Between Cousins;

OR, A DECLARATION OF WAR.

CHAPTER VI.—(Cont'd.)

"By this time I take it that your duty is clear to you. Your conscience will insist upon your coming to the rescue of two forlorn women, dumped down upon a brand-new soil, and not knowing the difference between a factor and a gillie. I've never maintained that you're a genius, but brought up to the business, as you've been, I can't see how you can help having some crumbs of wisdom over upon which I may feed. I say, Ronnie, did you ever expect to see me reigning as a Highland chieftainess? I guess not, else you'd have treated me with more respect in the days of your visits to Nettleton, when you actually expected me to carry your worm-bag for you, and sometimes even your rod. I'm awfully sorry of course, for poor Henry Gordon, into whose shoes I have stepped; but my recollection of him is really too faint to make a plausible pretext for heart-break. And now I've a bird to pluck with you, my cousin! What on earth do you mean, sir, by being so badly supplied with imagination? Whenever I've asked you for a description of your native land, you've never found anything more satisfactory to say than that there's a lot of heather and stones and water, and that the cottages are smaller and dirtier than in England! It this male blindness, or male perversity? One or the other it must be. I'm just drunk with it all: the peaks, the glens, the rocks, the gulls, the tumbling waters, the long, serious faces, the red-haired children—everything, everything! Mamma evidently fears for my head, for she watches me with a slightly scandalised anxiety. I keep telling her that a perfectly decorous behaviour, such as suits the stately lawns of Nettleton, would be utterly out of keeping with these hillsides—artistically incompatible—but she doesn't seem to see it, poor dear! I'm so busy swallowing local color that I'm sometimes in danger of choking upon it. That's another reason why your presence is needed; you've got to rub it down for me a bit, and then administer it in spoonfuls. See? I'm taking my position very serious, you perceive, and doing my best to live up to the chieftainess. I mean to have a piper to walk up and down before the dining-room windows (by-the-by, perhaps you can procure me one? Must be at least six feet, mind, and red hair de rigueur)—and I'm trying to screw up my courage to buy a tartan frock, only that, entre nous, I haven't done making up my mind which of the patterns is the least ugly. I read nothing but Scott and Burns now-a-days, and—this is the crown—I've taken to eat porridge for breakfast! So far, my impression it that it belongs to the so-called acquired tastes. No matter! I just mean to acquire it. Whenever the idea insinuates itself that stick-fast paste can't be much different in flavor, I crush down the suggestion, and nobly go on ladling in the spoonfuls. I'd wear a kilt if mamma would let me, even though I haven't seen one since I came here—the one blot of disappointment upon the picture.

"Yes; I'm going to sit down here. The drop of Scotch blood in my veins demands it too loudly to be refused. Nettleton must take care of itself. My solicitors say it will let well.

"And now, let the next sign from you be a wire. There's a delightful Burial Island visible from the windows, which I'm dying to visit; but I'll put it off till you're here to row me over, as I'm sure the exericse is good for you. It's all bristling with gravestones, and there's something that looks like a ruined chapel in the middle.

"That's all for to-day; and please hurry up unless you want mamma and me to sink entirely under the burdens laid upon us.—Your affectionate cousin,

"Mable Atterton.

"P.S.—I mean to ask lots of questions about your place; it's an easy way of assimilating instruction. What fun it will be comparing the sizes of our deer-forests, and counting the number of our crofts!"

Two days after the above letter, addressed to "Ronald Macgilvray, Esq., Rockshiel, Barres," had been taken over in the boat to the Ardloch post office, three people sat together in the airy Balladrochit drawing-room, whose windows almost directly overlooked the loch.

The house itself, standing between mountain and water, seemed, when viewed from a distance, to be hard-pressed by both. That distant prospect was pretty desolate; the bare hill-side, with scanty patches of fir and no visible paths, and the big, grey house, set down at the water's edge, and with barely a thin belt of wind-blown plantation to shield its nakedness. There was nothing in its aspect which suggested cosy rooms, roaring fires, well-set-out tea-tables, and punctual dinner-gongs, in which things, nevertheless, Balladrochit abounded, each item gaining in intensity by contrast to the bleak surroundings.

Round such a tea-table as has been referred to, the three persons just entering on the scene of this story were assembled.

Of the trio one was an elderly and dignified-looking person with luxuriant grey hair, wonderfully and fearfully waved, and with considerable remains of good looks. There was rather too much of her by this time; but the growing stoutness, if not concealed, had at any rate been successfully dealth with by Lady Atterton's dressmaker. If the mother of the Balladrochit heiress looked like a governess at all, it could only be the most superior sort on the market—that type which is never mentioned without the added epithet of "finishing." To watch Lady Atterton's movements was to enjoy a lesson in deportment, gratis; to listen to her speech, to feel rebuked for slipshod language.

The heiress herself, big, well-grown, with a large supply of somewhat coarse but very effective brown hair, and the bloom of perfect health on cheeks and lips, came within measurable distance of being likewise a beauty. It was impossible to deny her claims on admiration, while, at the same time, it was equally impossible for several classes of people to admire her; sensitive or nervous people, for instance, who objected to a rather loud voice slightly inclined to "rattle," or to a too ringing and frequent, though bell-clear laugh; or limp and indolent people, who were apt to find her aggressive robustness, both of mind and body, a trifle overpowering; precise and pedantic people too, who took exception to her somewhat random modes of expression. How so precise a person as Lady Atterton came to have so casual a daughter as Mabel was a mystery which only the laws of natural reaction could explain.

Just now as, tea-pot in hand, she held forth to Donald upon his future duties, her mother could not help keeping an apprehensive eye upon the heavily-wrought silver article, with which Mabel found it convenient to emphasise her points. One small splash had already alighted upon the embroidered tea-cloth, closely shaving the pale-brown gown over whose immaculacy Lady Atterton, from the undying force of habit, watched as tenderly as in the days when she had possessed only one "best."

(To be continued.)

HAIL BRITANNIA!

What if old England
Were to die to-night?
The wolves would gather round her bier,
To-morrow they would slaver here.
The Bulgar, Turk send forth a cheer,
If England died to-night.

The Kaiser's sword would hack its way
From Kiel to Colon and Bombay,
And darkness enshroud the dawning day,
If England died to-night.

Democracy, where would it be?
Tossed on a wild, unguarded sea,
The sport of evil destiny,
If England died to-night.

Brave France and Allies, what their fate?
And we, alas, prepared so late?
Where could you find a saviour State
If England died to-night.

What of the little peoples then?
What of their liberties and when?
Where would we find the conquering men,
If England died to-night.

What of the aims of German peace?
When would the horrors of war cease?
When from the victors come release,
If England died to-night.

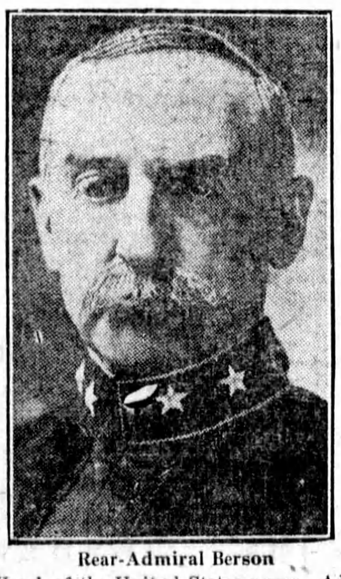
Think of the panic and the fears,
The brutal deaths, the endless tears,
The world fall back a thousand years,
If England died to-night.

Why, if our England
Were to die to-night,
Her children true would meet the test
And, gathering from the east and west
For freedom, they would give their best,
If England died to-night.

—J. Levering Jones, in Philadelphia Ledger.

Vegetables and fruits often are stored in quantities in hot, damp, poorly ventilated bins and under conditions which hasten wilting, fermentation and decay.

It is to be hoped that no apples will be allowed to rot under the trees this year. Call in the neighbors and pare and dry them and share with the workers or make the apples into cider and feed the poorest to the hogs in limited quantities.



Rear-Admiral Berson

Head of the United States navy. Admiral Berson before attaining his high rank was recognized as one of the most efficient men in the navy. He was appointed ranking officer and president of the General Board of the Navy at the death of Admiral George Dewey. He also retains his former duties as chief of naval operations.

RAILWAY POLICY IS CRITICISED

Acquisition of Canadian Northern Imposes Burden of Unknown Magnitude.

The following criticism of the policy of the Government in respect of the Canadian Northern Railway is made:

The Government bill to authorize the purchase by it of the capital stock of the Canadian Northern Railway is half-way through the House of Commons and will shortly be in the Senate. If it becomes law, it will impose on Canada, at a time when the country is under an unprecedented strain, a burden of unknown magnitude. One certainly greater than any ever before imposed upon this country, with the exception of the war debt.

The purchase of a defined piece of railway property is one thing. The buying of stock in a company with unascertained assets and unknown liabilities is another. Once the Government becomes the principal owner of the common stock, it must provide out of loans or taxes for all the debts of the railway due or to become due and for all future losses in operating. The estimates of expenditure still necessary to be made run into enormous figures. No one knows what the real extent of its obligations are. The railway has bonds outstanding and debts unpaid; so have its subsidiaries. There are guarantees given by it to other companies, unpaid balances on contracts and upon accounts, but to what extent is unknown. What its assets are is equally unknown. It operates and is interested in railway companies, land companies, telegraph companies, tunnel companies, lumber companies and hotel companies, but no one knows how far it owns them, what their assets or liabilities are, nor to what extent the railway company is responsible for their liabilities.

No other railway company nor any other group of business men would consider such an acquisition except after elaborate examination and reports from accountants and appraisers on the assets and liabilities, and then only subject to a solvent guarantee that all supposed assets would be delivered and that no undisclosed debts or obligations would appear. To find out these things, where such examination and guarantee cannot be had, the usual course in the United States has been to place the road in the hands of a receiver, whose staff can ascertain them and place them before those interested in an accurate and clear statement. Systems quite as large, notably the Union Pacific, the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe and the Rock Island, have in the United States been through this process and have emerged from it with capital written down to correspond to the actual values, in a solvent condition and able to perform their duties as public servants.

The only examination so far had into the affairs of the Canadian Northern has resulted in the opinion of two out of three railway experts that the stock proposed to be purchased was worth nothing. This means that whatever its nominal value may be, the unsecured debts are more than enough to prevent its being sold to any reasonably prudent purchaser. In view of the fact that no money was paid to the company for the stock and that the company has never been able to earn anything upon it, there was and is no reason to expect any other result from examination.

No agreement or obligation to purchase is produced. In fact, nothing has transpired except verbally and then between members of the Government not named and persons whose names are not disclosed. In fact what is to be paid, who is to get paid for it, what the cost and the attendant obligations are, no one knows. The smallest transaction in common life could not be concluded in such a way, and any attempt to do it by trustees responsible to a court would unquestionably be a breach of trust, and this is the largest and most onerous undertaking ever contemplated by any Canadian Government, and the most risky. It is safe to say that no road capitalized above its earning power can ever be a useful public servant, nor can any road bought by a Government for more than its worth ever be anything but a continuous drain on the tax payer.

The Canadian Northern Railway was built as a private speculation. Its bonds were sold to financiers at a discount. No money was received into its treasury for its stock. Nothing has been made public which would justify the taxing of other citizens of this country for the purpose of giving fictitious value to these bonds and stocks. The interest and other charges on Canada due to the war increase every day and even now are so great that it is difficult to say from what source they can be paid without an economic strain never hitherto undergone and a cutting down of expenses not yet even begun.

The credit of the country abroad is less than it has ever been. The last loan of $100,000,000 at 6 per cent. for two years netted only $96,111,111. In other words, the country is borrowing money at a charge of more than 8 per cent. per annum. Note.—According to the Monetary Times of August 17th, Sir Thomas White stated the net proceeds to be $96,250,000, not $96,111,111, and that the commissions and charges were 1¾ per cent. He was speaking of a two-year 5 per cent. loan. The cost would be 8 per cent. if the 1¾ per cent. comes out of the $96,250,000, but not otherwise. Its future credit may depend entirely on the belief of foreign bankers that good money will not be sent after bad, and that speculative enterprises will be allowed to find the financial level called for by their intrinsic merits.

The undersigned, all of whom as investors have a stake in the prosperity of this country, desire to call the attention of their fellow-countrymen to the grave risk they all are running of having their own earnings diverted for the purpose of securing profits to bondholders and stockholders of a concern, the equity in whose enterprise has been declared by the only people at all in a position to form an opinion to be of no value. It is also urged that the strongest possible protests be made before it is too late to all senators and members of Parliament.

Montreal, August 20, 1917.

F. W. Molson, James Law, H. R. Drummond, Geo. E. Drummond, Armand Chaput, Ferd. Prudhomme, Zeph. Hebert, A. J. Brown, C. S. Garland, H. A. Ekers, Chas. Chaput, A. Guy Ross, Joseph Ainey, C. Meredith, C. S. Campbell, W. R. Miller, George Caverhill, Wm. McMaster, H. W. Blackwell, Andrew J. Dawes, Robert Hampson, George R. Hooper, George W. Sadler, W. W. Hutchison, Wm. C. Finley, F. H. Wilson, G. F. Benson, A. Craddock Simpson, James Morgan.

The Gazette, Montreal, of August 23rd, comments on the above as follows:

THE RAILWAY POLICY.

We print in another column a protest against the purchase of the Canadian Northern Railway signed by many of the leading capitalists of Montreal, and this protest is not lightly to be disregarded. The point at issue is this, is the country to take over a burden that other shoulders should bear? Will the ownership of the Canadian Northern impose upon the people a financial obligation avoidable without danger to national interests? If the Government was divorced from the enterprise, the answer is easy. Like any other business undertaking the property should stew in its own juice, and undergo the course of liquidation through receivership, emerging therefrom in stronger condition in respect of liabilities both of current and of capital account. That appears to be the view of the financiers whose statement we print, and there is force in the view.

The Canadian Northern must be carried on as an operating road. It serves a great territory and a large community of people whose welfare is dependent upon the operation of this railway, but having exhausted its financial resources the alternative of Government ownership by acquisition of the common stock, or through the medium of a receivership, is the only one presented.

To Government ownership we are opposed. A reorganization of the capital liabilities, through the medium of receivership, is the other recourse. The liability of Canada in either event remains, the Government and the provinces having guaranteed the great sum of $211,000,000 of bonds of the company. It is, however, necessary to learn the extent of the liability taken over by Canada in the bill now before Parliament. What assets are acquired? What obligations incurred? If there be a margin on the debit side of the account, if Canada is assuming a debt over and above existing guarantees, the public may not unreasonably ask why. The railway is a fine property with excellent prospects, but after all is said, it is a business venture which should be allowed to face the consequences of all business ventures. One thing is certain; the country should not be saddled with any avoidable liability. The debt created by the war is already large, and constantly increasing. New sources of taxation have to be tapped. The outlook is by no means bright in respect of the Dominion finances and before the additional obligation of taking over the Canadian Northern Railway is incurred, it is necessary at the least that we should know precisely what is being purchased in the way of asset, and what is being incurred in the way of liability.

About the House

DOMESTIC SCIENCE AT HOME

Eighth Lesson (Continued).—Proteins.

Methods of cooking milk, fish, cereals, peas, beans and lentils are given this week. The protein of milk is in the form of casein, which precipitates when acid is added to the milk, as in the combination of tomatoes and milk.

When milk becomes sour the sugar content of the milk changes to acid. This acid will also cause the milk to precipitate. Casein is also clotted by ferments or digestive juices which are present in the stomach.

Milk may be heated to the scalding point, using a double boiler. Slow cooking at a temperature just below the boiling point will give better results when cooking foods that contain milk. When combining milk with acid fruits or vegetables, if a quarter teaspoonful of baking soda is added to the fruit or vegetable to neutralize the acid, the milk will not separate. This amount is for one pint of milk, or you may blend one tablespoonful butter, one tablespoonful flour, two cupfuls milk. Cook until boiling is reached. Now slowly add the fruit or vegetable. Bring to the scalding point and use. When cooking puddings and custards always stand the dish or pan containing the mixture in a larger pan containing hot water, then bake in a moderate oven.

Fish

The protein of fish is similar in character to that of meat. It differs in structure and composition. Fish may be cooked by boiling, broiling, baking, sauteing or frying. A steady, even heat is required and an allowance of twenty minutes to the pound after cooking starts may be considered a fair time allowance. Owing to the delicate texture of fish, always wrap the fish in a piece of cheese cloth to broil.

Use a double-fold wire broiler when broiling; also lay the fish on a fine wire rack when baking. This permits easy removal from the pot, fire or pan and makes the appearance of the fish much better when served.

Cereal

The length of time required for cooking cereals depends entirely upon the amount of cellulose the cereals contain. Steel-cut oatmeal will require much longer time than the flaked oats, which are first crushed and then steamed.

Hominy will require longer to cook than cornmeal. Long, slow and continuous cooking is the proper method for cooking all cereals.

Legumes

Fresh peas and beans are cooked in boiling water, boiling gently, so that the vegetable will not break or become mussy. Use barely enough water to cover.

Dried peas, beans and lentils should be soaked first in plenty of cold water for twelve hours. They should then be steamed until tender. They may also be boiled gently.

Lentils are very nutritious, easy to digest and are considered a valuable article of diet in Europe.

Rice a Valuable Food.

Food experts are urging a wider use of cereals, and suggest that they may appear in some form at every meal. With a high food value and no waste, the housewife should learn how to cook them properly and serve them so that their use does not become monotonous.

Rice should be more appreciated than it is, for it can be served in so many ways. Polished rice is of less value as a food than that which is unpolished, because in the polishing the vitamines, which are an essential life principle, are ground off. The latter also has the advantage of being less expensive. Rice cooked thus should look like a mound of snow.

Wash the rice well through one or two cold waters, then sprinkle it into a kettle of slightly salted boiling water which should not stop boiling at all for twenty minutes. No two grains should adhere together, and each ought to be swollen to twice its natural size. When it is soft turn out into a colander, shake it up lightly and set in the oven a moment to dry. Stewed tomatoes added to the water in which the rice was boiled will, if properly seasoned, make a delicious soup. Cold boiled rice added to scrambled eggs will piece out that dish so that two eggs will serve several people. The housewife will find that rice may be added to many dishes, increasing their bulk and reducing their cost.

Trench Cake.

One-half cupful of shortening, one cupful of sugar, one cupful of water, one-half cupful of raisins, chopped fine. Place in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Cook for two minutes and then add: Three-quarters teaspoonful of baking soda, one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-quarter teaspoonful of cloves, one-quarter teaspoonful of mace, two tablespoonfuls of cocoa, two cupfuls of flour. Beat well until cool and then add two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Pour into a greased and floured pan. Smooth the top of the cake with a knife dipped in water. Cover the top of the cake with the following mixture: Four tablespoonfuls of sugar, eight tablespoonfuls of flour, four tablespoonfuls of shortening, one teaspoonful of cinnamon. Work the mixture between the hands until it is fine and crumbly. Spread smoothly over the cake and then bake for forty minutes in a moderate oven. This delicious cake is just the thing to send to the men in the trenches as it keeps indefinitely.

JAPAN AS A FIGHTER.

Surrender and the White Flag Have No Place in Army and Navy.

The Japanese soldier never surrenders. "Die with the castle for your pillow" is a literal translation of the precept kept constantly before the Mikado's little fighting men. While the beligerent nations of Europe today have about four million prisoners of war distributed among them, the Japanese prides himself on the fact that in the war with China in 1894 not a single Jap was taken prisoner. In the war with Russia about 1000 Japs were taken prisoners by the Muscovites, but they were mostly civilians. The Jap soldier or sailor who surrenders and later returns from captivity has no further place in the society of Nippon. He is an outcast, forever condemned to shame and isolation in his own country. In a siege the Jap garrison hangs on until every last man is killed or wounded. The spirit that dominates the Jap army and navy is that of contempt for death. "United we stand; together we die," is their motto.

Japan at the present moment has more than 2,500,000 trained soldiers—all of this caliber—ready on the trigger for action. They have 300 transports ready to hurry forward their army wherever duty calls. Her normal peace strength is an army of a million and a half soldiers, and she has an unorganized available force of more than eight million men. Every man in the Land of the Mikado is a potential soldier, drilled and schooled in athletics and military maneuvers from youth, lithe and wiry little chaps of the jujutsu brand seen in our vaudeville theatres.

Her navy is one of the strongest in the world. Japan ranks among the first four nations in this respect, standing up with Great Britain, the United States and Germany. And while the English and German fleets have been suffering losses during the three years of the world war, Japan has been vying with the United States in rushing to completion a vast naval shipbuilding program. As with the Jap army man, so the navy man never runs up the white flag, but fights until his ship is sunk or victorious.

Freesias.

Plant freesias in August and September in pots for winter flowering. The bulbs are inexpensive and the flowers are delightfully fragrant. Pot three bulbs in a five inch pot. The soil should be leaf mould and loam with a little sharp sand. Such soil as florists use from a compost heap is the best. Set the pots in a sheltered place in the garden and cover the tops with spaghnum moss until the foliage appears. Plant every two week for a succession of bloom.

Roses will be benefited by a good showering with the hose after a hot day.

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E. A. A. GRANGE, V.S., M.Sc., Principal