WHERE PRAIRIE BREEZES BLOW.

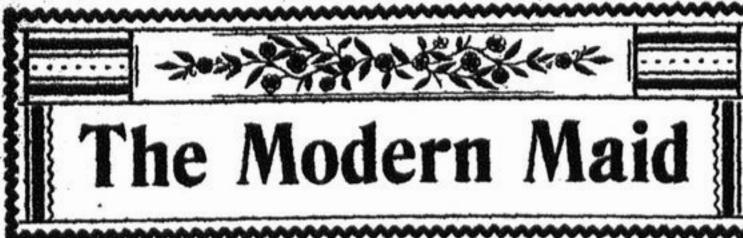
scent of the sage comes drifting down on the breath of a prairie

the plains where the bunch-grass ripples brown, like the waves of the and the dear sweet smell of the billside pines and the cottonwoods that grow the canyons deep, comes home to me when the west winds gently blow.

I can see the bulk of a milling herd in the rainclouds massing black (My the angry breath of the storm wind stirred) and riders on its track; I can bear the rush of a mad stampede when the lightnings flash and grow, and wild hoofs beating the prairie sod, when the stirring west winds blow.

the feel of a braided rein and the plunge of a prairie steed, And the brave, true hearts that the open plains and the windswept mountains

Oh, for the days on the long divides and nights by the camp fire's glow, Hard on the trait of the herds that roam where the prairie breezes blow. -The Bohemian.



to the fortunate class that revel in the of Mrs. Garstin's warning, I let mypossession of a houseboat on the river, self go, After all, I had youth on my a moor in Scotland, a house in Park | side; and who knew what the future Lane, electric landaulettes, and other held? And again, whatever sensible good things. I was staying with an people with well-regulated minds may impecunious friend, who earns a pre- say, these things are not to be conearious living as a writer of songs, trolled by any agency of the will. and to whom, like myself, the joys of | And Norah encouraged me. After ried to a charming woman, who adored given me a warning, Dolly Garstin left him and was quite unaware of the me, as she cheerily put it, to go to percolossal selfishness of which he had been guilty in asking her to share his think she enjoyed the annoyance that poverty. I am very fond of Bob Dacres, but the more I see of his household the more I wonder how he could have exchanged his irresponsible back clorhood, bow she could have given up solld comfort, if not luxury, to throw in their lot with each other.

He takes a brief annual holiday on the Thames every summer, and they generally put me up at their cottage. How I long for that holiday! Through "lap, lap" of water. The burning pavements, the dust, the glare disappear. and I dream of trees and grass and shade.

for me. Of course it was a woman, In fact, as in fiction, it is always a Woman.

The first time I saw Miss North Des mond she was lying in a punt, reading s novel. It was an exquisite day, Gold sunshine, blue sky, running water, and green woods made an adorable world. and to me the most adorable thing in this adorable world seemed the lady in the punt. I have wondered in the pasi at writers' (old and new) descriptions of prefly women; they partook to me so extraordinarily of the ideal to be non-recognizable; but when I new North Desmond all I have ever read or heard seemed inadequate to express her loveliness. She was dark haired and white skinned, with a lon lithe body of exquisite grace, and pair of the bluest and anddest eyes have ever seen. She nearly discoverme staring at her, for, without wars ing, she flung her book down as if bored her utterly, and seized her pair

A pretty woman punting is very hanto beat, and my beauty appeared morexquisite than ever. I looked at her and wished that auything would hap pen that would lead to an introduction They managed these things better i nedlaeral days. Given the presence of the knight, the lady inevitably hoist ed signals of distress. But this lovely indy punted away from me with appar ently no use for a rescuer.

I was about to turn away when shrill feminine roice halled me. "Oh. Mr. Graham, how pleased I am to see rou! You are the very person I wanted to meet. (Dolly Garstin is always in dire need of you if she happens to met you. She satutely manages to convey a flattering impression that she has been looking for you, and would have been dreadfully disappointed if she had not found you.) "I heard you dallied. were in these parts. You must come us up. Come to Innch to-I can't wait now." (She always in an awfel burry.) "But ron might walk some of the war with me.

I am always delighted to walk any way and all the way with Mrs. Gar etin, who is entertaining and very pleas. ant to the eye, and I accepted her invitation with alacrity.

"I will introduce you to Miss Desmond-our latest beauty. Dark hair, blue eyes, dead-white skin, and very mit and slight and boneless ... I mean to my not bony. Very rare that. Most slight women are so angular. But she te a gem. I wonder if you have seen her. She is punting slone," added Mrs. Carstin with a curious inflection in "Mr. Clayton wanted to accompany her, but she was firm. She might to marry him," she concluded.

"for her only asset are her looks." "and I should like to marry her my-

"You!" she shricked; "what on, may but as for the butter!" Then she feat. But there, come to lunch and for although Norah looks so poetical shall see her, Mrs. Clayton, yet."

I am very fond of Dolly Garstin, but pose to Miss Desmond. there are times when she seems to me lacking in consideration towards peo- tion to annoy him led me to form this the less well endowed with this world's amiable resolve; and yet, as I looked good things than herself. I said good- at the woman walking at my side, by to her with marked coldness, which, wondered at my temerity. She was to my chagrin, was obviously unno- made to sit among the great ones of ticed. Mrs. Garstin has one superb the earth; to enjoy the best it could tet. She is a magnificent hostess. In offer; to walk only in the resestrewn her vicinity people are never dull; nev. paths. All these things I would win ar advertise their private dislikes, and for her in time; but I wanted to go Clayton, an opulent individual from I tried to comfort myself by remem-

-----I met her on the river. She was mond, who looked still more divine staying with the Garstins, who belong than she done the day before. In spite

> dition my own way. Personally, I Mr. Clayton was at no pains to couceal, although he showed that he considered me a rival beneath contempt.

Further, when my friends went back to London, Mrs. Garstin, who likes making people happy, asked me to come and stay on her houseboat. What living man would have declined such an | ty me. invitation? So all through those unforgotten golden days we lounged away the perfect hours, and slowly but surethe growt of the traffic I hear the cool by my belief grew that Norah was for

Why else her interest in my future; | forbore, her gentle looks; the tender luflections of her voice? No doubt she was also But now the river is a little spoiled kind to Clayton, but that I ascribed to her goodness of heart. How could she care for a pompous, red-faced individual some twenty years her senior? No amount of diamonds or motors could render him tolerable.

> Norah, herself, I learned, was entiredependent on a rich sunt, who had given out in the plainest language that



rive her a handmane sum, but that she married a poor man she must exsect nothing. The personal equation, ar all know, is everything. I quite for got how often I had wondered how the Dacres could have married each other. and particularly how Bob Decres could have exchanged his irresponsible backeforbood for the cares attendant on impecunious matrimony. Every day I determined to propose. I was not afraid of Clayton, but I thought it was as well to be first in the field; get every day prudence counselled patience, and

Then, one evening, when the work ooked like fairyland, with the moon ight glimmering on the water and the night breeze sobbing in the rushes, determined to risk all. Whether the metic environment also stimulated layton I do not know, but he clung persistently to Norah, disregarding all

my efforts to get rid of him. At last Mrs. Garstin came to the res cue, but with an expression on her face that preant, I could see, that she thought I was doing a very foolish thing. But, any way, she managed to nonopolize Clayton, and I persuaded Norsh to come for a stroll with me

along the river bank. The night ought to have inspired the veriest dullard, but my agitation was such that I could find no words to which to express myself, and Norsh of fered me no assistance. I was in the middle of my second attempt when I "I have seen her," I said gravely, heard steps behind me, and, turning, beheld the large and portly person of

Mr. Clayton. Impervious to my annihilating glance sak? You might supply the bread, he joined us, utterly frustrating the purpose for which I had tempted Norsh laughed outright. "And even the bread out. Fortunatery, my rage rendered me would be very limited in quantity, I inarticulate, and we walked along in a silence broken only by Clayton's inanitry your luck. I am not afraid of you, ties. I had no doubt that he had guessed my purpose and determined to the is modern through and through. I thwart it; and I, in my turn, resolved to circumvent all his endeavors to pro-

Less fear of the result than inteninerally show, at their best. Even Mr. to her with my hands full of offerings. show prosperity exuded at every pore, bering how slightingly she had spoken a less Mr. Clayton in her presence. | of wealth and what wealth brings; but e rest of the party were unremark. I derived more comfort from studying with the exception of Mean Des- Clayton's physiognomy. Surely no

man would sell herself to that, what

ever price he was prepared to pay. From this date an unseemly struggle ensued between us. Neither he nor L would allow the other to enjoy a tetea-tete with Miss Desmond. The weather remained exquisite; every day and all day there was yellow sunlight glimmering like a golden veil over the weter and woods, and every day and all day Clayton and I, to the immense diversion of the rest of the party, quarreled over Norab.

She was remarkably just in her dealings towards us, and balanced her favors with extraordinary fairness. She allowed me to dedicate a book of verses to her; to balance this she accepted an exquisite etching of Frank East's from Clayton, who had heard her admire his work and had promptly availed himself of the opportunity it offered. She played my accompaniments with a sympathetic touch that argued a heart that beat in unison with mise; but she remembered all Clayton's favorite songs, and sang them to him every evening, accompanying herself on a mandolin. Lovely she looked doing it. Day by day Clayton and I fell more violently in love with her, and were barely civil to each other.

Then, one day, things came to a c max. He, by a strategic move that I had not anticipated, got rid of me and proposed to her-or rather half proposed to her, for I interrupted amorous declaration. Unaware of my proximity. I heard him say: "You can have no feeling for that young brute from Fleet street. Marry me . .

He didn't finish, for with magnificent self-control I appeared in impromptu fashion, and for once, losing his head, be walked off, trembling with rage and leaving me in full possession of the

There was not a moment to be los so I proposed. I pointed out to her that she could not be thinking seriously of that gross brute, and so on. . . If she would only marry me she should be happy as the day was long. . . Incited by my love for her, heaven knew I could attain any and all ambitions . . . if she only would mar-

think it over. Norsh Desmond could never bear to say "No" to anyone. longed to ask her if she had told Clayton that she would think it over, but | lng !"-Fliegende Blatter.

Next morning Miss Desmond received a telegram recalling her to London. Clayton and I kept such a jealous guard on each other that neither of us my her alone before her departure, | ago."-Chlcago Record-Herald. but I am still convinced that her sweetest untle was for me. We were both determined to follow her, and both were determined that the other should not travel alone.

At this critical period Mrs. Garatin, with a very fair attempt at a blush, intervened, "Poor dear Norah," she told me in the strictest confidence (abe had, t transpired later, made the same conidence to Clayton, whose language on receiving it was from Mrs. Garstin's account, sulphuric), "Poor dear Norsh a er-er-going to marry Sir Charles posing to her in the spring, but he and so on. But Norab's ruse has quite succeeded. She assumed the indifferent pose. Hearing that two men were prepared to give their heads to marry her. he got frightened and realized that he might lose her. A thing seems so much more precious when you are certain of getting it," added Mrs. Garstin profoundly. "And I hope it will comfort you to feel that you have brought him up to the scratch-I mean to say, have been instrumental in insuring Norah's inopiness. A dear girl, if perhaps a little modern in her methoda."

"Perhaps a little modern," I smented dryly.-Philadelphia Telegraph.

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISONS.

Compared with Foreign Lands. It is only by comparison that some hings can be understood, and this is particularly true of divisions of earth's surface. Every one has pretty clear idea of the size of his own State or county, or even of the whole area of the United States. By comparing other countries and seas with those that are familiar to us on the map, a very much clearer notion of them is arrived at.

Greece is about the size of Vermont. Palestine is about one-fourth the size of New York.

Hindustan is more than a hundred times sa large as Pajestine. The Great Desert of Africa has near-

ly the present dimensions of the United | tion, The Red Sea would reach from

Washington to Colorado, and it is three times as wide as Lake Ontario. The English Channel is nearly

large as Lake Superior. The Mediterranean Sea, if placed across North America, would make sea navigation from San Diego to Baiti-

The Campian Sea would stretch from New York to St. Augustine, and is as wide as from New York to Rochester. will be considerable, you know." "Nevsize of Hindustan, one-twelfth of er?" "Not a blamed thing."-Phila-China, and one-twenty-fifth of the Uni- delphia Ledger. ted States.

The Gulf of Mexico is about ten times the size of Lake Superior, and about as large as the Sea of Kamachatka, Ray of Bengal, China Sea, Okhotsk or Japan Sea; Lake Ontario would go in each of them more than fifty times. The following bodies of water are about the same size: German Ocean,

Black Sea, Yellow Sea; Hudson Bay is rather larger. The Baltic, Adriatic, Persian Gulf, and Aegean Sea, half as large, and somewhat larger than Lake Onto the Boy.

"Don't you think," suggested the of friend of the family, "that you would do well to keep a watch on your son?" "Impossible!" replied young Galley's father, "It wouldn't be long before he'd exchange it for a pawn ticket."-Phile delphia Press.



The feller thet's allus tellin' what wonderful woman his wife is gener ally has t' emoke in th' kitchen,-Abe

City Man-Has your wife a good cook now? Suburbanite-I don't know; have not been home since morning. -Pioneer Press.

"Yes, I'm going abroad at once. gotta go." "Ob, you mustn't let the doctors scare you." "I got this from a lawyer."-Washington Herald.

Sillicus-When would you say that man reaches the age of discretion? Cynicus-When he realizes that be is too old to marry,-Philadelphia Rec-

Maude-When you refused him my hand, papa, did he get down on his knees? Pater-Well, I didn't notice fust where he fell.-New York Evening Mail.

She-He has a most extraordinary figure, hasn't he? He-That's so. believe an umbrella is about the only thing he can buy ready made.-Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday,

"Tompkins is having an awful time with his new auto." "In what way?" Every time be repairs it he has a lot of parts left over that he can't find a place for."-Milwaukee Sentinel.

Magistrate-What! Do you mean to say your busbaud struck you, and be that physical wreck? Mrs. Maloney- \$2.00. Yes, yer honor; but he's only been a physical wreck since he struck me,-

ing down? Second Tourist-I'm mak- in before our supply is exhausted. ing a note of a few things that have made an indelible impression upon my only as a means of advertising and inmemory, so I shan't forget them.--Chi- troducing our goods. cago Journal.

"I can't spare the money very well, is forgotten. She temporized, and said she would but I'll gladly loan it to you if you promise not to keep it too long." "I solemnly swear that I'll spend every penny of it before to-morrow morn-

"I guess they've caught that wife murderer." "Anything in the papers about it?" "No; but I saw several women with big bunches of flowers burrying toward the jail a little while

Husband-I wish I had some of those good, old-fashioned biscuits like mother used to make for me. Wife-And I wish I had some of those nice old-fashioned clothes like father used to buy for me.-Chleago News.

Hicks-Your friend Marryat tells me he's got his wife pretty thoroughly trained now. Wicks-Yes, he's got her trained so that he can make her do pretty nearly anything she wants to do.-Catholic Standard and Times. Young Husband-When my wife be-

having company every day: tiresome didn't. He has been so much run after relatives, colleagues, so-called friends, that he has become a little straid of Gradually they all dropped off, and being married for his money and title, then we engaged a good cook. - Fliegende Blatter. Bromson-My wife writes to me erery few days from the mountains for

gan to do her own cooking we were

more money. Woodson-Well, I gave my wife all the money I had before she went away, and now I have to write to her when I want some .--Harper's Weekly. "Why, Mary," said her mistress, "I

told you to tidy up my room an bour ago, and here it is in terrible disorder." "Yes, mum, And I did," said Mary, "but the master came in to put on a clean collar, mum, and he lost the stad,"-London Tatler,

"If you do not take care of your money," said the ant to the grasshopper, "the world will simply sneer and Various Divisions of United States ask you what you did with it." "Yes; and if I invest it and become rich the world will speer and ask me where got it."-Washington Star.

Mr. Justcott-Why, what are you crying about, dear? Mrs. Justcott-Oh, George! The mice have got into the pantry and eaten up a beautiful custard pie I made myself! Mr. Justcott-There, there! Don't ery over a few little mice,-Cleveland Leader.

"He's a great growler, isn't he?" "Hurricane is nothin' to him." "Finds fault with everything?" "Worst rou ever saw." "By the by-what is he doing now?" "Editing the Band of Hope' and 'Sanshine' department of a new magazine!"--Atlanta Constitu-

They were celebrating their engage ment by dining at a swell cafe. "Do rou believe," she queried, "that man is really made of dust?" "Well," he rejoined, glaucing at the dinner check, "he wouldn't be able to travel far in your company if he wasn't."-Chicago

"Well, what have you found out? The private detective hesitated. "Do you want to know the worst?" he saked. warningly. "Go ahead." "My bill Great Britain is about two-thirds the er mind that. What did you discor-

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"Your life, barring accidents, will be very lengthy if you have slow growth. coarse bair, a rough skin, deep wrinkles in the forehead, firm flesh, a large mouth, wide nostrile, strong teeth set close together, and a hard grisly ear."

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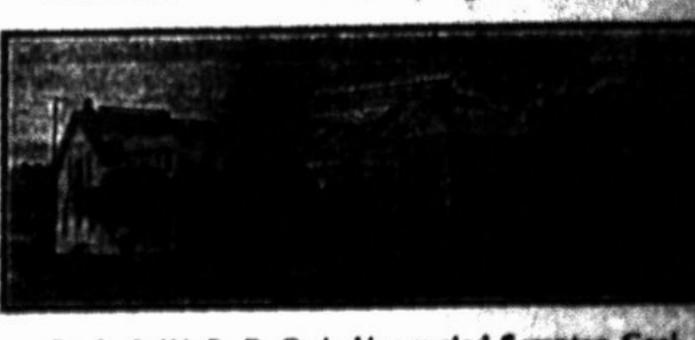
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