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London, New York and Paris Association of Fashion,
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Robert Burns, the Ardent Lover.

(THORNTON HALL in John o' London's Weekly.)

From the day when Robert Burns vowed in one of his earliest rhymes that he loved his "handsome Nell," to the last year of his life, love and poetry were, he confesses, "at times, his only and his highest enjoyments." In love he was ever a child of nature, giving free rein to his natural impulses, losing his heart at first sight of a bonny face and recapturing it when his brief passion cooled down—only to lose it again and again in a similar brief-lived rapture. He was only in his "fifteenth autumn" when a "bonnie, sweet, sensie lass," his partner in the harvest field, first initiated him in that delicious passion, which, he says, "I hold to be the first of human joys." The tones of her voice made his heart-strings "thrill like an Aeolian harp"; and his pulse "beat a furious ratan when he fingered her little hand to pick out the cruel nettle-stings and thistles."

"Sweet Highland Mary."

And from that day we find him pouring out his fickle heart to one bonnie lassie after another—to Mary Morison, to the nameless beauties who lived on Cessnock bank, and "Behind yon hills where Stinckar flows," to the "six proper young belles who dwell in Mauchline," and so on, through the long list of his fugitive, if ardent, adventures in love.

To Mary Campbell, alone of them all, he seems to have given his heart in full, pure, and lasting surrender—the "sweet Highland Mary" who was snatched so cruelly and tragically from his arms by death after that beautiful meeting in which Bible in hand, they mutually pledged undying love. How deep this love was and how profound his grief is shown by that sublime and pathetic lament, his poem, "To Mary in Heaven," written

His Death Expected

New Brunswick Man Saved

Mr. Isidore Thomas, of Tilley's Road, Gloucester County, N.B., while expecting death, availed himself of help that was offered at random. Here is part of a letter he wrote to us:—

"I beg you to publish my letter, so that people may know what Gin Pills did for me. My case was very serious. I was so sick everybody expected my death any day. Finally, on advice from friends, I tried Gin Pills, and in a short time was well again, and soon had gained 20 pounds."

Kidney and bladder troubles, very often, work in secret ways. A bad condition may exist, with only a headache to indicate it. That is why the slightest pains in back or sides should be investigated. These pains, along with sciatic neuralgia, rheumatism, dizziness, constipation, headache, lumbago, highly-colored urine, headache, floating specks before the eyes, gravel, indicate kidney trouble. A course of Gin Pills, taken at once, will give relief, and prevent the progress of the disease, enabling the organs to right themselves and restore good health. Gin Pills are the sure, safe, quick remedy. Get a box from your druggist or dealer—Gin. Money refunded if no relief found. Send for free sample.

The National Drug & Chemical Co. of Canada, Limited, Toronto. United States Address: No-Dru-Co., Inc., 208 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y.

on the anniversary of the day on which he heard of his loss:—

O Mary, dear departed shade,
 Where is thy place of blissful rest?
 "Bonny Jean."

But though his dead love was shrined for ever, sacred and unapproachable, in Burns's heart, the hot blood still raced through his veins and impetuously demanded an outlet. He seemed to be as powerless as ever to resist the lure of a pretty face and a tempting waist. There were lassies in plenty, in Mauchline alone, whose sweetest smiles were reserved for the handsome young farmer with the magnetic eyes which none of them could, or cared, to resist. But the most alluring of them all had to give place to the seductions of Bonny Jean Armour.

"Bonny Jean" indeed, seems to have had little difficulty in catching Bobbie's too susceptible heart in her toils, and setting his pulses beating to a dangerous tune; for within a few months of their first ramble together, we are told, she found herself "as ladies wish to be that love their lords." The hot-blooded farmer had this time loved "not wisely but too well"; though, to his credit, let it be said that, to quote his brother Gilbert, "hitherto his numerous connections had been governed by the strictest rules of virtue and modesty."

But, although such lapses were lightly regarded among the lower classes of Scotland in those days, so long as timely marriages averted the worst consequences of the indiscretion, Burns was not to escape thus easily. Jean's father, a highly-respected master-mason, proud of his daughter and of his unblemished family honour, was furious at this outrage—the more that the man responsible for it was a "beggarly farmer," his social inferior; a man, moreover, notorious for his loose living. He was blind to Jean's tears, deaf to her entreaties for forgiveness.

As for Burns, when he learned Jean's condition, the news "staggered him like a blow." He was desperate, and in his despair decided to leave the country. To his friend, James Smith, of Mauchline, he wrote: "Against two things I am fixed as fate—staying at home and owning her conjugally. The first, by Heaven, I will not do! the last, by hell, I will never do. If you see Jean, tell her I will meet her, so help me God in my hour of need."

An "Irregular" Marriage.

What happened at the meeting that followed between the two lovers we do not know. We only know that, before they separated, Burns had handed to Jean a written acknowledgment of marriage, which, when produced by a person in Miss Armour's condition is, according to the Scots law, "to be accepted as legal evidence of an irregular marriage; it being understood that the marriage was to be formally avowed as soon as the consequences of their indiscretion could no longer be concealed from the family."

So far, however, from appeasing the master-mason, this acknowledgment insult added to injury—fanned his anger into still more furious flame; and he insisted on his daughter de-

stroying the document, the one shield that could cover her shame.

Abysmal Despair.

Then followed for Burns, the bitterest period of his life—a time of abysmal despair, of threatened insanity; of frantic efforts to find a way of escape from his cruel dilemma. From "misfortune's bitter blast" he was about to fly to Jamaica, when the publication of his first book of poems and its rapturous reception called a halt on his way to Greenock and embarkation. The tide of fortune had at last turned for him.

He soon found himself a literary and social lion, with money pouring in from a second edition of his poems.

And the day quickly came when he was able to make an "honest woman" and a loving, and loyal wife of the girl his passion had betrayed; and to inaugurate on his new Ellesland farm the happiest period of his life, with a "wife o' mine ane," to whom he was soon addressing the impassioned lines:—

Oh, were I on Parnassus hill,
 Or had of Helicon my fill,
 That I might catch poetic skill
 To sing how dear I love thee!

I want another bottle of "Brick's Tasteless," it is the best preparation I have ever taken to give me an appetite.—apr28,44

A Piano 200 Years Old.

The oldest piano in existence was made by Cristofori in the year 1720, and is still in good condition. But its sound is more like that of a harp than a piano, for its wires, instead of being struck by hammers, are plucked by points of quill or of hard leather.

The piano only became popular towards the end of the eighteenth century. Its first public appearance was at Convent Garden Theatre in 1867, when Miss Brichler sang to the accompaniment of "a new instrument called pianoforte."

which a greater variety of fine timber must be seasoned more carefully. The varieties include Canadian spruce, American oak and whitewood, Honduras mahogany and best English beech. Sounding boards are made of Swiss pine, the "Abies Excelsa," which is nothing but the Christmas tree with which we are all so familiar.

All this timber has to be seasoned in a special heating chamber where it is subjected for days together to a powerful draught of dry air.

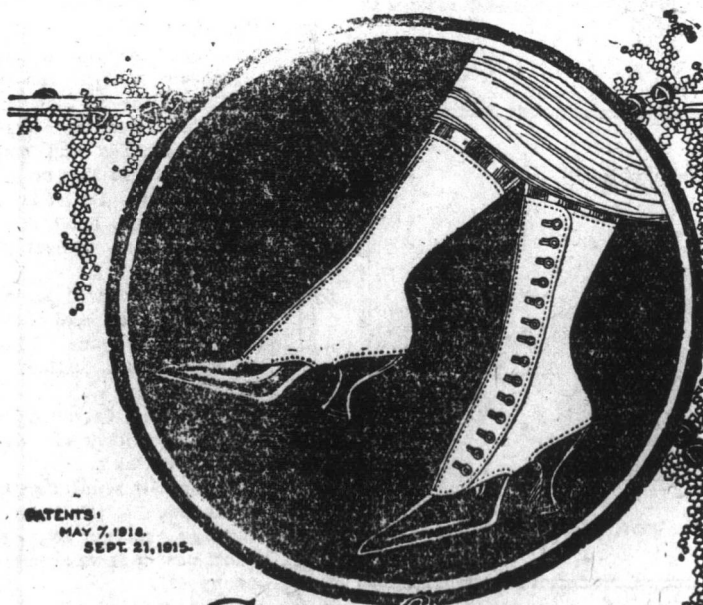
Before completion, a grand piano passes through no fewer than eighty hands, and more than 10,700 different pieces of wood, metal, cloth, felt and the like enter into the construction.

Puzzling.

The high price of sugar in the United States is "puzzling," according to a prominent sugar refiner recently returned from Europe. Precisely, but why let it remain a puzzle?—Ex. (It is more puzzling in Newfoundland, where we expect we shall have to pay through the nose for tea sweetening ere long. Food Control Board and Consumer's League to the contrary, notwithstanding. Prospects of lower prices are none too promising.)

It's most delicious. What? Pure Gold Chocolate Pudding. apr30,1m

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 You will wear TWEEDIES for their comfort, fit and good style. Wonderfully effective different and distinctive Unconsciously women who wear them accept the word TWEEDIES. EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED. In the newest shades and style conceptions.

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