

Middle-Western City Life Again

"BEING RESPECTABLE"

By Grace H. Flandrau
Publisher: Harcourt, Brace & Co.
\$2.00

Deborah, flapper daughter of wealthy old Darius Carpenter, scoffs at the endless round of gossipy parties which enthrall her Babbittized half-brother Charles and her Mrs. Grundyized half-sister Louisa. Denied a real education and repressed by a loving family which exalts being respectable, Deborah, who chafes under the double handicap of lacking a conforming mind and a pretty face, sets about to woo and win Steven O'Connell, a radically-inclined self-centered youngster.

But she encounters complications. Steven, as the luck of a realistic novel's heroine would have it, catches a glimpse of Valeria Winship, whose lily-white skin and trim ankles have already brought about a pathetic break between impressionable Charles Carpenter and his prim, faithful wife Suzanne. To complicate matters further, Philip Denby, henpecked almost beyond recognition by his oppressively proper wife Louisa, strikes up an intimacy with a woman of the masses.

As an analytical story emphasizing the sordidness and emptiness of high-society life in a middle-western city, this book is a little masterpiece. While the author's method, based on ample recent precedent, is to pile drab detail upon detail to stress her theme, this unfolding of the catalogue of life's pettinesses is not obtrusive, and the characters are not projected as caricatures. The tale is told with a light, sure touch, and it is remarkably interesting.

H. Beach Carpenter.

"THE POINTED TOWER"

By Vance Thompson.
Publisher: The Bobbs-Merrill Co.
\$2.00

The mysterious crime and its solution by a clever detective is a type of story that has a special fascination for the highly intelligent reader. However they differed in other respects. Roosevelt and Wilson were one in their love of a good detective story. We can assure our readers that "The Pointed Tower" will completely satisfy them. The story is of absorbing interest, is built up with amazing ingenuity, every incident has a direct bearing on the final solution, and the suspense and uncertainty is sustained perfectly to the very end. It is all so human, so natural, so possible. The characters are all clear cut, but as you close the book you will feel a special glow of admiration for Monsieur Guelpa and his scientific method of discovering just who killed Count re Granlieu.

Louis Tracy has written other good detective stories but none more gripping than "The Pelham Affair."

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Manhattan Photographed

"THE ISLAND OF THE INNOCENT" By Grant Overton
Publisher: George H. Doran Co. \$2.00
Poor Dace! If o'er Manhattan Isle
There roamed good fellows—royal
princes—

She knew them not. It seemed her lot
To meet the saddest limes and
quinces:

Dick Marron, weak; Chris Nicholl,
prig;
Ex-convict Norman, seldom dope-
less;

And for good measure Harry Bragg,
A mama's boy, self-centered, hope-
less.

With Dace, the reader's overjoyed
When she becomes engaged to Floyd.

A stirring tale, unerring tale:

Manhattan's here in panorama,
Her crudities and strength revealed
In skillfully unfolded drama.
With style that's hurried, sketchy,
brisk,

With shifting scene and changing
topic,

The author shows old Gotham town,
Teeming, sprawling, kaleidoscopic—
And a glimpse amid the din and whirl
Of the romance of a man and girl.
Reuben Peterson, Jr.

Copyright 1923, Howard H. Seward.

BUYS WINNETKA HOME

C. Leon Barritt of Wilmette has
purchased the Arthur F. Sterrett residence at 277 Poplar street, Winnetka.
W. G. Stacey and company negotiated
the sale though their Wilmette office.

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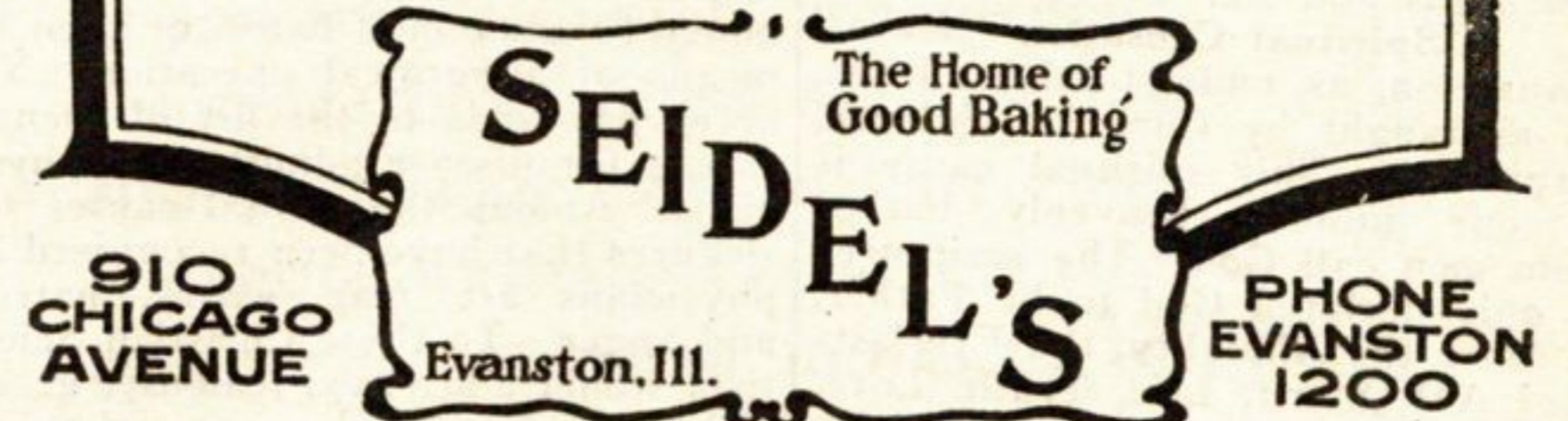


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