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AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

A HEAVENLY VISITOR.

IT was five o'clock on the stickiest
afternoon of the summer, the day
that "Bobs" should have been
there, when Toronto citizens who
were down town suddenly cast their
eyes heavenward and uttered ejacula-
tions of envy and admiration. Far
above the City Hall hovered a gray
and silver airship which glittered and
shimmered in the late sunshine, as if
it were be-jewelled. Heated Toron-
tonians wondered audibly "if it were
cool up there" and one fat and shin-
ing gentleman murmured pathetically:
"I only hope my wife won't see that
air-ship, for I'll not know a moment's
peace until she gets one."

The airy vessel did not linger long
near the tower of the City Hall, the
atmosphere of that home of the
grafter and haunt of the greedy not
being pleasing on a summer's day.
The *Mail and Empire* proved some-
what more exhilarating but the lake
air was evidently what the sky-navi-
gator craved. It looked as if the
passengers must be having a delight-
ful time, away above the smoke and
stir of the perspiring city, and many
a motorman watched the car up above
with wistful eyes. It seems as if
Darius Green's flying-machine were
no longer an impossible dream and
when Quebec has another centenary
celebration it will be fleets from aerial
navies that will salute each other
above the Citadel.

Air-ships have been talked about
for so long, have formed the central
theme for so many Jules Verne ro-
mances that the dwellers inland have
come to regard them as a pleasing
fancy. But, like the telephone, the
motor car, and all the other modern
joys which our great-grandfathers
would have deemed absurdities, the
air-ship has come to stay, or rather
to fly, and Tennyson's *Locksley Hall*
fancies are coming true.

Of course the air-ship will be an
extremely expensive item, or list of
items, for the first ten years; but
along about 1920 the price of these
desirable vehicles will be greatly re-
duced and Mrs. Van Dusen will hard-
ly care to own one because "they're
getting so dreadfully common, don't
you know, and those horrid Thomp-
sons on Centre Street have just
bought one that looks exactly like a
good machine when it is four miles
off."

UNINVITED GUESTS.

THE woman who lives in a small
town and has a limited circle of
acquaintances may sometimes feel a
 pang of envy when she reads of the
magnificent entertainments given by
social leaders in the large world of
London, Paris or New York, wonder-
ing what it can feel like to be a
Duchess of Sutherland or Mrs. Astor.
But the latest accounts of London's
fashionable parties show that the
hostess has no path of roses when a
garden party is the amusement of the
hour. Mrs. Asquith, the wife of the
Prime Minister, is fond of holding a
fete champetre on a magnificent scale
and many English hostesses have fol-
lowed her example.

A garden-party is one of the pleas-
antest social affairs, for it allows of a
degree of unconventionality grateful
to many who protest against the stiff-
ness and stuffiness of indoor recep-
tions. But its very lack of formality
permits of intrusion by smart young
men who are not invited guests but
who merely wish to pass a diverting
hour in the midst of delightful sur-

roundings. These uninvited guests
have no criminal intent but only wish
to "fleet the time carelessly." Prob-
ably the very fact that they have not
been invited adds a flavour to their
enjoyment, for humanity has always
found peculiar joy in doing the things
which it ought not to do. The very
first garden-party of which we have
any record ended in confusion because
an uninvited guest thrust his snaky
head between the leaves and offered
Mother Eve forbidden refreshments.
The hostesses of London are power-
less to prevent the presence of un-
bidden guests at these large affairs,
awkward as may be the circumstances
when too many of this class put
in an appearance and proceed to im-
bibe claret cup and consume ices with
a splendid indifference to the caterer's
little account.

THE COATLESS MAN.

THE Editor of the *Argonaut* draws
attention to the fact that Presi-
dent Roosevelt, during the last week
of July, when it was ninety-six in
the shade, repaired to the north porch
of Sagamore Hill, removed his coat
and settled down to an afternoon of
comfort with his books. The Cali-
fornian editor remarks: "There is no
record that the women of his family
bombarded him with sneers and re-
proaches, but there is every reason to
suspect that their approval was not
given to this free-and-easy hot-
weather adjustment."

The western editor is quite within
the facts when he comments on femi-
nine dislike for the shirt-sleeves habit.
Man is usually liberal in his comment
on woman's attire, even going so far
as to make municipal enactments
against certain charming costumes and
it is only turn-about when woman
expresses her disgust with the shirt-
sleeves habit, making vigorous pro-
test in these terms:

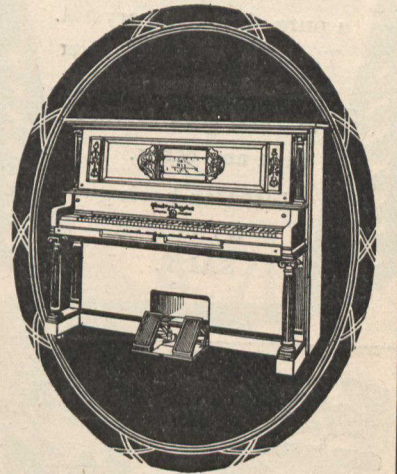
"You ought to be ashamed to have
the children see you like that. At
the table, too! Tommie, shut the door,
so the neighbours can't see your
father eating in his shirt-sleeves.
Well, really, if you want to act like
that, I don't see why you can't go to
the woods with a lot of *rude men*.
You *are* going, next week? Oh, very
well; only if you don't have a decent
thing to eat and are almost devoured
alive by mosquitoes, don't blame *me*.
I never could see why men make such
a fuss about a little hot weather and
go about looking like tramps and even
come to the table in their shirt-
sleeves."

Such is the plaint of many a dis-
gusted wife who surveys with dis-
favour her coatless worse half.
There is something hopelessly ugly
and plebeian about shirt-sleeves, as
the *Argonaut* editor finally admits:

"We are apprehensive that the
weight of feminine disapproval will
still interfere with the perfect free-
dom of man; and we must admit that
however highly recommended the
shirt-sleeves habit may be, there
clings about it a certain suggestiveness—
enough to mark the point in
that best of all Chicago stories:
Young Mr. Packer, visiting a cousin
at Boston and being asked about the
summer weather, remarked, 'Well,
now, Cousin Minerva, not mor'n half
of all this talk about it's sein.' So
blamed hot out our way is so. Here
it is the end of August, and durin'
this whole season I don't remember
havin' set down to dinner mor'n two
or three times without my coat on.'"

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