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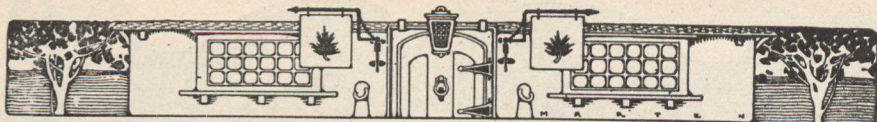
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AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

DOUBTFUL SPORT.

TO any sober citizen, the account of the Marathon race in England must have contained material for critical reflection. It seems that modern sport is degenerating into a life-and-death struggle, when runners drop with lacerated feet and haggard faces before the end of the course. England and America are loud in their condemnation of the bull-fight at Madrid but the race at Shepherd's Bush or the five-days bicycle race in New York or San Francisco hardly seems more humane. An athletic ordeal which leaves exhausted performers and horrified spectators is not the ideal of physical development nor competition. The Greek runner who gave his life was bringing news of victory to Athens, not contending in a mere endurance exhibition. In fact, the ancient Greeks were far ahead of our much-boasted civilisation in their ideas of physical culture. They believed in grace, as well as in strength, and it is to be feared that the slender-limbed youths who took part in the Olympic games of old would be highly disgusted with the modern football game or the Marathon course.

No one wants to see Canadian boys grow up to be what they themselves would call "sissies." But there is a false idea of athleticism abroad which is as much inferior to the classic ideal as the modern dance-hall is to the Parthenon. The best game is not that which affords most opportunities to the trickster and the brute.

A POET'S ROMANCE.

IN the fairy tales of Germany, the poet or minstrel usually loves no less a lady than a princess with golden hair who is finally won by his deathless singing. In real life, the poet is more careful to marry a good cook than a maiden of radiant beauty. But, even in this workaday world, so full of briars, as even the people of *As You Like It* discovered, there is occasionally a romance of the story-book order.

Such a story is revived in memory by Mr. Hall Caine's account of his friendship with Dante Gabriel Rossetti. All such dreary trash as Mr. Caine's more recent novels, such as the deplorable *The Christian*, may be forgiven him when one reads the tender, vivid chronicle of that friendship. The love which Rossetti bore his beautiful young wife was such as the ordinary mortal hardly knows; yet the doubt comes with the sympathy. Such an abiding passion is not fit for a practical world, and, as one reads of the poet's desolation, the words of Jean Ingelow come back:

"If all loved, as a few love,

The world would seldom be well."

Most of us are not capable of such feeling and hence escape such suffering. We ignobly forget and the world goes on. However, few who read once more of Rossetti's wonderful love and grief can help but think that in his joy and in his misery he was one of the world's great lovers, akin to the greater poet whose name he bore.

FEMININE INTEREST IN FAIRS.

ALREADY the thoughts of tomato catsup to be done up and pickles to be put down are stirring the heart of the housewife. August, our month of perfect summer, is also a time of plans and premonitions. The even-

ings begin to look drearily like Autumn and there is a haze in the late afternoon which suggests that new coat suits must receive early consideration. With the waning summer will come the suggestion of flannels and heavy footwear and the lingerie blouse will seek the moth camphor.

Exhibitions are already advertised, since the Toronto "show" is only three weeks off. In connection with these annual affairs, one may notice that women are taking an increasing share in their management—which is as it should be, for many of former efforts by way of Exhibitions suffered sadly from the lack of feminine taste and arrangement.

In the Province of Nova Scotia, the Women's Local Council of Halifax has taken up the matter of the exhibition in the capital and has appealed to women throughout the province to co-operate in making the display a success. Calgary has recently held a Dominion Fair of goodly proportions and throughout the West there is a growing fashion of local exhibitions which will do an immense amount of good in stimulating provincial pride and creating an interest in manufacturing and industrial development. Canadian women can add immeasurably to the attractiveness of these events by taking an interest in the domestic and artistic side of the "show."

A CURIOUS COMPETITION.

A CANADIAN girl has been successful in an unusual competition. New York *Life* announced last March a competition of novel character, even for that enterprising weekly. The photographs of five mythical men were reproduced with brief descriptions of the persons portrayed and the women readers of *Life* were asked: "If you must marry one of these men, which do you choose?" There was a corresponding competition for men, with five fair women to choose from. The first prize of fifty dollars has been won by Miss Mary M. Thompson, Waterloo Row, Fredericton, New Brunswick, who wrote this winning rhyme: That lively wit, which much appeals to me

The wandering life, by vagrant fancy led,

Bid me forget the truth, that men may be

Sweet "April when they woo, December when they wed."

Miss Thompson chose the first member in the row of possible husbands, who was described as a coffee merchant of lively wit, who was seldom at home. There was also an elderly millionaire in the row but the Canadian prize-winner evidently preferred coffee and repartee to dollars and dullness. The girls of the Maritime Provinces are developing rhyming gifts at an alarming rate and with their taking little ways will be carrying off trophies in many a matrimonial contest.

CANADIENNE.

FAN FANCIES.

A quaint old garden of black and gold,
A wee tea-house and stone bridge old
On my painted bit of Japan.
A background of cherry blossoms gay
And a little white road that runs away
Over the edge of the fan.

Blue and silver Japanese skies,
A quiet pool where the iris lies,
But never a maid or a man.

—Life.

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