

her mother had used him badly. Consequently he shook himself violently, and made up his mind that he would annoy her no more—that he would in future be the affectionate uncle only.

One day they had quite a discussion as to the lasting qualities of love. Alice claimed that love lasted forever. He claimed that though true love might last, the object often changed.

Alice said: "It seems to change sometimes. We think we have found what we love in one person, but afterwards find that what we love is not in the first person, but in some other after all."

"It would be a dangerous thing to be loved." Then said Harold Dalton seriously.

"Why dangerous?" quoth Miss Alice. "Oh, a man would never know whether he was really what his lady took him for. He would never know when her opinion would change."

"I can't argue," said Alice. "I can only feel, and say what I feel." She paused, then continued, "She may think one man good until she finds that another is better."

"And that a third is better still?" mischievously enquired Harold Dalton.

Alice blushed and laughed, but said, "You do not trust my feelings very much."

"Perhaps," said Dalton. "I am afraid of trusting them more than I should."

For some time he remained silent. Then, gazing out over the sea, he said:

"If you should ever decide to come, and

want a guide who knows the country well, I shall be at your disposal.

"Come where?" she asked, hesitatingly.

"Abroad, to Eastern Europe."

"You will come with me?"

"No. I shall be there to receive you."

"Are you going back?"

"Very soon. In a few weeks in fact."

"Oh Mr. Dalton! But why should you?"

"I am too old for this young country. It does not need me. Still I am glad to have come back. My visit has healed old sorrows. I shall never forget the hours I have spent here."

"Are you quite sure your country does not want—need, you?"

"I do not want to be made more sure."

"Whom have you asked? Who has told you?"

"It is not always wise to ask, for the answers to some questions are hard to hear."

"But how can you know the answer till you have asked the question?"

Dalton looked at her intently, almost sternly. "Do you know where my country is?" he asked.

With heightened color she replied, "Is it not where you are loved and wanted most?"

"Do not deceive yourself—or me!" he exclaimed. "There is only one word more to say."

There was silence between them for a moment, and that moment was the one in which opportunity seemed to pass from them suddenly, for a step sounded near them, and on looking up Harold

Dalton recognized in the new comer none other than Fred Fernton. As he exclaimed, and spoke Fred's name quickly, Alice gave a smothered gasp and turned her head away.

Fred came forward expectantly. "I did not know you were here Mr. Dalton," he said, "I was looking for Alice Grover. How are you Alice?"

Alice rose without meeting his eyes, and said in a low voice, "How do you do, Fred? You came quite unexpectedly."

Fred drew himself up abruptly, and said, "I didn't stop to think that I might be interrupting you."

Mr. Dalton, who had been watching both faces intently, spoke now in a matter-of-fact tone. "Fred, I have a crow to pick with you when you and my niece get through with your first greetings."

"Alice, your niece!" exclaimed Fred, in such evident astonishment that all of them laughed.

"My niece by consent. Her mother was a dear friend of mine before Alice was born. And now it seems that this is the lovely young lady of whom you use to rhapsodize to me in Europe! You rascal! I have a notion to refuse my consent. What if I had married her to some other fellow while you were away? Now come down here and shake hands, and then I'll leave you to make your apologies for your long absence."

As he climbed rather heavily up the path, he sighed and said to himself, "Oh Harold Dalton, there is no fool like an

old fool. Here you have been using your ancient charms on a poor young girl whom you might have made quite miserable for life in a few moments more. But why didn't they tell me? God knows I loved her!"

"Fred, where did you get acquainted with Mr. Dalton?" asked Alice.

"Oh, Alice, I met him in Europe. You have him to thank for my return."

"In what way?"

"Why, I hardly know how to tell you; but I got in an awful scrape with an old lady over there who called herself a countess. Harold found out about it and talked to her. He found out that she was only a common adventuress, and not the injured countess she pretended to be. Harold gave her a very stern talking to, and then took her away. I never knew where. Anyway when he came back he talked to me like a father, and made me promise never to have anything to do with any woman, married or single, except the one I intended to marry."

"Fred, did you do anything wrong?" asked Alice, looking intently into his face as she spoke.

"No, Alice, if I had I would never be here," said Fred, looking straight back into her eyes.

"Let us go to the house," said Alice.

"Mr. Dalton wished me to bid you good-bye for him," said her aunt, late that evening.

"Has he gone so suddenly?" asked Alice.

"Yes, he had a telegram, I think, and had to hurry off without seeing anyone."

She finished laying some specimens she had been collecting on a shelf, then said: "Mr. Dalton was as fine a specimen of the real gentleman as I ever saw. Too bad your mother couldn't have married him. Too bad you couldn't have done so yourself; but of course that couldn't be expected, when your head was so full of that young Fred Fernton. Anyway, no one could look for a man his age to think anything of a young girl like you."

McKenzie's Annual

Once more, the A. E. McKenzie Co., Ltd., Brandon and Calgary, catalog, bright and interesting, reaches us. This 1918 issue is the company's twenty-second annual, and it eclipses all previous efforts. It contains a wealth of valuable information for the farmer and gardener. On turning over its bright and well illustrated pages, the reader is forcibly impressed by the intelligent and practical manner with which every subject is handled and the descriptive matter is particularly striking. The beautiful half-tone engravings are all taken from photographs representing products of McKenzie seeds. This catalog is a microscopic reflection of the wonderful strides made in the past twenty-two years by an institution which has devoted so much energy to win the approval and confidence of western people and should be freely made use of by the seed buyers. It is free and will be mailed on receipt of a postal. Mention this paper when writing.

In order that intending settlers in Western Canada may be properly informed as to the system of government which prevails in this country, the Canadian Pacific Railway has just issued through its department of colonization and development, a pamphlet entitled "Canada's System of Government," which explains in very simple language the general principles of municipal, provincial and Dominion government in this country. A copy of the pamphlet may be had without charge by addressing Robert J. C. Stead, department of colonization and development, Canadian Pacific Railway, Calgary.

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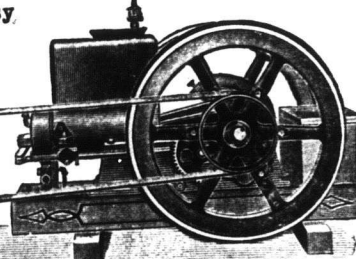
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