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ARMITAGE'S PROOF

(Continued from Page 3.)

immensely relieved. It was, therefore as an entire stranger she met him and a stranger she found it impossible to dislike. Poor Griffiths had a formidable rival indeed.

As for Armitage, he could with difficulty maintain a calm exterior and not let her see that every nerve was tingling with delicious joy. He drank in her beauty as one drinks who has been long denied. He could never presume upon that hospitable afternoon; his place was not in her gay world. But he paid her that reverence which good men always pay a woman, and which to Miss Veltner seemed so odd and beautifully tender—it was like a glimpse of the knights of olden time. She looked at the tall figure—at his clothes—they were not the style that Walter wore, or Cecil, or even her father; the collar and tie, however, were irreproachable—taste exquisite. His face, yet thin from his recent illness, showed refinement, and the girl new, almost without asking, that a soul lay behind those brown eyes. The rather sad look that settled on his face when in repose, troubled and annoyed her. Perhaps he grieved for his mother—she had heard from Miss Noyette of Mrs. Armitage's death. Whatever his trouble, he certainly appealed strongly to one's sympathies. Miss Veltner was not sorry for the changed dinner plans.

It was a perfectly appointed meal and one relished by both men; but in her attempt at evoking merriment and "drawing out" their young guest, she found him strangely slow to respond, yet never the least bit embarrassed and when she found herself alone, the two men having adjourned to the den where Mr. Veltner conducted all his business meetings, Deborah thought the matter out in her own way.

And because she was alone and because her thoughts would not readily get into shape, she began softly playing on the piano. Ah, but Deborah could play! The touch of an artist was in her slim fingers. James Armitage felt it with the first notes he heard. He listened with keenest delight, for music was a passion with him. That was a part of the soul that lay in his brown eyes though Miss Veltner was unable to see it. He enjoyed the home like evening with Beethoven and Schubert so sweetly interpreted by that girl who made the music steal into his very heart. A veritable witch was she, with her tender mischievous face and fingers. Through the open door he watched and listened for Mr. Veltner had closed the ledger over one hand, and also paused to enjoy his daughter's musical treat. It was seldom she would play for guests, as her father well knew, but no doubt she was less rigid for their clerk, who had few such pleasures. That was why business halted while she played on and on. It was late before Mr. Veltner finished with his clerk. Deborah heard her father give some final instructions as the door was opened and both men came from the office; she heard, too, the calm voice of Mr. Armitage, assuring his employer that he would not fail to act on the morrow.

"Remember, I depend upon you, Armitage," said Mr. Veltner, rather anxiously, thought the girl. "The work is ticklish, but I believe you are equal to it—and I trust you."

"Thank you! I hope to prove that trust not misplaced; you are most good to retain my in your service. Good-night, Mr. Veltner—and Miss Veltner," added he, for Deborah had rushed impetuously forward to bid him farewell.

She rather liked his unique calmness, even while marveling at it. He was very different from the men of her acquaintance; she found herself interested in him.

"Do come again!" graciously urged the girl. "Some evening when time hangs heavy for you and there is no business with father," smiling at the elder man as she spoke, "but letting her eyes rest on Mr. Armitage."

That invitation was really a big concession for Deborah; few were so favored, though Mr. Armitage did not know that. He only felt that he must not presume.

(Concluded Next Week.)

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CANADIAN WOMEN.

A Spirited and Broad-Viewed Defense Against Mrs. Staples' Impatience.

An article in a recent number of The Nineteenth Century, by Mrs. Staples, suggests the necessity, of at least the desirability, of inducing upper-class women of England to emigrate to Canada, for the purpose, as far as the writer can make out, of importing sweetness and light, and civilization generally, into our cruder Canadian homes, or, as the article has it, "to foster the aesthetic side of life, that the nation that is to be may be greater in mind, as well as famous for prowess in sport and war." Now, putting aside the absurd implication that Canadian enterprise is limited to "prowess in sport and war," this is a rather unkind. Considering the undeniable fact that the public school system of Canada is one of the finest in the world, and turns out an infinitely more broadly-trained boy or girl than any board school and most of the private schools in this country, it does not seem to me that England could undertake to supply Canada with any better variety of sweetness and light than is evolved here.

Mrs. Staples remarks, in a slightly disparaging way, that colonial life is in the effort to meet the material demands of our western civilization "the softer qualities which make up the sum total of the charming person are likely to be eradicated." I have two portraits in my mind's eye, one of an English gentlewoman, according to the foregoing definition, possessed of quite as much education as they supply women with over here, who runs her household of two with five incompetent servants of the usual English type; the other of a bright university educated Canadian girl, who can cook and make her own pretty gowns as well as she reads French and German. Neither of these is an exceptional type in my least. Canada does not want "charming women" and "women of birth and breeding" of the English type. Her own possesses a high-spirited honor, an active and well-balanced mind, in comparison to which the other is insipid mediocrity.

As for criticizing the ultra-practical life of the west, one has only to live over here to realize how much broader our American civilization is. It does not exist for merely a few rich, who live in idleness and luxury. They are surrounded here by everything that this older civilization can give them in the way of culture, and, in addition, a servile servant class to stand between them and the actual strife of existence. In America the race is open to everyone, without other restriction than nature herself has made, and the fewer old-world artificialities Canadians import the better for them. It is true, civilization in America, especially that in the west, rests upon a more primitive basis than is the case here, and that mere birth and breeding, in the English sense of the phrase, count for very little in a land where all, professional man and laborer alike, must work for a living, and rightly so. It is true that the society class in our country is neither large nor influential enough to fix that petty, artificial standard of morality known as good manners. But as a matter of fact, the native practicality of our people as a whole is practically an unknown quantity here. It is scarcely necessary to give the well worn example of the almost universal kindly consideration of women by Canadian men.

When Mrs. Staples talks of the necessity of educating women for pioneer life she is right, but she had better stay at home and preach that doctrine to the "Little Englanders." What Canadian women need to learn in that direction their own necessities and common sense will teach them. Canada does not need to import Government-bolstered "gentlewomen" from England for that purpose. Native Canadians with an ancestry of the sturdy Puritans who left their homes in old England for the sake of their religious opinions, and again left their homes in the New England colonies at the time of the American revolution, these sons and daughters of United Empire Loyalists have no need to go begging to England for birth and breeding. Canadians have the best possible, for their national purposes, at least, in fighting blood, and this aforesaid "ultra-practical mind," whose workings (though this is at present more particularly the case with the United States, perhaps), the average British business man has only too good reason for deploring, as his antiquated methods of doing business are being superseded too rapidly for comfort in not a few respects.

Australia and South Africa can have the "lady pioneer," as Mrs. Staples names her, if they want her, but Canadian women are good enough for Canada.—Rubina Preston, London, Ont., in Toronto Globe.

A Mistake Often Made.

The technical work of newspaper life—the printing, the news-gathering, the relative value of news, and chief of all, its presentation in a form interesting to the public—can never be properly mastered without actual experience. A university man can make no greater error than to assume that his superior education will enable him to dispense with the details and carry him over the drudgery. If he deems himself a born journalist, he is probably a born fool.—A. H. U. Colquhoun in Printer and Publisher.

Special Excursion Rates

Via the Chicago and North Western Railway to Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Salt Lake, Hot Springs and Deadwood, South Dakota, during June, July and August. A splendid opportunity is offered for an enjoyable vacation trip. Several fine trains via the North-Western line daily. Full information and illustrated pamphlets can be obtained from B. H. Bennett, General Agent, 2 King Street East, Toronto, Ont., 24-4.

FORCE OF GENTLENESS.

Seldom Cultivated and Yet It Nearly Always Wins Success.

There is a force in this world that nearly always wins, and is seldom cultivated. Good and bad, high and low, the big and little, are all impressed when they meet it. It is the force of gentleness.

Gentleness I mean politeness, geniality, and the glad hand. Gentleness is superior to good looks in every way, and is far more unerring in actual result, and is far more unerring in money never phases, because it is irresistible.

For the gentle man I prophesy a happy life and a large funeral. But the gentleness need not lack firmness. There is a home in this city where a parent rules, but it is the rule of gentleness, and the rod is high up in the cupboard and very dusty.

Sit down and think of your friends who are the real winners, the men who are going up still higher. They are affable they have mastered the art of smiling at the right person at the right time. They are polite, gentle. "Do you know who I am?" shouted a pompous man at the doorkeeper in a crowded mass meeting held in Toronto about a month ago, writes Charlie Churner in The Toronto Star.

"I don't care a cuss if you are the King of England, I've got orders to let no one else in here to-night," retorted the man at the latch.

"Can you squeeze a fellow in, old man, I'll be awful obliged to you if you can?" Another person gave the doorkeeper a nice little talk, the door opened, and he was on the inside.

And that is not the only door that gentleness has ever opened.

It all depends which way you stroke the cat whether she sings or scratches.

Politeness will win where a title will fail, will carry a man through where a college degree would sink into insignificance.

There is a hotel in Toronto where several bartenders are nearly always busy, and one spot in this bar is particularly crowded. There is no better liquor there, there is no more change coming, but the curly-headed chap who attends to this section has a smile and the glad hand for all his customers.

It does not make any difference whether it is in a bar-room or a drawing room, hearts are hearts, and the spirit of gentleness will win.

In a city in the United States a young man received a message to be taken to a coal baron. The message was to be delivered personally, and an answer received at once.

"You can't get in that room, give me the note." That's what the man at the enquiry wicket said.

"Excuse me, I wish you would make an exception this time, and allow me to hand the note to the gentleman himself; those are my orders."

He said it nicely and got in. Inside, he took off his hat, stood unasked to be seated, said "Yes, sir," "No, sir," and impressed the coal man with his manner.

"Who is your messenger?" was the foot-note on the sealed answer.

The note was to a friend, and the baron found out who the messenger was, and to-day he is confidential man, getting nearly \$3,000 per year.

"Excuse me, I wish you would make an exception." "Yes, sir," "No, sir."

Now that did not cost much, but it netted three thousand a year ultimately. Gentleness gives big profits. There are few things as large as little things. Coal barons aren't the only people who are looking for men who impress them. They are needed everywhere. Instead of looking for positions, positions are looking for them.

"My father is related to a lord." That is what a friend of mine used to tell me at least once a week. Well, his father could not help that. Rank has got no corner on politeness.

Washington one day was met by a passing negro, who took off his hat, and the father of his country returned the salute. His friend accompanying remonstrated that so great a man as he should salute a negro, and Washington replied: "Would you have the President of your country outdone in politeness by a poor negro?"

There is a telephone girl in a certain office exchange in this city who always seems happy, and is always polite, and when I speak on her line I ring off satisfied, no matter whether I have to wait for the number or not.

"Here, boss, take this seat." A man with a dinner pail stood up in a Belt Line car last night and let an old man sit down, and this only proves that you don't need to wear a silk tile or kid gloves and patent leathers to serve up the genuine article.

Binder Twine, 1902.

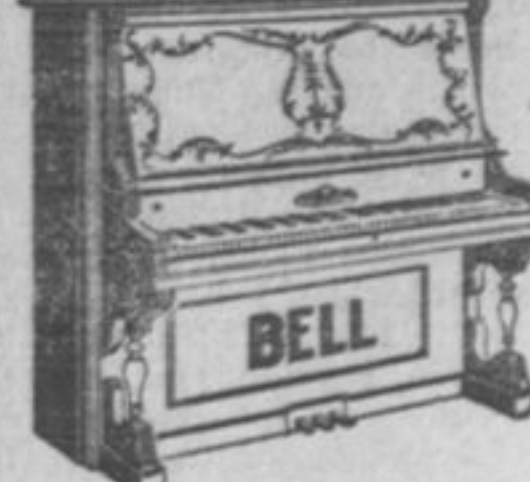
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