



### NOT EXACTLY FLATTERING.

MR. COKEON LITTLETON—"Did you read the account of my heroic rescue of a child from under the feet of a runaway horse, in to-day's paper? It was headed, 'Heroism of a Promising Young Lawyer,' you know."

MR. BLUNT (*his bosom friend*)—"Why, yes—saw the headlines, but I had no idea it could have referred to you!"

### THE MAIDEN.

IN the dismal middle-ages, which stain historic pages,  
With dark and gloomy narratives replete with strife and gore,  
Some pious soul invented a machine for unrepented  
Heretics to mildly woo them into Mother Church once more.

It was called the Iron Maiden, and its gentle breast was laden  
With knives to carve the erring soul from out its husk of clay.  
Gone are those days of rigor; yet this grim, archaic figure  
Is a sharp, satiric symbol of the maiden of to-day.

Like it a form of slaughter, stands fashion's graceful daughter,  
With the spirits of the woodland sacrificed to deck her head;  
In church when she is singing, dirges in the air seem ringing,  
Telling of the feathered martyrs whose bright, tuneful souls are fled.

WILLIAM MCGILL.

### THE CASE OF MR. COGGE.

A CANADIAN COMMOTION IN THREE PARTS AND A  
HIATUS.

BY W. C. NICHOL.

#### PART I.



Y the Autumn of 1895 the marriageable girls of Canada had become alarmed. For years previously Canadian young men had been going to the States for their wives. Hardly a marriage was recorded in which the daughter of a house of Canada was one of the contracting parties, and the country was populated with unmarried females, old, young and middle-aged, who persistently donned their most attractive

costumes, wreathed their faces in their most entrancing smiles, and practised all the little arts and graces which had formerly proved so effective in bringing susceptible males to a proper appreciation of their duty to society, to women, and to that state of life in which they

revolved. But it was all in vain. For some unknown reason the men would have none of them. The subject was debated at length in the newspapers and discussed by the firesides, it was talked over in the clubs and joked about on the streets, but no wholly satisfactory theory for this extraordinary state of affairs was forthcoming.

From the newspapers of the time some idea of the sentiment of the day and of the various reasons advanced to account for these untoward circumstances may be gleaned. The papers which upheld Canadian sentiment and Canadian nationalization were very bitter in their attacks on the offenders, whom they accused of disloyalty, and of introducing a foreign element, bound in time to form an antagonistic factor in the forces with which it was hoped to weld the Provinces of Canada into one great nation. They exhausted the resources of sarcasm, invective and abuse in holding them up to public scorn and contumely, and their views were endorsed in the pulpits from end to end of the country, for the ministers found themselves suffering in pocket by the practical cessation of marriages in Canada. Meetings were held at which the offenders were vigorously denounced, and the loyal newspapers published long reports of the proceedings and commented on them editorially. It may be judged, therefore, that the whole country was in such a state of turmoil as had never been known before in its more or less eventful history.

On the other hand, those papers (and there were not a few of them), which openly favored connection with the States, and advocated Unrestricted Reciprocity, Commercial Union, and even Annexation, rejoiced at and encouraged the feeling which seemed to have swept over the young men of the nation. They pointed out that such a state of affairs was not at all surprising, inasmuch as American girls had reached a physical and mental development far in advance of that of their Canadian sisters, through having had more opportunities and advantages; that they had the tact, taste and vivacity of Frenchwomen, combined with the health and vigor of Englishwomen; that they were graceful, beautiful and good, accomplished housekeepers, charming, unaffected, womanly, and wholly delightful. For these reasons, they said, the young men of Canada could not be blamed if they sought American girls for wives. Doubtless Canadian girls were good enough in their way, but they were vastly inferior both to Canadian men—who had long been noted for their superb proportions and splendid brains—and to their sisters in the States; and, by a process of reasoning not difficult to follow, they argued that the position they assumed was one which should commend itself to all who had the best interests of the nation at heart, because it meant the uniting of those in both countries who were of unusual mental and physical excellence, and who, in turn, would populate Canada with a strong, healthy, vigorous people, combining in themselves the best qualities of human-kind, and so becoming a race whose beauty of face, form and mind would be unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in any country or in any clime. These newspapers went on to say that the fad, or craze, or custom, or whatever it might be called, should be encouraged, because, if for no other reason, it would ultimately tend to promote a friendly social feeling between the inhabitants of two great countries, and make one, in blood and sentiment, a people now separated solely by British prejudices, which were fostered by old fogies who were years behind the democratic spirit of the age, and clung tenaciously to this idea, retarding Canada's growth and independence, and preventing a