



AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

OLD CABINETS.

IN *The Ladies' Field* Mrs. Delves Broughton has a very interesting article on old cabinets, giving illustrations of four exquisite examples.

The Italians were especially conscious of the beauties of form and ornamentation and exercised in the art of cabinet-making the utmost skill and taste regardless of time or labour. Often, to make one of their masterpieces, artists in many different trades were employed. In some cases the carpenter, the sculptor, the painter, the goldsmith, the enameller, the engraver of metals and precious stones, the worker in marquetry and the worker in mosaic were all employed in the manufacture of a single cabinet, but marvellous results and the acme of perfection were obtained.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the cabinet was of unadorned ebony, built on architectural lines and faultless in design and execution, but this style of work required to be done with almost more neatness than any other, and great patience was lavished on the making of numberless little drawers which were so perfectly fitted and arranged as to be often unnoticed. These pieces of furniture were frequently models of church and palace interiors, and some are said to have taken the form of scientific diagrams and mathematical problems. But though wonderful in construction they were somewhat gloomy in appearance which was not sufficiently relieved even by the introduction of ivory, both inlaid and in the form of statuettes and bas-reliefs, so in order to correct the fault altogether the last days of the Renaissance produced a new jewelled or pietra-dura work that eventually transformed the ebony cabinet into a stone.

"At first columns of jasper and lapis-lazuli replaced those of ebony, and in the panelling and bare spaces medallions of agate, lapis-lazuli, and a variety of hard stones were inserted; but the result still lacked brightness. So with a view to further improvement, gilt beading and frames were added to the medallions, gilt pedestals and cornices enlivened the columns and gilt figures were placed in niches or stood on the summit of the pillars.

"During the seventeenth century the architectural features were still retained, but the marble ornamentation had so increased that the wood was used simply as a framework, on which was built a cabinet of actual mosaic, enriched with a profusion of gilded bronze. Many splendid cabinets were made 'to order' for the native princes, whose armourial bearings were represented in their decoration. Some of the best artists of the period were thus employed by the great Medici family, whose wealth and influence made themselves felt not only in Italy but in France, and whose extravagance was proverbial.

"In the time of Louis XIV the decoration of furniture reached a high degree of splendour and excellence, and a description of Mazarin's palace in 1698 gives some idea of the great luxury of the period. It is difficult often to assign an accurate date to pieces of furniture—often one style overlaps another so that even close examination of the workmanship fails to give a definite clue."

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HUSHED VOICES.

ALL sensitive scruples, if there were any, in the case of publishing the love letters of Thomas Carlyle and his wife, Jane Welsh Carlyle, have been overcome, and they have now for some time been in the possession of the public, issued with the kind intention of disproving the suggestion that Carlyle and his clever wife neither married for love nor lived happily afterwards.

There has been a great deal of talk about it ever since, and the last thing is an essay entitled "The Art of Love," written by Mr. James Douglas, in which he states that it is no wonder that Carlyle and his wife squabbled incessantly both before and after marriage, such a state of affairs being necessary to the very existence of love. And it went on to the end, that clash of souls, like swords, which is the highest splendour of life, for love is an ineffable warfare which only death can hoist the white flag over."

Mrs. Carlyle was a witty, brilliant woman with much charm of personality and high mental attainments, but with delicate health. She should have

reigned in society instead of baking bread and darning socks and doing even menial services in the little household out in an unfrequented district. She had scarcely an intimate feminine friend, except Geraldine Jewsbury, the novelist and critic, and she saw only the famous men who came to visit her husband, who, one and all, acknowledged her singular fascination.

There was, undoubtedly, a great contrast between Mrs. Carlyle and her grumpy, dyspeptic husband. His uncouth ways and rough speech must often have jarred upon her fine sensibility, and produced some brilliant witticisms, or, perhaps, some scathing recriminations, and kept strife rampant in the little home in Cheyne Row, Chelsea. Mr. Douglas is of the opinion that the lady is usually more inclined to keep up the "amorous fray," and that her "polished outrages" penetrate deeper than the "casual cruelties" of her masculine combatant, because "for a woman love is a state of war, but for a man it is only a settled peace." Whatever truth there may be in these remarks and several others, one thing is true, and that is that

Our Own Land

BY ELIZABETH ROBERTS MACDONALD.

THERE'S many and many a country
Whose beauty knows not age,
Whose proud untarnished annals
Are on the poet's page;
Heroes have died to guard them,
And music, art, and song
Shall sweep their names forever
On fame's great surge along.

Chorus:

Our own dear land, our own land,—
No country God has made
Is better loved than our land
Under the maple shade!

Here's hill and plain and mountain,
Deep wood and fertile field,
And many a buried treasure
The kindly earth shall yield;
But best of all the riches
That Canada can claim
Are the hearts that leap exultant
At the music of her name.

Chorus:

Our own dear land, our own land,—
No country God has made
Is better loved than our land
Under the maple shade!

the letters of Jane Welsh Carlyle will survive.

Still, the Carlyles managed to "get on," and things were improving till the acme of whatever satisfaction Mrs. Carlyle had been able to get out of life was reached when she received the news of her husband's great success in Edinburgh. She was intensely delighted. But then came her sudden death, and all Carlyle's joy was turned into mourning. He was never the same man again, and if "Jane's" life was a tempest of discontent, her memory was cherished by Carlyle as that of few wives is cherished.

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A NOVEL PALACE OF PEACE.

A MOST ingenious institution has been devised where weary spirits may find rest and sleepless eyes be lulled in peaceful slumbers. Sleep, innocent sleep, is believed by a great nerve specialist to be not only a balm of hurt minds but a panacea for all neurotic and mental troubles.

In order to induce this desirable condition this French specialist lulls his patients much as an infant is put to sleep. In lovely Touraine, France, he has erected a perfect palace of peace. No disturbing noise ever breaks the quietness, but the tick of the grandfather clock, and the scarcely perceptible drip of unseen fountains act like soothing opiates. A cerulean haze pervades everything and the air is permeated with the faintest perfume. Every

person moves about in soft slippers, and before the eyes of the most refractory patients coloured balls slowly revolve. Each bed is carefully designed to prevent the body from growing weary, and, in fact, the science of wooing sleep has been brought to such perfection that it is said to be impossible to keep awake in that land of drowsiness. If those struggling in the grip of insomnia or in any way needing such blandishments could transport themselves in imagination even to this Valhalla of forgetfulness, what wonders might be accomplished!

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A ROYAL SUFFRAGETTE.

THAT Queen Maud of Norway has practically enlisted as a suffragist by sending greetings through the Norwegian representative of the movement to a recent gathering at Albert Hall, London, must be a source of satisfaction to that militant organisation. The young Queen has always been one of the most advanced of the ladies of the English royal family, and she is now the first queen and the first member of English royalty to give her support to women fighting for the franchise. Her mother, Queen Alexandra, does not share this sentiment, and has mildly expressed her disapproval of the movement.

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NOTABLES COMING.

IT was one of the most delightful May days, and late in the afternoon. At the corner, a fashionable young woman boarded the car, and unexpectedly meeting a friend suddenly began a conversation. "I have been shut up since three o'clock playing bridge, and every minute of the time I have been longing for fresh air and the sun."

"But you had an interesting game, hadn't you?"

"Not at all; quite the reverse, and to be frank I am feeling quite discontented."

"Could you cheer up long enough to let me tell a little of what is being done about this Quinquennial Congress? The ladies are all on the *qui vive* over it, but they keep very cool. Two hundred delegates and speakers, besides many visitors seem to be coming from all quarters of the earth—Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Sweden and Norway, Denmark, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, France, Switzerland, Italy, Queensland, Austria, Belgium, Greece and Smyrna—and of course from many points of the United States and Canada; and all are distinguished in letters, arts and sciences of all kinds.

"Their Excellencies, Lady Aberdeen, Vice-Royal Lodge, Dublin, and Lady Grey, Ottawa, will both be present. A few others are Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S., F.R.P.S., who, it may easily be inferred, is a renowned scientist; Mrs. Gordon was a gold medalist in zoology and comparative anatomy, University College, London, and was the first woman to receive the degree of Ph.D. from the Munich University, which she won with the highest honours. She was also elected Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and of the Royal Physical Society, and is vice-president of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, vice-president of the Scottish Association for Promotion of Women's Public Work, and secretary of the International Council of Women.

"Mrs. Edwin Grey, the president of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, has devoted years to philanthropic work. Her husband has been twice elected Lord Mayor of York. Frau Hainisch, president of the Austrian Council, will have with her her son, Dr. Hainisch, the founder of public libraries in Austria, and her son-in-law, Herr Edward Figdon, who is a large land-owner and will speak on women as farmers and gardeners.

"The president of the Swedish Council, the Hon. Mrs. Anna Hierta-Retzius, has done such admirable work that at the golden wedding of King Oscar II she was decorated by him with a gold medal.

"Among the many subjects to be discussed will be a plea brought forward by the National Council of Denmark for the establishment of a universal language for business and commercial purposes. Every resolution passed must now be published in English, French and German. At the Congress all the papers will be read in English which is a very convincing proof of the proficiency of the delegates in languages. The Council of Switzerland will also urge the compiling of text and reading books which will tend to disparage war and promote international amity."

"I almost went past my street," interrupted the young woman; "it was all so interesting, and I hope we shall have fine weather when they are here, so they can carry away the idea that Canada is really a land of sunshine and not of snow, buffaloes and red Indians."