FOOLISH FRANCESCA

By Olive Wadsley

For the benefit of many of our readers we are continuing the story which ended with Chapter XVI. in our issue of October 21st.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Count Leon's Decision

"The cheap platitude which asserts that love comes only once in a human being's life is proved, as generally that type of cheap remark has to be proved, by some single outstanding exception—some deathless love which survives ignominy, anguish, or death and still lives supreme.

"Many women would loudly proclaim that their love for their husbands was of the deathless variety; but since that love is often merely a question of frictional companionship, after the first roses and raptures are over, their assertion is hardly one to count.

"In history some famous and unhappy lovers stand out as an illuminating radiance to light the path of love and show by that radiance the pitfalls and the thorns upon the way."

Francesca, curled up in a big chair, her feet tucked beneath her, both elbows planted on the arm of the chair, and her face bent over the book, read the last sentence aloud. It was a French book, and, though she often thought in French, she unconsciously was translating the quotation to herself.

She frowned until her thin, pencilled eyebrows met in a straight line above her eyes.

"I suppose," she said aloud, "it means that the only sort of love which lasts is the kind that will endure anything, give up anything and all that; I suppose that's it."

She stared before her, still thinking, her face propped on her hands.

The stove glowed redly behind its screen; the room was very still. A faint scent came from the pots of early white lilac.

Francesca rose; she looked no bigger, but infinitely better somehow.

She was still very tender, but the slenderness was no longer painful to see, and her face was delicately white, with that whiteness which comes from a beautiful skin and perfect health. She went to the piano, and, striking a note, held it with her voice.

It was high F, and the sound in the room was exactly as though a very clear silver bell had chimed once.

"Oh, well," she said, leaving the piano, "to-morrow will see."

She sat down on the big fur rug and took up the black cat in her arms.

"To-morrow off we go, Balzac," she said, rubbing her face against his soft, smooth head; "off we go to glory, or so we hope. Carmen, mon ami; nothing less if you please for your pal Frankie. Carmen, and with lots of devil in it, too.

"Heaven send I don't get an attack of the jim-jams, Balzac; Carmen attacked by fear would be a pretty sight! But I won't be; I mean to be a success. I won't be beaten."

She hugged Balzac till he breathed quite stertorously.

"Oh, Balzac," she said, springing up and letting him bump jerkily onto the rug, "I want to live—I do so want to live, and the gates of life are beginning to open! After to-morrow, as soon as I know if I'm a success, then things will begin to happen. Carissima (a name invented for Mme. Schubert Kain) during the last month has been a diva fifteen years now, and she's lived! Mon Dieu, I should think so!"

The door opened and Mme. Kain came in, resplendent in an immaculate suit of sables. She wore a small black velvet hat with a huge white osprey in it. Behind her, like a train of cavaliers, three men followed.

Frankie knew them all: little Von Clere from the embassy, M. de Sourne, the amateur pianist, and Raoul Valous, the musical critic on the Figaro.

"All alone, Bebe?" Mme. Kain asked. "Dreaming of to-morrow?"

"Wanting it to come?" Valous asked, his blue eyes very wide open, his face alert, alive.

Frankie nodded, "Yes, longing."

"The English are a brave race!" Von Clere said. "And a new Carmen! Think of beginning to create such a role, and to attempt it at the opening of a career."

"Ach, doubter," Mme. Kain said laughngly. "Regard the child; look well! Is she not Carmen, I ask it? That smallness, these big, dark eyes, that queer hair? Wait, my friend, till you hear her sing the 'Chanson Boheme'; then you can voice your opinion and not till then—"

"I saw Leon Savinge in the Capucines to-day," Valous cut in.

Mme. Kain glanced for a second at Frankie and saw the scarlet color flame up her face.

"So? and why is he back?"

"He said for the premiere to-morrow night."

"He's a wonderful creature, your friend Savinge," Von Clere said; "like a half-tamed panther, or one of his own native bears perhaps. But fascinating, I hear. They say the Princess Lavonska would have given anything to marry him."

"Leon's not the marrying sort," Valous chuckled; "not much, mon ami. He's wedded, too, already to his aeroplane and his wander yacht and his shooting lodge."

"The woman who marries him will have a lover in a thousand," Mme. Kain said with startling suddenness.

"And no soul to call her own," Valous amended as he turned around. "Have you ever seen Leon, Mlle. Frankie?"

Frankie could have laughed at the notion!

Seen Leon, indeed! She had greater knowledge of him than that! His last frantic interview with her four months ago wasn't the sort of affar to be forgotten easily!

"I have met Count Savinge," she said icily.

"Ah, so you do know Leon, Mlle. Frankie," De Sourne broke in, in his cool voice. "What do you think of him?"

He watched her closely. He was Leon's friend, and he had heard of Frankie.

"I think he is like the bear of M. Valous's description," Frankie said.

"He's a bear who might be taught to dance to certain music," De Sourne drawled on. "Perhaps Carmen would enchain him!"

Frankie flushed again. She wanted to forget Savinge, for he had humiliated and enraged her each of the two times they had met.

"So he is coming to hear the real Carmen to-morrow?" Mme. Kain asked. She broke in deliberately. She, too, had heard of Leon from Frankie and she did not wish for any outside interference in that affair. Her own mind was made up on the subject, and she did not mean to have Frankie's tranquility disturbed that evening.

"All the world is coming to the opera house to-morrow night," De Sourne answered; "and Leon is, even though he is a bear, rather a lion in his world as well, after all."

"He's a whole menagerie of unpleasantness," Frankie flashed uncontrolably. Then she turned stiffly from the tea table, and, addressing Valous over her shoulder, asked him to come to the piano and listen to a certain note in her voice. He followed her and they stood together, ignoring the others, at the piano.

The door openeo and Savinge came in with his swft, lithe tread. He bent over Mme. Kain's hand and kissed it, greeted de Sourne and Von Clere, and flung himself into a chair.

His face, despite his extreme good looks, appeared tired and worn; his eyes had the hard, rather shining appearance that comes from sleepless nights. He must have seen Francesca as he came in, but pretended he did not.

He twisted half round in his chair and surveyed her leisurely with his languid, almost insolent, stare.

He did not rise to greet her even when she turned and, with an obvious start, noticed his appearance for the first time.

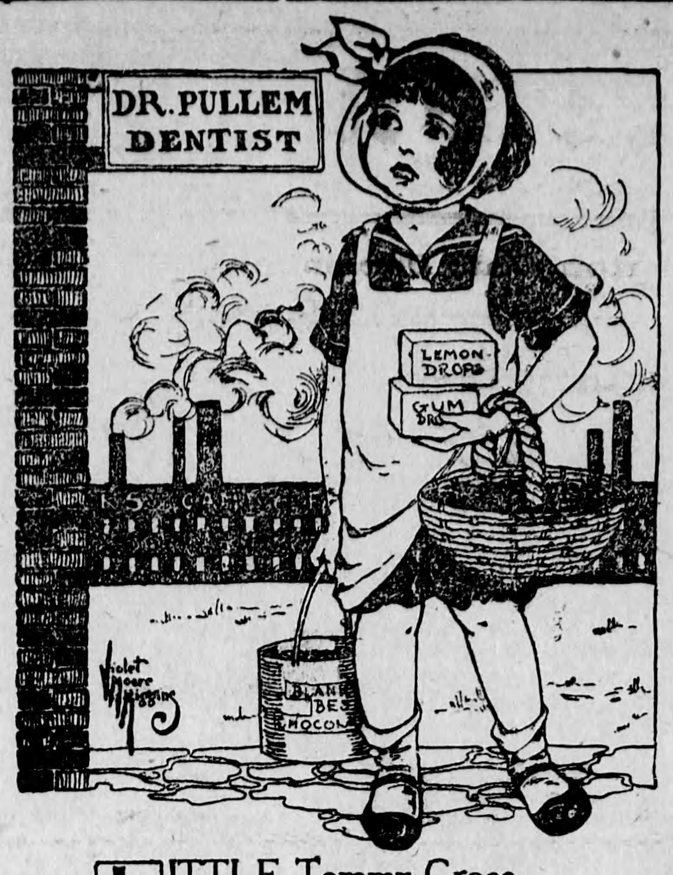
Neither of them spoke; each looked hard at one another. It was Francesca who turned away and, with some trivial remark, walked down the room to the door. She was obliged to pass near Leon's sofa.

De Sourne and Valous were at the door, holding it open.

Von Clere was busy making Russian tea; only Mme. Kain saw Frankie's deliberate cut direct and Savinge's twisted smile. When she had left the room he bent forward quite deliberately and laid his hand on Mme. Kain's.

"I shall either marry that girl within a month or go out to the Balkans," he said. "I have a chance offered me there."

(To be continued)



LITTLE Tommy Grace
Had a pain in the face,
And he knew he ought to go to the dentist;
But how could he ever dare,
Tell he'd nibbled at the ware
Of the candy man to whom he was apprenticed.

Find the dentist and the candy man. Upper right corner down, in smoke; right side down, on trousers.

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Whether you shoot ducks over the decoys or the pass, jumping or wading, the call is very essential. Yet of the great number of men who shoot few are able to call well or with judgment. It is not necessary to cultivate many different calls. Two or three are enough.

For the inland water fowl, mallard widgeon, teal, grayduck, spoon-bill, wood duck, black duck, and all non-diving ducks, the mallard and teal call is sufficient. In fact, the mallard call alone is usually enough for all non-diving ducks.

For diving or deep-water ducks, the blue-bill call will answer, although if one also has at command the purring call of the red head, it will greatly help in the day's sport. In shooting over ordinary waters where sport is to be had at red heads and the others respond readily to the blue-bill or broad-bill call.

Sound travels a long way in a still marsh. When the call is loud the mallard, black duck and widgeon detect easily the fraud in calls; therefore, moderate your voice in a marsh. Oftentimes these wary birds, after coming into a marsh in response to your call, will settle among your decoys; or they may alight outside of gun range and study the decoys to satisfy themselves of their being all right. If not disturbed they will then slowly move towards the decoys, feeding and chuckling as they swim.

Minard's Liniment For Garget In Cows.

DETECTION BY HEAT RADIATION

During the war an attempt was made to detect men moving in No Man's Land by recording the heat radiated from their bodies. The receiver for this purpose was a thermopile at the focus of a 14-inch parabolic mirror, and connected to a D'Arsonval balvanometer. It was found that with this sensitive apparatus the presence of a man could be detected at a distance of 600 feet, and the device appears to have proved very useful for detecting hostile raiding parties creeping towards the trenches by night. It is also suggested that the method might be made the basis of a short-range form of secret signaling.

Minard's Liniment For Diphtheria.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By Elinor Murray

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SLEEPLESSNESS

The nurse who is in charge has it in her power to make life easy or miserable for both mother and baby. From the first the baby shoul dbe taught to sleep in his own basket without rocking, walking or patting. He should be left alone sleeping in a quiet room except at his regular meal times, when he is wakened and kept awake long enough to finish his meal, then he is changed and made comfortable and put back again in his bed.

There are several causes of sleeplessness. One is bad training, as I have already hinted. The baby is disturbed for the benefit of every visitor or for the return of any member of the family. When he opens his mouth to cry for the purpose of exercising his lungs somebody rushes to him and takes him up and walks around with him, showing him "pretty things" or else sits down and rocks him until he feels seasick. The consequence is he becomes excited, the blood rushes to his head, and it is impossible for him to sleep again for some time. Babies who are to sleep well and be free from nervousness must be handled as little as possible; but what handling is done in the care of a baby causes him to be wakeful. Do everything for him on schedule time and he will become as methodical as you could wish.

Too much or too little food will cause a baby to be wakeful and restless. Feeding a baby during the night is perhaps the best way to prepare him and yourself for years of sleeplessness. Nothing could be worse for mother and baby than frequent night nursing. It ruins the baby's digestion and the mother's health.

If a baby seems really unable to sleep through hunger, the mother should not make the mistake of increasing the number of feedings, but should have her milk examined. Milk may be plentiful, but too poor in quality to give proper nourishment. The bottle fed baby is not likely to wake with hunger. His trouble may be overfeeding. The food is given too often, or is too strong, or is too much; gas forms in the stomach and intestines and makes the child very uncomfortable. If the mother thinks he is hungry and feeds him, it only adds fuel to the flames. The more he cries, the more he is fed; and the more he eats the more he cries. Proper regulation of this baby's food will make him sleep well.

Older children are wakeful often because of too much supper, improperly masticated and digested.

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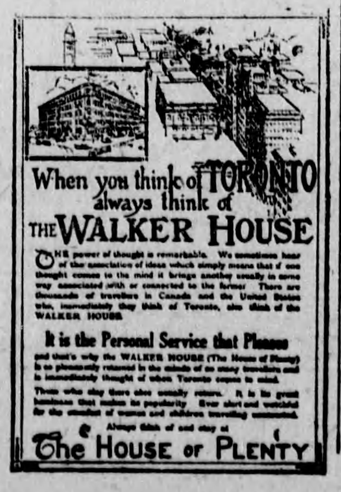

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5,000 OUT OF WORK

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GETTING COAL FROM CHINA

Indications that China will soon begin to realize some of the benefits of its large deposits of coal are contained in the statement that the Danish State Railways have just ordered 10,000 tons of coal from that country. Only a short time ago announcement was made of the forthcoming delivery of 100,000 tons of Chinese coal to Marseilles. China's coal deposits are known to be very great, and with practically all of Europe in need of supplies it would not be surprising if a considerable trade was developed within the next few years. One of the greatest needs of the industrialized countries of the world to-day is an adequate supply of fuel, and while England and the United States may be able to meet this demand for a short time to come it is only a question of time before China's resources will be called upon.

Minard's Liniment For Colds, Etc.

STRUCTURAL STEEL AND FIRES

Some interesting figures relating to the behavior of structural steel at the high temperature of ordinary fires have been given by the United States Bureau of Standards. Naturally the strength of steel at high temperatures has a very important bearing upon the stability of a structure which may be subjected to fire. Without any protective covering, steel columns fail after only ten or fifteen minutes of exposure to temperatures such as are reached in ordinary fires. Resistence can be greatly increased by the use of coverings of brick, concrete plaster, tile, etc., to such an extent that columns so protected are unaffected after several hours' exposure to intense heat.

Tests have been made to determine the compression strength of specimens of structural steel when heated in an electric furnace to temperatures corresponding to dull-red heat (1,000 deg. F.) and loaded up to 20,000 pounds per square inch. It was found that structural steel loaded to 10,000 pounds per square inch falls at about 1,075 deg. F., and under a load of 20,000 popnds per square inch failure occurs at about 925 deg. F. For practical considerations, however, the limit of utility may be regarded as reached at temperatures of about 130 deg. F. below those given above.

A LIVE SPONGE

As usually seen, the prepared bath-sponge resembles nothing so much as a number of holes of varying depth and diameter linked together by a fibrous framework. In the living state, supported upon this framework, the fibres of which are strengthened with more or less flinty or limy particles, is a gelatinous matter consisting of an immense number of simple animal cells—the really living portion of the colony. When lifted from the water this substance, of the consistency of the white of an egg, runs freely from the sponge; the simply-constructed organisms, each being capable of independent existence and movement, gliding easily through the water by extension and contraction of its very plastic substance. The Bahamas hold the record for the largest sponge ever taken. This giant sponge, when alive, weighed ninety pounds, and twelve pounds, when dried and cleaned of extraneous matter.

Minard's Liniment For Distemper.

A Woman Likes To Be Admired, No Matter How Old She May Be

Nature undoubtedly made woman to be admired, and man to admire her. No woman ever gets so old that she doesn't want admiration, and no man ever gets beyond admiring her. Good looks in woman do not depend upon age, but upon health. A woman's health depends more upon the distinctly feminine organism than upon anything else. Between that organism and her beauty there is the closest connection. You never see a good-looking woman who is weak, run-down, irritable, out of sorts, fidgety and nervous. Headaches, backaches, dragging-down and troubles of that sort are all destroyers of beauty. Men do not admire sickness.

It is within the reach of every woman to be well, healthy and strong if she will take Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is the safest woman's tonic because it is made entirely of roots and herbs, without alcohol. (Ingredients on label.) It is fifty years old, and its age testifies to its goodness. A medicine that has made sick women well for half a century is surely good to take. Women from every part of Canada testify to its merits.

Send ten cents to Doctor Pierce's Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., for a trial package and confidential medical advice.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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A CURIOUS VESSEL

A curious type of tanker was launched at Aransas Pass, Texas, in August. The Durham is 298 feet long, 33 feet 9 inches beam and 21 feet 10 inches deep, and carries 14,000 barrels of oil. The hull is of reinforced concrete, cylindrical in shape, and built in 30-foot sections. Each section consists of two interlocking sylinders, with connecting plates forming the keel and deck, and was cast in vertical position by using sliding forms. Bow and stern are of the ordinary ship form.

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Lord Inchcape's fund for King George's Sanatorium, associated with the Seamen's Hospital Society, now amounts to £74,464.

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