman?

In THE LADIES' MAGAZINE for June this intricate question is discussed, from a masculine standpoint, by seven of the clearest-thinking public men of Canada: Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P., Captain Harry Graham, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, Mr. Henry J. Logan, M.P., Hon. A. S. Hardy, K.C., Mr. Henry J. Morgan, and Mr. George Johnson. Their opinions make an article of unusual interest, and their names lend dignity to the discussion.

A Crucible of Love

One of the prize stories. A clever tale of the Ottawa fire, by Annie Miller.

A City Girl in the Country

She spends her summer vacation in what she calls "Arcadia," and tells her experiences and impressions in bright and fascinating fashion. Beautifully illustrated.

The Woman Who Travels

Practical advice for my lady who goes a-travelling: what she should do and not do. By Katharine Leslie Lawson.

Out-of-Door Exercise for Busy Women

The easiest remedy for worry and bad tempers is prudent exercise and fresh air.

Girl Graduates of 'Ol

A portrait page of this year's graduates from Canadian ladies' schools—a feature of special interest.

There are many other good things in the June LADIES' MAGAZINE. It is an Out-of-Door number, and breathes the spirit of the summer time. All the usual departments are presented. It is handsomely printed and illustrated, and every page has a Canadian ring to it. The July number will be the handsomest and most interesting issue of a woman's paper ever published in Canada.

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