

An Alluring Abandon

A GARDENED GLADE

CULTIVATED BY DIANTHUS

"EN PASSANT."

My predecessor, Hypatia, once took occasion to jump on the masculine shirtwaist with both feet, and Hypatia, who had such enormous feet, too. Hypatia said, that the masculine shirtwaist had an unfinished appearance. I believe those were the words with which she condemned it. I am too lazy, however, to look them up and make certain.

Now, the shirt waist, the masculine shirt waist, let us understand, is a very useful thing. Not that it is cool and comfortable, for it isn't. When Mr. Man's belt has a tendency to slip up or down and divulge, so to speak, the shirt waist's stubby tail—then it is anything but a blessing. Its charm lies elsewhere. It affords the poor man, weary of a monotony of blacks and navy blues and grays, an opportunity to appear in hues more striking.

And the men, poor fellows, are tired of blacks and navy blues and grays. They long for a return to the happy times of their ancestors, when a man could rip and tear around as much as he liked, and be as bad and happy as he chose. When green was a fashionable color for waistcoats and sky blue knee pants were all the rage.

Those good times are gone, however—the best man can do now-days is to wear a bright plaid tie, and appear in his shirt sleeves in summer. His glory is departed. No more orange doublets and scarlet cloaks. Only he may attain to a certain ghostly imitation of his ancient brilliancy by wearing a shirt waist, striped red or blue or mauve. Woe to him if he does! Hypatia's foot descends like an avalanche, and he is crushed.

Mauve! What is mauve, anyway? I don't know.

What a queer assortment of colors women indulge in! At the most—black, white, red, blue, green, yellow, and brown. Sometimes he confounds brown and yellow, and substitutes grey for one of them. But a woman can at once recognize and name a hundred different colors. She has mauve and fawn and sage and heaven knows what. But she does not know a grey cat when she sees one. You are doubtless acquainted with those common, ornery-looking cats, clad in a plain confederate grey—the kind of cats you can gather in for a song. To a woman those cats are always blue.

Cats are queer animals. So are men, for that matter. Almost anything is queer if looked at from the proper point of view.

From cats to books is a far cry; a sudden, quite inexplicable leap, and that leap I am going to make. A year or more ago "David Harum" was the book of the hour. Everybody, following the example of everybody else, lauded it to the skies.

Yet, what was there in the book itself? The plot—if we can call it a plot—was such as no book outside of a Sunday school book would have cared to own. There wasn't as much action in it as in a claim. One or two good chapters looked lonely, dejected, foreboding, as if they wondered how they got there—but the rest of the book was a desert of nothingness.

Nevertheless, it was a success. It sold to 400,000 copies—a sale which a little public has denied to better written and more deserving works. It succeeded just because it succeeded, and for no other reason, Mr. Brown bought it because everybody else bought it; he praised it because everybody else praised it. Occasionally a discerning person saw that there was nothing in it. But then, appearances might be deceiving, there might be something in it after all. And indeed, a discerning person gushed about the great American novel, and went with the tide.

And I am glad it succeeded; just because the man who wrote it never expected such things from it, who, with a clearer discernment than anyone else, saw in his labors nothing but a pastime—just because he was truthful about it. And indeed, just an honest man when Westcott died; and I am glad for his sake, that "David Harum" turned out as it did, a freak of fate.

But now it has faded from our memories, like a cloud from the summer sky—just like "After the Ball." Eight years have come and gone since that famous song was written, and I never hear it now.

It is a pity the people in those songs are always so unfortunate! My Mary Sleeps in Tennessee, Ben Bolt's Sweet Alice lies "under a stone"—let us hope it is a good heavy one. She used to make me sick with her soft, gushing way.

"Who wept with delight, when you gave her a smile, And trembled with fear at your frown."

An independent sort of girl—the sort of girl in fashion nowadays—would suit me better. So let us bribe the undertaker to put on another stone or two, and keep gushy, mushy Sweet Alice where she lies. We don't want her.

And I believe there was a song in vogue not so long ago, about "That Fatal Rose of Red." Why will people, when they are in love (or at least, in love-come) persist in making such absurd mistakes, so that they can get themselves into endless trouble and then come and sing to us about it.

Annie Laurie was different. She was staunch and true, so long as the

song lasted. It was only in real life that she caused trouble. For "Annie Laurie," unlike Sweet Alice, once really lived and loved—or, at least, was beloved. As the sequel shows, she was not so foolishly sentimental after all. She was betrothed to a William Douglas, of Finland—not the place where Mr. Sifton's Finns come from, but a spot in auld Scotia. William, however, was on the wrong side of politics, just as Mr. Sifton is. He got mixed up in the troubles which followed the downfall of James II., and was forced to quit the country. So Annie, who had an eye to business, betwined her hand upon a Mr. Ferguson, of Craigdarroch, who did not worry about politics, and Willie Douglas had nothing to do except die fighting on a continental battle field. "Like the dew on the grass lying in the fold of her fairy feet,"

Like the wind in summer sighing, Her voice is low and sweet, Her voice is low and sweet, And never forgot shall be, Ar for bonnie Annie Laurie, I'll lay me down and die."

Dust and ashes are they all these two centuries; yet, thanks to a song of a love truce that he wrote, the fair maid's name is not forgotten.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sassafras—You are mistaken, I believe. "Dianthus" is not the name of a plum of Colonel Sord.

M. C.—Caesar is dead. He died some time ago, I believe. Yes, he wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Trig asks—"If a herring and a herring and a half costs a penny and a half, how long would it take Alderman Mc— to go through a barrel of mushrooms?" Referred to Property Committee.

Old Subscriber—Aug. 23, 1912, fell on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. You pays your money and you takes your choice. If you want to be sure, count back and see.

P. S.—Was it your birthday?

Mathematics inquires—If the square of the time of a planet's revolution from the sun, and the distance of the earth and Venus from the sun are 94,250,000 and 66,000,000 miles respectively, how long will it take Venus to revolve around the sun?

X. Q. T.—See answer to Old Subscriber.

Blew Jay—Your name is appropriate. I don't know anything about Noah's ark. Do you mean Delilah?

Hay Seed—I didn't get your letter. Write me again. "DIANTHUS."

WONDERS OF THE NERVES.

Unmistakable Proof That Many Serious Cases of Nervous System Degeneration are Due to the Nervous System—The Astonishing Success of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

It is only in recent years that physicians have begun to understand the nervous system, and to recognize that many diseases which affect the head, heart, lungs, stomach and other organs are due to an impoverished and exhausted condition of the nerves.

Over-work, worry, care, anxiety and severe mental strain are sure to be followed by headache, neuralgia, dizziness, depression, heart-trouble, indigestion, and various functional disorders. Gradually the symptoms grow worse; pains and aches increase, and one organ after another gives evidence of derangement, until finally there comes collapse of the nerves and prostration or paralysis.

The family physician seldom gets at the cause of these ailments. He gives a powder for headache, some form of opium to cause sleep, or a stimulant to whip up the debilitated system. Such treatment is only of temporary benefit, and the trouble soon returns in an aggravated form. The tired brain, the worn-out nerves, the wasted strength must be nourished and built up before nature can have power to drive out disease. No prescription was ever filled that can do this so thoroughly as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

Mrs. D. W. Crossberry, 108 Richmond street west, Toronto, Ont., states:

"My daughter, who sews in a white goods manufactory, got completely run down by the steady confinement and close attention required at her work. Her nerves were so exhausted, and she was so weak and debilitated that she had to give up work entirely, and was almost a victim of nervous prostration."

"Hearing of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, she began to use it, and was benefited from the very first. It proved an excellent remedy in restoring her to health and strength. After having used four boxes she is now at work again, healthy and happy, and attributes her recovery to the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food."

It is only a few years since Dr. Chase's Nerve Food first became known in Canada, and now it is universally acknowledged by doctors, as well as others, to be of unsurpassed value as a thorough restorative for weakened and run-down systems and nerve-shattered bodies. It is possible when they are in love (or at least, in love-come) persist in making such absurd mistakes, so that they can get themselves into endless trouble and then come and sing to us about it.

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SERIES OF SIDELIGHTS

EDITED BY HELEN HALL

Emile Souvestre in "An Attic Philosopher" tells us that "Things have often nothing in themselves; the thoughts we attach to them alone give them value." Go into a modern museum and you find a proof of this whichever way you look. There are stones, fossils, specimens in natural history galleries that are "nothing in themselves" but how valuable to the botanist, the chemist, the natural historian. A person not knowing the history of the different articles in the museum would put them in the furnace simply because he had no thoughts attached to them. The same is true of the miniature museums some ladies have in their drawing-rooms. A great many of us look upon the trinkets as so much rubbish that has to be gone over on dusting days. Not so with our lady friends. This cup and saucer was sent to her from Japan and so was this paper knife. Shells were gathered on the sea-shore in England and this little one came from the sea-shore of New England. Another cup and saucer was given to her by an old lady forty years ago, and it was over a hundred years old then. The dried flowers are common weeds picked close to the base of Gen. Brock's monument.

And so we might go on for an hour in this room. It is on account of the thoughts connected with it that our old grandfathers and grandmothers speak so lovingly of some old log house that gave them birth and around which they played their games of childhood; or of some log school-house where they will solemnly tell you that the master thrashed them every day. Or it may be that these thoughts are connected with another land from this, away across the sea, perchance where the heather blooms or the shamrock grows.

Then, who has not had some dear, old, white-haired lady bring out a bundle of letters, yellow with age, talk for an hour about the writer; or take from a box old, faded rosebuds that can scarcely be recognized as belonging to the rose family and explain what she wore the night she had them on her hair, or a piece of ribbon that she wore between them. The top of the flounce is finished with a row of black velvet ribbon. The bodice has a row of narrow, just above it, the flounce is finished with a row of white ribbon. The sleeves have the bell elbow, sleeve, trimmed with the ribbon and an under sleeve of white gathered at the wrist.

Another pretty gown, and one very serviceable for a summer resort is of red organdie with a red underdress. It has a gathered flounce on the bottom of the skirt with about eight rows of black velvet baby ribbon. The top of the flounce is finished with a row of narrow, just above it, the flounce is finished with a row of white ribbon. The sleeves have the bell elbow, sleeve, trimmed with the ribbon and an under sleeve of white gathered at the wrist.

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OUR Summer School

There is a splendid opportunity for teachers and others to develop increased earning power at limited expense of time and money. Write us about it.

OUR REGULAR WORK

Continue right along from month to month. Student's entering in June or July do not get a course in this fall when many are just starting. We have no vacation. We do thorough work every month in the year, and are constantly securing out young people into good positions.

Central Business College

W. H. Shaw, Principal. Yonge and Gerrard Sts. Toronto.

The growth of this institution during the last two years has been wonderful. The attendance has been doubled on account of this thorough course of training which we give. One of our young men is now drawing a salary of \$1,800 a year; another \$200; others from \$400 to \$800. Within the last month two of our students have gone direct from the College to positions paying \$500 a month. In the Music Hall, DENNIS TO FILL THE BEST POSITION.

Young people are foolish to spend the best part of their lives learning Latin, French and the dead languages, when a few months spent in our Commercial or Shorthand Department will enable them to earn salaries like the above.

Eighty-seven per cent. of all our students who have written on the examinations of the Business Education Association of Canada this year have been successful.

Send for Catalogue. H. T. GOUGH, Principal.

St. Thomas, Ont.

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