

Loch Lomand

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Carl chuckled. "And now," he continued, as he rolled the egg back and forth on his open palms, "let us be patriotic." He swayed back and forth as he muttered wild incantations to Hebro, and Melut, and any other magic deities that he could think of. Then, when he felt the punctured rubber roll in a little ball in his hand, he shouted with glee and triumphantly waved a large Union Jack over the terror-stricken heads of his audience.

"He's the devil, that man!" shouted the piper of Cameron. "Put him out."

But his hearers were huddled against the wall. Not one was brave enough to lead the attack and the piper himself would have been against the wall with them had there been room.

Luckily Carl had another egg in his pocket and after demonstrating how the trick had been performed, he saw his audience gradually regain their courage and sidle into their chairs with blushes of chagrin.

But when coins began to mysteriously appear and disappear; to drop from the air and tinkle into a hat, and to come in handfuls from the legs of chairs; while handkerchiefs turned from red to blue, and swallowed articles came mysteriously into existence in the most remote places, the Scotchmen's fear came back with redoubled force.

Even Jennie looked with terror-stricken, inquisitive eyes at the magician as if in doubt whether he really were what she had so fondly imagined, or if as the others avowed he was in league with the Evil One.

A chair thrown savagely by a venturesome youth was Carl's signal for flight. Heedless of the wind and rain that had been raging for over an hour, he backed through the door into the open. Dodging flying missiles which every moment grew more plentiful, he ran into a clump of trees, turned sharply to the left, then to the right, and at last, tired and wet, threw himself behind a massive oak panting with exhaustion. He did not see the figure with terror-stricken eyes and wet, clinging garments that followed him wherever he went, and that rushed frantically away as he threw himself exhausted upon the ground. He knew nothing of this until fully ten minutes later when this same figure tiptoed softly up to him and touched him on the arm. Motioning him to be silent, it led the way down a narrow lane at the foot of which he saw his horse and rig standing tied to a convenient elm. Then the figure turned.

"Jennie," he gasped, "you're wet. What did you do this for?"

"You must go," she panted, "or they'll kill you if they find you. They are sure you are the devil in disguise or you could not do such things. Follow this road to the clearing, then turn to your left and follow the grass-grown road to Putney. They will direct you to Antigonish from there. Go quick," she pleaded, "go quick."

Carl gazed at her curiously. "Do you think I'm Satan?" he asked softly.

She looked at him half in alarm. What she saw in his eyes brought a vivid tinge of scarlet to her cheeks.

"I don't know," she replied. "I don't know. But I don't care either. If you are I'm not afraid. Didn't I walk with you? You didn't harm me then, and devil or not, I'm not afraid now."

She threw her head back recklessly. "You're going to leave us now," she said, "and I'm sorry. Yes, I will tell you to your face, I am sorry. I am tired of being caged up between the hills and never seeing

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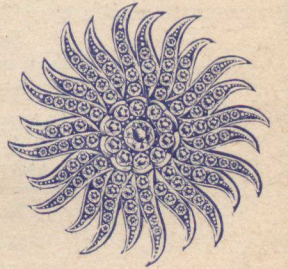
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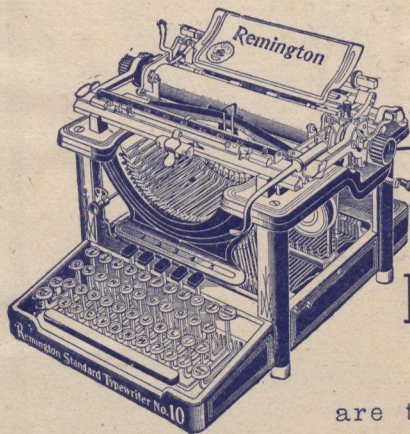


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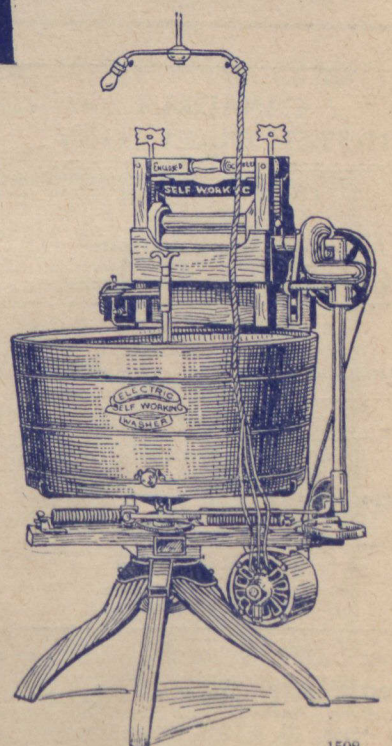
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