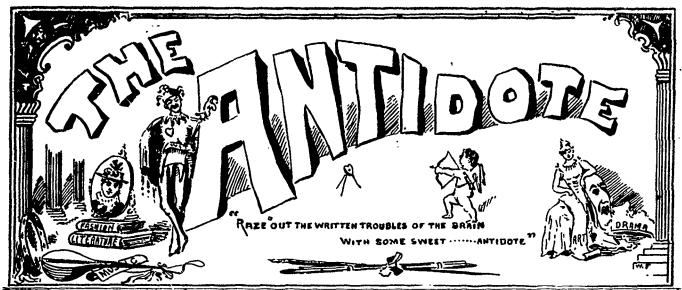
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CONCEIT.

It would be difficult to name a vice so innocent towards others as conceit. Your impatience, your anathy, your fretfulness, your carelessness, your garrulity, your extravagance, all these-almost all faults and foibles in the catalogue of human imperfections, have it inevitable to them to inflict harms and vexations on people you have to do with; your conceit never leaves them a whit the worse. And yet there is nothing man resents so much as conceit in his fellow-man. The display of it arouses an aggressive desire for the reformation of the offender, which can only be satiated by his miserable abashment, and to that end many will take, over a mere casual acquaintance, an amount of trouble which few would think worth while for the cure of downright depravity in any person in whom they had not the immediate interest of near kinship or responsible connection.

While there is a watshful delicacy about even alluding to any other mental or moral defect in the presence of a person known to be one of those possessing conceit, or rather possessed of it, not only pleasantness, but reasonable kinda '88 is constantly set aside without compunction for the sake of giving the one the "giftie" conceited of see-"ithers" see them ing themselves as -with their least softening spectacles on. One would think it need not matter much to any one of us if our friend has more admiration for himself than we have for him; yet his fault is one which it is scarcely in human nature to tolerate, and for him charity bears the correcting lash. It is every man's mission to inflict wholesome discipline for his good on the conceited man.

It might be supposed that the peculiar annoyance caused by other people's conceit arises from its bringing with it the sense of offense against our own. The sinner is, we might take it, by over-rating his own gifts, disavowing our superiority or

claiming a vexatious equality; or, if what he thinks much of in himself he something which we do not at all possess, his merit must, in his own mind, at all events, go to prove our deficiency. And probably some of the resentment against conceit does have its source in this feeling: and where the conceit has in it, beyond its own mere unalloyed self-gratulation the ill-flavers of arrogance and assumption, the resentment against it will consciously derive much from such a source. But a homeopathic conflict of conceit against conceit does not account for all. Else why are teachers and even parents so apt to use against this particular evil an asperity which might seem more fitly measured to larger faults which go overlooked? Why do they so commonly infuse a sort of spitefulness into their rebuk's and their hints? Why do they feel in the culprit's mortification a pleasure akin to cruelty, which would be far enough from them if the mortification had been never so well deserved by naughtiness?

It is amusing to see the care with which parents, who never think of keeping watch for the young upshooting of other ill-weeds, guard against the tiniest growth of what might come to be conceit. Generally the plan taken is to snub the clever children, and to tell the pretty ones that they are plain and homely. Not much comes of it in any way; and good cannot come. When there is any result it is usually a morbid self-depreciation, which, though a less irritating phase of the malady to other people, is infinitely more harmful in lessening the usefulness, as well as the happiness of the sufferer.

But oftenest the clever and the pretty find themselves out betimes, and seeing through the improvingly meant dispraises practiced upon them, take them as compliments, and are the more able to appreciate their gifts and their graces. If their minds are actively employed, they will be none the worse for the knowledge. To be honestly aware of advantages, to feel a pleasure in their possession, even, need no more be concait than is the swallow's confidence and pleasure in its power of flight.

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She-Come around and call on me at any time.

He-Will you always be at home? She-Not always; I sail for Europe tomorrow.

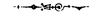
SPRING.

"Come, gentle spring! Etheren! mildness, come!"

So sang the poet, and so sing we now. We are tired of the changeable March weather, soft and springlike one day and cold and blustering the next. Lest Monday was a perfect spring day, and, with a sublime disregard for the old saw, "as goes Monday, so go all the days of the week," the sun set in a soft haze of pink and yellow, giving alluring promise of a fair to-morrow, and we anticipated a particularly enjoyable trin about town. Just now the shops are gorgeous in their display of spring novelities, so, as we watched the soft twilight come stealing in, chasing away the rosy sunset clouds, Monday evening, we resolved that the following morning should find us up bright and early. So it did, but alas for the deceitfulness of human hopes' Instead of the anticips ated gloriously spring morning our eyes were greeted by a whirling snowstorm. The sky was of a leaden hue, the ground was covered by a snowy mantle, and the sidewalks were wet and slushy. Not an inviting prospect. It is too bad that Easter comes so early this year, in a way. We can scarcely feel bright and fresh and blooming, and wear the gay springy air that so properly accommanies the festive season, when, only a enort time before, the snow fell fast and the wind blew keenly in our faces. We have not yet had time to accustom ourselves to the thought of soft, balmy breezes, bright sunshine, clean, beautiful streets, gay throngs of women clad in fresh, spotless attire, and flowers springing up and over in token of a changed season. We have held our dresses so long to protect them, that our arms have not yet lost the weary feeling that has arisen But we shall be far ahead therefrom. of nature this year. That young damsel has not yet clothed herself in her new garments, and she seems loth to prepare herself for them. Whereas we poor mortals have not her independence and must perforce, willy-nilly, don our smart attire at the appointed time. So begin to get ready, and let me give you a few words of advice before you begin. Make your hat or bonnet a go--between, not too decidedly springy, nor yet not a particle wintry. To accomplish this you must procure one of those dainty new straws, all fancifully twisted and worn so that they scarcely look like straw. Get a small one, and it will be all the more appropriate. Then again, you are permitted this spring to wear a perfectly plain, tightfitting coat, if you so desire, that is relieved only by a velvet yoke or short cape, you may wear it over your winter's gown, that can be freshened with new trimming at the feet, and no one will be the wiser when you step forth on Easter with your new bonnet and gloves.

In Society's Realm.

This is the last week of the diluted Lenten style of make-believe non-festivity which has of late prevailed in society; next week will be one of actual quietude (for Holy Week is really pretty generally observed by the fashiounble throng), and then we will have the joyous Eastertide. In one of Tennyson's most popular poems there is a triplet of verses which tells about the blowing of the bugle, and then "Oh faint and far, from cliff and scaur, the horns of elf-land faintly blowing." That is the condition of society. horns are far away in the distance and their blowing is very faintly heard. It may be sacreligious to make so beautiful a poem serve the purposes of a social calendar, but to such base uses greater than these have descended, and it remains a self-evident fact that society is quiescent. The social world is waiting for something, it scarcely knows what, and yet it waits patiently, uncomplainingly hoping that the future will hold a little of pleasure for those who dote on pleasure and the joy it brings. Church socials, sewing circles, and receptions pall upon the taste, and were it not that the theatre affords diversion the rigorous quiet of Lent would perforce be broken. The present Lenten season has been at least a trifle more active than that of previous years; and there will be weddings by: and bye to give the gossips food for talk, and in another week Easter Sunday will dawn to usher in a new lease of life.



Society Notes.

Miss DuMoulin, daughter of the Rev. Canon DuMoulin, Toronto, is on a visit to Mrs. Botterell, Dorchester street.

Mr. A. W. Atwater has been confined to the house for several days with a severe cold.

Among the easily enumerated "doings" of the week just closing was a successful "At Home" given by Mrs. Percival St. George on Monday last at her residence on St. Catherine street.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Munroc. of 940 Dorchester street, gave the last of their series of three receptions on Thursday. They were all largely attended.

Miss Mabel and Miss Amy Gault, of Osborn street, left this week for Ashville N. C., where they intend spending several weeks.

Mrs. Davidson Parker, mother of Mrs. Geo. Drummond, is suffering from a severe attack of grippe, but is progressing favorably.

Mrs. Boswell and Miss Boswell, Quebec, accompanied by Miss Ferrier, of Montreal, are among the Canadian guests at the Battery Park Hotel, Ashville, N. C.

We hope Easter we k will contain several things of interest as an evidence of social awakening. A very enjoyable entertainment is expected on Easter Monday at Mrs. Herbert Wallis' residence, 80 Redpath street

Lovers of music will soon have an opportunity of hearing Christ Church Catheddral choir in a work out of the ordinary range of service music. A sacred cantata entitled "The Last Night at Bethauy," will be performed next Thursday evening, under the able directorship of Mr. Edgar Birch the organist and choirmaster.



A Brantford, Ontario, collector offers to pay from \$10 to \$20 apiece for Canadian rostage stamps of a very early date.



Dress Chat

Black satin coats are to be very fashionable this spring-there seems to be quite a mania for them at Nice-and it is said that they are very beautiful. They are generally of three-quarter length and sometimes perfectly plain, while many are beautifully embroidered in fine cut jet. They have huge leg-o'-mutton sleeves and deep revers to make them smart, and they are worn with all sorts of ekirts, from black chiffon to broadcloth. There is a fancy, too, for wearing them with skirts of hight cloth, like tans and grays, or sometimes royal purple Small open jackets of black velvet are also much worn. They are a sort of Eton, made with widepointed revers and very large sleeves. They are lined with black watered silk. and worn with all toilets. They are exceedingly rich looking and very becoming.

Black satin sleeves are still another of the moments fancies; they appear in all gowns and in combination with all fabrics

One gown seen was made of repped cloth, in a dull slaty blue shade with a tiny green rep running across it. The skirt was perfectly plain and in the new flaring bell shape. The hodice was round and belted with a folded belt of the cloth and had remarkably large sleeves of shining black satin that sat out stiffly under a unique epaulette arrangement of the cloth. The coller was high and plain and of the cloth. We illustrate a walking gown in deep walnut-brown cloth, with yoke and shoulders of petunia velvet, edged with a tiny frill of crepe de chen; in the same shade.



Six editors are making

For the World's Fair with a fuss. And they've labeled their exhibits "What the folks are owing us!"

Clengyman-"Wilt thou have this

woman? etc., etc.
Rural Bridegroom-"Ay. surely! Whoy,
Oi kummed a-puppls!"

Feeipes.

Fresh Fish Salad—Take the remains of cold fish, pick out the bones and mince; season with pepper, salt, butter and vinegar; mix well with the fish. Put in a small baking pan and set in the stove five minutes. Then set on ice to cool, and serve with Worchestershire sauce.

Bisque of Lobster-Prepare, boil and open two lobsters; cut the meat into small peices; break the shells and small claws; put in a pan with a quart of boiling water. Pound and mix the spawn, the fat, part of the coral, two ounces of the lobster meat, an ounce of butter and two of flour until reduced to a pulp. Strain the liquor from the saucepan over the pulp, gradually mixing it; season it with a little salt and cayenne, add the remainder of the meat and the coral rubbed fine and serve immediately.

Omelets-All manner of omelets, stuffed and otherwise, are well suited for Lenten dishes; indeed, eggs under almost any shape whatsoever. The following method of stuffing them is very much to be recommended. Boil some eggs hard; when quite cold, remove the shells, cut the eggs in half lengthwise, take out the yolks, pound them with some bread-crumbs, soaked and squeezed from all moisture, the fillets of a few anchovies, and a small piece of butter, stir in three or four yolks, season rather plentifully, and work into the mixture some finely chopped herbs and a handful of dry bread-crumbs. Fill the whites with the paste, put together so that they look whole, roll them carefully in beaten eggs, then in brend-crumbs, fry them and serve them en pyramide with a garniture of fried parsley.



Smiles.

"Has this new doctor you've engaged been abroad and had advantages-"

"Jerusalem, yes; he told me last night that he was at sea on this case of mine."

If the ballet dancer didn't kick for her salary she wouldn't get a cent.

In the street car: Gentleman (entering)—Will you kindly get up and give me your seat?

Lady-What do you mean by addressing me in that manner, sir?

Gentleman—When I offered you a seat last evening you said you preferred go stand. As I take you for a lady of your word, I will accommodate you by occupying your seat while you assume your avorite attitude.

It's rather odd that one has to lose his temper before he can display it.

THE ANTIDOTE

TRANSLATIONS OF

Heine's Celebrated Lyric.

(By Edgar Alfred Bowring.)

A flow'ret thou resemblest, So pure and fair and blest; But when I view thee, sorrow Straight creepeth to my breast.

I feel as though inspired

My hands on thy head to lay,
And pray that God may keep thee
So blest, fair, pure for aye.

(Sir Theodore Martin)
Thou art even as a flower is,
So gentle and pure and fair;
I gaze on thee, and sadness
Comes over my heart unaware.

I feel as though I should lay, sweet, My hands on thy head with a prayer That God may keep the alway, sweet, As gentle, and pure and fair.

(Kate Freiligrath Krosker.)
E'en as a lovely flower,
So pure, so fair thou art;
I gase on thee, and sadness
Comes stealing o'er my heart.

My hands I fain had folded
Upon thy soft brown hair,
Praying that God may keep thee
So lovely, pure and fair.

(Henry Jeffreys Bushby.)
Thou art to me a flower,
So fair and pure and bright,
I gaze on thee, and sorrow
Comes stealing on delight.

I long to lay a moment
My hands upon thy hair,
Praying that God may keep thee
So bright, and pure, and fair.

(James Geikie.)
So fair, so pure, so gentle,
Like some dear flower thou art;
I gase on thee, and sadness
Slides dumb into my heart.

I yearn, sweet one to bless thee, To press thy sumy hair, And pray God aye to keep thee, So gentle, pure and fair.

(Charles Dexter.)
As a beautiful flower,
Pure, lovely thou art;
I gaze on thee, sorrow
Steals over my heart.

1 long, why I know not, Our Savior to pray To keep thee as lovely And stainless alway.

(Charles G. Leland.)
Thou'rt like a lovely floweret,
So void of guile and art,
I gaze upon thy beauty
And grief steals o'er my heart.

I fain would lay, devoutly,
My hands upon thy brow,
And pray that God will keep thee
As good and fair as now.

(John Snodgrass.)
Thou seemest like a flever,
So sweet ,and fair, and pure;
Beholding thee, a dower
Of sadness fills my heart.

A spirit bids me lay
My hands upon thy head;
Preserve her, God, I pray,
As pure, and fair, and sweet.

(The Editor.)
So like a flow'r thou scemest,
So lovely, pure and bright,
I look on thee, and saduess
Of heart doth dim my sight.

I long my hands to press then
Upon thy fair young brow
And pray God may preserve thee
As pure and fair as now.



THE FIRST OF APRIL.

All Fools' Day is traced through every country of Europe to the Hinde as.

AN OYSTER SHELL IN A TEAKETTLE.

Another use for oyster shells beyond bordering rural flower beds has been discovered. A clean shell kept in a tea-kettle in which hard water is constantly boiled will prevent the forming of the crust which will otherwise gather on the inside of the vessel.

CRADLES OF GOLD.

Some of the costly things in the ? Itan's treasure house at Constantinople are children's cradles of pure gold, inlaid with precious stones; divans covered with cloth of gold, embroidered with pearls; suits of mail, thickly enerusted with big emeralds and diamonds and other relics of former Ottoman splendor.

A CROWN OF GOLD.

One of the presents which is to be given to the King and Queen of Denmark on the occasion of their golden wedding on May 22, is a crown of gold, the gift of over 100,000 school children in Denmark, who have each contributed a penny.

STOCKINGS MADE OF HUMAN HAIR.

Stockings made from human hair are worn by Chinese fishermen as the best preventive of wet feet. They are drawn over ordinary cotton stock..., being too rough for putting near the skin.

ON BOTH SIDES.

When a woman is trying to write a letter on a half sheet of paper, much may be said on both sides.—Siftings.

A LONG WALK.

A well-known comedian one day, whilst fulfilling an engagement in Dublin, was walking with his wife, a remarkably stout, short lady, when an Irishwoman with a basket brushed rudely against her.

"You had better walk over me," said the comedian's wife, irritably.

The Irishwoman turned around, coolly viewed her from head to foot, and then replied, "Faith, ma'am, it would be easier to walk over you than around you, anyhow,"—a remark which made the comedian almost choke with laughter.—London answers.

CHINESE TEA-MAKING.

The following poetic directions for teamaking are painted on many of the teapots used in the Celestial empire:

"On a slow fire set a tripod; fill it with clear rain water. Boil it as long as it would be needed to turn fish white and lobster red; throw this upon the delicate leaves of choice tea; let it remain as long as the vapor rises in a cloud.

"At your case drink the pure laquor, which will chase away the five causes of trouble."

A TRANSFORMATION SCENE.

A young mather catching her husband in mute contemplation before the cradle of her furst-born, felt a thrill of infinite rapture, and said to herself:

"Oh, how Charles loves our little boy!"

Just then the husband turned around,
and exclaimed in a gruff voice:

"My dear, the more I look at it the more I am at a loss to understand how the furnituse dealer could have the impudence to charge you 20 !ranes for this horrible cradie."—La Laquette.

A BRILLIANT CURE.

A doctor related how he had, with brilliant success, restored the sense of hearing to a man who was deaf from his birth.

"And what were his impressions?"

"The noises he heard affected him so terribly that he became deaf again immediately"—Il Carlino.

4THB ANTIDOTE

LAKES OF INDIGO.

The most remarkable sight witnessed on the face of the globe is afforded by the subterranean takes of Sinoia in Sambesia, in Central Africa. Lionel Cecle, the French explorer, has returned from there, and reports that the water is of the deepest indige dye, and that the azure grotto of Capri can in nowise compare with the beautiful color of these wonderful lakes.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

CANES AT CAMBRIDGE.

The fad with Harvard students now is the English hazel and German cherry. Some of the most fastidious affect the white ash, but nearly all who "are in it" carry a cane of some kind.—Boston Globe.

A NEW CARD GAME.

Spades are not trumps here, but musical notes.

One of the musicians of the Marienot School of Harmony has invented a very ingenious game of musical cards, which can be easily learne din ten minutes.

The game is composed of 36 cards, divided into four series of nine cards each. These series are distinguished by clefs, represented by different colors, as follows:

Nine cards of do (black).

Nine cards of sol (green).

Nine cards of re (blue),

Nine cards of la (rose).

The numerical value of each card is denoted by the number of notes which it contains. The notes employed are those of the diatonic scale.

For example: If a player plays do in green of the sol clei, his adversary must play a card of the same color with a higher note to take the trick. If he has no green card in his hand he throws off, as in ordinary games.

The value of tierces, fours and fives, etc., is expressed in the following manner:

Third to mi, to fa, to sol, etc. Quart to fa, to sol, etc. Quart to sol, to la, etc. To make a point one must play three cards of the same color, they being the highest played. Four cards containing the same number of notes in the second measure are called "quatuor," and are equal to four aces, or four kings, etc. Three cards governed by the same conditions are called trio. The tens are replaced with cards, none of the notes of which surpass the

first measure, and this is called potpourri. Trump is declared the same as in other games, and the musical cards can be used in all the divers combinations of card games. It is not necessary to be a professional musician to be able to play with these cards, but of course a knowledge of music is presupposed.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

A BEAR FIGHT.

On the top of Smoky Mountain, at least five miles from any settlement or farm, in the midst of the wilder part of this rough, mountainous section, there is an old hunter named Job Smiley. Smiley is at least 65 years of age, but the years hang lightly on his stalwart frame. He stands six feet three inches in his stocking feet and has unusually long and muscular arms and legs. He carries no extra flesh, although he weighs perhaps two hundred and 'thirty pounds. Smiley's life had been spent in the wilds of the mountains, hunting, fishing and trapping, and many are the reminiscences of tough fights and narrow escapes he has had One of the most interesting is this account of his fight with two full-grown black bears.

I was out hunting as usual one day on one of the cross ridges of the Big Smoky when I got on the trail of a big fouck, which I follow, I for two hours before I got close enough to shoot. When I did get the chance the buck was about seventy yards below me on a narrow shelf, which overhung a rocky precipice.

I drew a bead on the buck, and dropped him dead in his tracks. Then I did a very foolish thing, and that was this: I laid my gun down against a log, not even taking time to load it, and climbed down to the spot where the buck lay. I got there safely, and so did a couple of thundering big bears about the same time. They had a den in the side of the mountain close by, and my shot alarmed them, or they had been "laying" for the deer themselves. Well, they were there, and so was I, and, unfortunately, I was without a weapon. I saw there was going to be trouble, and that I couldn't get back to my gun, so I looked about me quietly to see if I could find anything with which to defend myself.

Down close to my feet I saw a big hickory limb which had broken off in some of the fearful wind storms so common on the mountain. The stick was about five feet long and about three inches thick. Now, you can just imagine that I got hold of that stick mighty quick. It was fresh and sound, and an excellent weapon against one bear; but two—I had very serious doubts about the outcome in that case. This all occurred in a good deal

loss time than it takes to tell it-in fact, in less time than that the two brutes were coming at me with open mouths. I waited until the first one rose to his feet, which they do when they are in for a fight, when I gave him a rap on the side of the head that mocked him down. Then I drew back my club just in time to strike at the other one. Somehow that bear knocked that blow off, and he did it so quickly that the force I had given it came near making me lose my balance. As it was the infernal brute gave me a "swipe" with his forepaw which tore my hunting shirt at my shoulder into shoestrings and ripped my hide and flesh from the shoulder half way down my arm.

Before the bear could close on me, however, I sprang back and drew up my club ready for another blow. The first one I had knocked over was now on his feet, and both fo them, having smelled the blood, were in savage earn st, and it was now a fight to the death. They both came at me on their hind feet, about six feet aprt and about the same distance from me. As they got close enough to reach, I swung the big club down on a level and just as quick as I possibly could I gave one of them a thundering poke square between the eyes. This was the fellow on my left Then I swung the club to the right and got in a pretty good one on the other one's neck. The bear I had struck between the eyes was badly hurt, as he lay right down and whined. I happened to turn my eyes in his direction and this gave the other one an opportunity and the first I know I was knocked backward, and came near talling, with the bear close upon me. There was no getting away this time. He had his forepaws around my left arm and waist almost before I knew it. Fortunately my right hand was free, and I shortened the club and battered him over the head, while he clawed and bit me on the shoulder and across the back. We had it forward and back, the bear trying his best to get hold on my neck and face, while I kept beating him over the head and body with the club. At last down he went on the ground; but just as I was going over, I fortunately struck the bear on one of his eyes and knocked it out. The pain made him loosen his hold, and he never got another, for I got on my feet as quackly as I (could and brought that big club down square across his throat and killed him. I was pretty badly burt and short of wind, but I knew I had better finish the other one mighty quick, for if he got up and fairly at me again I should be wiped out; so I jumped for him, and got close to him just as he was getting on his feet. Lord! How I did batter that fellow! I knocked him over and pounded him until I was out of wind and the bear beaten almost into a jelly. Then I sat' down and did what I

THE P. L. M. EXPRESS.

From the French of Jacques Normand

never did before-keeled right over and fainted. I must have fain there an hour or more before I came to. It took two full hours to walk about two miles to my cabin, where, luckily for me, I found old Tom Blakelock, another hunter, laying out a supper for himself. Old Tom soon had me spread out on a shake-down in the corner, and then he went to work to was's my wounds and tie me together again. After he had fixed me up in some sort of shap. Old Tom went to the place where I had the fight, and skinned the bears and hung them up. When he came back the old fellow was dragging along three cubs about three months old. He had found the bears' den and captured the cubs, which he pulled out with a piece of rope that he always carried. That fight laid me up for about two months, but I came out as sound as ever.-Concinnati Enquirer.

"Have you heard Miss Prancer in light opera?"

"Yes, she appeared in a duet alone last night."

'How could she manage that?"

"Well, it was between her voice and toes to see which could go highest.".

"Spiggot threw up his hat as wildly as any boy at the temperance speech last night."

"Yes, but this morning he felt like throwing up his boots."

Old Soak-Delirium tremens date back to the beginning of the world.

Jagge-How do you make that out? Old Soak-Eve saw snakes, didn't she?

Hand-organ music is never considered fine, no matter how often it is ground.

Mamma-Why do you always run when sent to the postoffice, Maurice?

Because it takes so long to go when I walk that it tires me all out.

Now doth the busy little moth -Begin to smile and smirk, And lay his plans for getting in His usual summer work.

Oh, why can't we all like in stage land, Where it don't either rain or blow, And they only tear up paper, When they have the deepest snow.

Dickery, dickery, dare,

The pig flew up in the air,
So as not to wet his feet,
There was so much mud in the street.

"Listen, Robbie; this rich cake is very unhealthy, and I--"

Robbie-Well, s'pose we put it right out of its nursery, mamma.

There was a general astonishment' in our little circle of friends when we heard of the approaching marriag of Valentin Sincere. What he?—the hardened celibate, the sceptic, rebelling against all matrimonial ideas—the joyous free-liver, who had a hundred times swore that he would r ver have anything to do with it! Valentin, after all, was going to join the great brotherhood! And of all women, whom was he going to marry?—a widow! We were bewildered.

So, the first time I met him I (buttonnoled him and demanded explanations.

"I've hardly time to speak to you—a heap of things to do. I have just come from the Mairie, and am on my way to the engraver's to get some invitation letters. If you'll go with me—"

"If I if go with you!" I said.

We were in front of the Madeleine. We passed down the Boulevards, arm in arm.

"The story's a very simple one," he said. "Commonplace to the last degree; but since you want so much to know about it, here it is:—

crowd; but thanks to the proverbial obligingness of M. Regnoul, the station master. I was able to secure a place in the only coupe in the train. The only other occupant was a gentleman with a red rosette in a button-hole of his overcoat—a gentleman of severe aspect, and with an administrative air, whose luggage consisted solely of a portfolio. Assuredly he was not going far with that outfit, and presently I should be alone. Alonel the only thing to make a railway journey supportable!

"All the passengers were in their places and the train was about starting when the sound of a dispute arose at the door.

"'No. Monsieur, no!' said the voice of a woman, fresh in tone, and with an almost imperceptible Southern accent. 'I ordered a sleeping compartment, and a sleeping compartment I must have.'

"'But, Madame, I have told you, we haven't one."

"'You ought to have carried out the instructions in my letter.'

"'We have not received any letter,



"WE PASSED DOWN THE BOULEVARDS."

"In the morth of February last I was going to Nice for the Carmeal fetes. I have the greatest aversion to traveling by night, and I therefore took the \$55 morning train, due at midnight at Marseilles, where I proposed spending the following day with my friends, the Rombauds, who expected me to breakfast. The next morning I was going on to Nice, where I was to arrive at two o'clock in the afternoon.

"At the station there was an excited

Madame ! 1

" Have another carriage put on,

" lmposs bloomy have already the regula ion number. Come, come, make haste; the train is about to start."

"'(Well, I must have a place found for a

"'I have offered you two, Madame, in the coupe.'

" 'There?'

"'Yes, Madame, there!'

"A little dark-haired woman appeared in the doorway, and instantly started back as if in alarm.

"There are two gentlemen in itl'

"'Good heavens, Madame! I can't give you a whole carriage to yourself!'

"'Very well, then; I will not go!'
"'As you please. The train is off-I
am going to give the signal.'

"'Stay, Monsieur, stay. I must absolutely go, and since there is only this coupe—but you'll let me have a sleeping compartment at the first station we come to?'

" ' Yes, Madame.'

"'You'll telegraph for it?'

"' Yes, y's, Madame."

"You promise me?"

"'Yes, Madame.'

"'You are sure?'

"'Yes, yes, yes, Madame!"

"The door was thrown open wide, and the little brown-haired lady, surrounded by half a carriage load of parcels and wraps, entered the coupe, a shrill whistle, and, we were off.

"Gallantly the administrative gentleman seated himself by my side, so as to leave the opposite sent estirely at the service of the new arrival.

"Without even turning her eyes towards

us, flustered and red with anger, she arranged her parcels around her with the ordinary haste of persons who have long hours to pass in a railway carriage.

"She had one bag, two bags, three bags, and, as to wraps-!

"Out of the corner of my eyes, I watched these little proceedings, and I observed with pleasure that she was a charming little personage. I say with pleasure; for, in truth, it is always more agreeable to have a protty woman for a travelling companion than an ugly one.

"It was very cold. The country, covered with snow, and lit up by a very pale-faced sun, flew rapidly by on either side of the carriage. The little lady, muffled up to her chin in rugs and other wraps, turned her gaze obstinately out of the farther window; the administrative gentleman put his papers, yellow, green and blue, with printed headings, in order, and read them attentively; as to myself, comfortably installed in a corner, with my feet on the foot-warmer, I waced through the file of newspapers I had bought at the station to pass the time.

"1121; Laroche. The train stopped. The administrative gentleman gathered up his papers, rose, bowed and descended from the carriage. His feet had hardly touhed

but what?—what? I sought laboriously, but did not find.

"I was still continuing that search, when the train stopped suddenly, thanks to the powers of the new break—so good against accidents, but so bad for passengers.

"Tonnerra!—twenty-five minutes' stoppage!' cried a porler, opening the carriage door.

"My companion arose, threw off 'ler

doing it could I find? The classic re-

sources of putting up or down the windows, in such a state of temperature, were

non-available. What was there to do?-

launch a commonplace remark of some

kind? Better a hundred times keep silent

than do that. My companion, I had seen at

a glance with my Parisian eyes, was a woman of the best society. To speak to

her brusquely, without being known to

her, would have made me appear in her

eyes no better than a vulgar commercial

traveller. The only way of drawing her

into conveniation would be to find some-

thing strikingly original to say to her;

rugs, which, with her three bags, she left in the carriage, and descended on to the platform. It was noon. Hunger had begun to make itself felt. She moved toward the buffet on the left, across the line.

"I followed her. I was then enabled to admire at my ease the elegance of her figure, well set off by a long far mantle. I remarked also that she had a pretty neck, a grey felt hat and very tiny feet.

"At the entrance to the buffet stood the manager. Wearing a velvet cap and bearing a striking resemblance to Napoleon III., he pointed out with his hand and with a napkin a long table to be taken by assault.

"I entered with a crowd of travellers -ruffled, hurried; in short, that stream of persons essentially grotesque and derogatory to human beauty, of an express train, bent all or devouring food of some sort.

"I seated myself and hastily swallowed t'e succession of dishes set before me; my lady traveller took some soup at a separate table.

"I was amongst the first to rise, and went out on the platform to smoke a cigarette. The twenty-five minutes—reduced to twenty according to rule—were quickly spent. The passengers came in groups from the refectory and returned to their places in the carriages. I reinstalled myself in mine. My fellow traveller did not appear.

"I perceived her at the little bookstall on the opposite side of the line looking over the volumes displayed. Although I could see nothing of her but her back, I easily recognized her by her pretty figure, her otter-skin mantle, and her gray hat. Her hair seemed to he u little less dark than I had imagined it to be: but that was the effect of distance, no doubt.



"SHE ARRANGED HER PARCELS."

the platform before he was recived by the station-master, who called him 'Mr. Inspector.' The lady leaned out of the door:—

- "' Mr. Station-master!'
- "' Madame?

"They were to telegraph you from Paris for a sleeping carriage."

"'They have done so, Madame, and I have sent on the message."

"'Sent it on! Am I not to have a sleeping-carriage at once, then?'

"'Impossible, Madame; we have no carriages here. They can only furnish you with one at Lyons."

- "'At Lyons! At what o'clock?'
- "'At 5.45, Madame.'

"'At the end of the journey! But, Monsieur, I can't rema n n this coupe until

that time! Impossible — I won'tl'
"'Take care, Madame, the train is
starting!"

" It started.

"She threw herself into her corner again, in a furious pet, without casting a glauce at me. I plunged once more into the contents of my newspapers—into the contents of the tenth, that is to say.

"Shall I confess it! That paper took me longer to read than its nine predecessors. Twenty times I began the same line; I believe that at least for some time the paper was upside down. Hang it, one can't be shut up for a long journey with appretty woman without feeling some sort of emotion!

"I greatly wanted to enter into conversation with her, but what pretext for

"All the passengers had resumed beir seats, and the porters were banging to the doors.

parcels have not been stolen; they—they have been left b hind at Tonnerre.
"'At Tonnerre! How?



"SHE TOOK SOME SOUP AT A SEPARATE TABLE."

"'She'll be left behind,' I thought, She's mad!' 'Madamo! Madame!' I called to her out of the window.

"She was too far off and didn't hear me.

"The whistle sounded; the train was going to start. What was to be done? Prompt as a flash of lightning, an idea shot through my brain. She would be le't there in the horrible cold without her luggage! Let her, poor woman, at least have her smaller belongings.

"I gathered up in an armful her three bags and rugs and threw the whole to a man in the uniform of the railway, who was on the line near the carriage.

"For that lady over there,' I cried.

"The man in the uniform carried the articles in the direction of the lady at the bookstall. At the same moment the carriage door on the apposite side, the side next the platform, was opened, and my travelling companion, grumbled at by a station porter, hurried into the carriage, and the train started. Horror! I had mistaken the traveller. The lady at the bookstall was not the right one; the same mantle, same hat, same figure—but not she! It is perfectly absurd how much women resemble one another—the back view of them. I had made a pretty mess of it!

"She had hardly entered the carriage before she uttered a shriek.

"'My parcels! Somehody has stolen my parcels!'

"And, for the first time she turned her eyes on me, with a look—good heavens!
—with a look never to be forgotten.

"'No, Madame,' I stainmered, 'your

"I explained all to her. By Jove! My dear fellow, I can't describe the second look she darted at me; but I assure you, i firmly believe I shall remember it even longer than the first.

"'I am distressed, Madame,' I further stammered 'distressed exceedingly; but the motion was a good one; I thought

short—forgive me, and do not be uneasy in regard to your property, which is in safe hands—a man in uniform. At the next station you can telegraph, we will telegraph—and your things will be immediately sent on Ahl—you shall have them, I vow, even though I have myself to go back to Tonnerre to fetch them.

" Enough, Monsicur: I know what I have to do."

"Stormily she rearranged herself in her corner, tugging pettishly at her gloves.

"But, alas! poor little thing! she had counted without the cold—she no longer had her warm rugs and wraps about her. At the end of ten minutes she began to shiver. It was in vain that e'e tried to huddle herself up, and draw her otter-skin mantle closer to her form; she positively shivered with the cold.

"'Madame,' I said, 'I beg of you, on my knees to accept my rug. You will catch cold—and it will be my fault—and I should never, to the end of my days, forgive myself!'

"'I did not speak to you, Monsieur,' she said sharply.

"I was nervous—excited. In the first place she was charming; in the next place, I was furiously annoyed with myself for the stupid blunder I had made; in short, I found myself in one of those predicaments that call for the taking of strong resolutions.

"' Madame,' I said. 'accept this rug, or



"I THREW THE WHOLE TO A MAN"

that you were going to miss the trainthat you would be cold-and-and I did not wish that you should be cold; in I swear to you I will throw myself out on to the line.

And flinging the rug between her and

me I opened the window and seized the outer handle of the door-lock.

"Was I determined ?-between ourselves.

noticed her! Good heavens! where had my eyes been?

"She spoke simply, amiably, with the



"YOU ARE MAD, MONSIEUR."

not altogether, I think; but it appeared that I had the air of being so, for she instantly cried out:

- ". You are mad. Monsieur, you are mad!"
- "'The rug, or I throw myself out!

She took the covering and in a softened tone said:

- "'But you, Monsieur-you will catch your death of cold."
- "'Do not be uneasy on my account, Madame, I am not in the least chilly—and even if I should feel cold, it will only be a just punishment for my unpardonable stupidity.'
- "'Say your over-hastiness; for, as you have said, your motive was a good one. But how came you to mistake another lady for me?'
- "'Because she appeared to me charming."
- "She smiled. The ice was broken—the ice of conversation, that is to say; for in other respects I was shivering with cold.

"But how quickly I forgot the cold, the journey—everything! She was delicious, exquisite, adorable! She possessed a cultivated mind, keen, gay, original! She loved travel, like mysel!. In literature, in music, in everything, in fact, we had the same tastes! And then, only imagine! we found we had a heap of acquaintances in common; she was intimate with the Saint-Chamas, with the Savenois, above all with the Mountbasons! Only to think that I had perhaps met her twenty times in their drawing-rooms without having

frankness I so much love. A slight, very slight provincial accent, almost imperceptible, a chirp rather, giving to her pronunciation something of the singing of a bird. It was intoxicating!

- "But though I would have given all in the world not to appear cold—great heavens! how cold I was!
- "At Dijon, (2.20) my right foot was half-irozen. We telegraphed to Tonnerre for the articles left behind.
- "At Macon (4.80) it was the turn of my left foot. We received a message from Tonnerre saying that the luggage would arrive at Marseilles the next day.
- "At Lyon-Perranche (5.48) my left hand became insensible; she forgot to demand her sleeping carriage.

- "At Valence (8.8) my right hand followed the example of the left; I learned that she was a widow and childless.
- "At Avignon (9.59) my nose became violet; I fancied she had never wholly loved her first husband.
- "At Marseilles (12.5 a .m.) I sneesed three times violently; she handed me back my rug and said graciously: 'Au revoir.' "'Au revoir!' Oh, I was mad with delight.
- "I spent the night at the Hotel de Noailies—an agitated night, filled with remembrance of her. The next morning when I awoke, I had 'he most shocking cold in the head imaginable.
- "Could I, in such a state, present myself to my friends, the Rombauds? There was no help for it; it was one of the accidents of travel; they must take me as I was, and to-morrow I would go and seek my cure in the sun of Nice.
- "Oh, my friend, what a surprise! That good fellow Rombaud had invited a few friends in my honor, and among them was my charming fellow-traveller! My charmer!
- "When I was presented to her, a smile passed over her lips; I bowed, and asked in a whisper:
 - "'Tonnerre-your parcels?'
- "'I have them,' she replied in the same tone.
- "We sat down to table.
- "'What a cold in the head you have got, my dear fellow!' cried Rombaud, sympathetically; 'where the dence did you pick it up—iu the railway carriage, perhaps?'
- "'Very possibly,' I said, 'but I don't regret it!'
- "Nobody comprehended the sense of this veiled reply; but I felt the tender glance of my fellow-traveller reach me through the odorous steam of a superh tursen of soup majestically posed upon the table.
- "What more have I to tell you? Next day I set off for Nice; a fortnight hence I am to be married."



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A SPRINKLE OF SPICE.

Mrs. Driver—Did you hear what Mrs. Newrich said to me?

Mr. Driver—No; what did she say? Mrs. Driver—She asked me if that was our "cafe au lait" we were driving in?

"Do you think, Schmidt, that your affection for Fraulien Goldstein is recipated?" "I really can't say; I am loving her at present on credit."—Lustige Blatter.

A man with a broken leg is apt to do a good deal of darning while the leg is knitting.

Wife-I've made a fool of myself. Husband-How?

Wife—Here I've carried all the baggage, so that people would not think we were newly married, and all the while my back hair was full of rice.

Among the early spring openings is the fruit vanders mouth.

A BORE IN SOCIETY.

Dear Mr. Antidote:

I was so provoked at a quiet "musicale" a few evenings ago by the ill-manners shown by an amateur pianist that. I expressed my feelings in a remote corner to my friend Mrs. X, whose little gatherings are the admiration of all who are favored with an invitation. Mrs. X informed me that men of that character have been the torment of her existence. Why don't you write about it to the "Antidote?" I asked—"I wish you would do so," replied Mrs. X, and here I am.

One description. Mr. Editor, will serve for all: The amateur is a seeker after invitations, and he is sure to bring his banjo or his violin wherever invited. The lostess who is gifted with unfailing self-possession sciens upon him as soon as he enters and introduces him to Mrs. Blank, who is slightly deaf and asks him to entertain her in the hall or in an anteroom. But all have not the tact and manage ment of Mrs. Y. and the amateur consequently imposes himself on the entire company. He is in a way master of ceremonies; he directs the musicians what to

play or sing, and is always ready to do one or other himself. His banjo or his zither or his violin has a history, or is claimed to have, and when he is not playing upon it himself—after half an hour of picking and scraping—he is not happy if the player of the moment is not testifying to its particular merits, and his gloom is terribly infectious.

The bore sings on tip-toe, especially in the higher notes. All of his songs are of the maudlin, love-lorn, sentimental class; his pinno playing of the kind heard by people who occasionally have to pass late at night along thoroughfares where rents are low, and his banjo and violin playing such as many be heard in places where soap is used chiefly in washing off burnt cork dust.

I hope Mr. Editor that the holding of this little "mirror up to nature" may have the effect of making the Bore see himself as "ithers" see him, and relieve many a one of what is more of a torment than christian patience can endure

Yours in suspense,

MARTIRA

Montreal, March 28, 1898

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