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IF I COULD KNOW!

If I could know, oh, me! if I could know
That the time
Of one brief moment, in the long ago,
You gave me place
Above all other women in your heart,
It would not be so hard from you to part.

If I could know you had me dearer yet
Than any one,
And that you remember would quite forget
The bright days gone,
I would be more content, and courage gain
In time, perhaps, to live down all the pain.

If I could know you had regret today
To see me turn
Away from you and go my weary way,
Then I would learn
To find, perhaps, some comfort in the thought,
So full of saddest consolation fraught.

If I could know that at some future time
We two should meet
And linger for a moment side by side
In converse sweet,
I would not count this parting as I do,
For hope would trim the light of love in you.

If I could know that when this life is over,
In that bright land
Where all is peace, our souls should meet once more,
And understand
Each other better than in days gone by,
I would be more than satisfied to die.
—E. C. Longmire in New Orleans Picayune.

It Stopped the Fainting.

A story of "fainting beauties" is told in the memoirs of the Rev. Julian Young, subchaplain of Hampton Court palace. One very hot Sunday a young lady, not a resident of the palace, but living in the vicinity, fainted in the chapel during the service. Sir Horace Seymour, a widower, a Waterloo hero, of commanding presence and strikingly good looks, raised the prostrate lady in his arms, carried her to his apartments, deposited her on a sofa, left her to the charge of his housekeeper and returned to his seat. Strange to say, on the following Sundays a young lady, each time a different one, fainted, and on each occasion the same gallant knight performed the same kind office for the sufferer and then returned to his pew.

On the last of those three fainting Sundays Lady Seymour, the aunt of Sir Horace, said to the chaplain after service: "I say, Mr. Young, this fashion of fainting will degenerate into an epidemic if it is not put a stop to. With your permission, I will affix before next Sunday this notice in the cloister, at the door of entrance: 'Whereas, a tendency to faint is becoming a prevalent infirmity among young ladies frequenting this chapel, notice is hereby given that, for the future, ladies so affected will not be carried out by Sir Horace Seymour, but by Brancombe, the footman.'" This warning produced the desired effect, and the plague of fainting beauties was staid.

The Married Belle's Influence.

A woman who has great influence over young men is the young married woman who has been a belle among them and who still has them calling at her home. She is the one who knows what they really are, and if she is a good woman she can do a wonderful amount of good to these young men who admire her and prize her friendship, knowing they cannot keep it unless worthy of it.

Her happiness and her husband's prove the best of object lessons. And what sweet praise it is to her to hear that one of these young men has remarked, "Mrs. Youngwife is a superb woman, she keeps us straight and does us every so much good." It is the sweetest bit of compliment a woman could desire; just as it is the keenest anguish to have the same one we love has done wrong for our sake, or that we have led him to wrongdoing. And from that, dear women, let us all pray to be saved.—Philadelphia Music and Drama.

The Oregon Boot.

A decided novelty in footwear is the "Oregon boot," so called, with one of which a train robber who arrived in St. Louis was manacled. The boot weighed 18½ pounds, and a detective spent fifteen minutes in opening the combination by which it was secured to the prisoner's foot. Thus hobbled there would seem to be a small chance for a malefactor to effect his flight from custody unless he should somehow learn the combination. Practically he might as well be anchored to a fireproof safe.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Smuggling a Painting Out of Italy.

If a usually well informed correspondent is correct, this is how the famous picture of Cesar Borgia, sold for 600,000 francs to the Rothschild family by Prince Borghese, was sent out of Rome. A coating of wax was laid over the famous Caesar, and an artist painted the portrait of Pope Leo XIII on the wax. It was then dispatched to its Parisian destination, the coating of wax carefully peeled off, and the famous Caesar now ornaments the Rothschild's great gallery of masterpieces.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Babies Afraid of Black Clothes.

At sight of a strange person, object or animal a baby will cry. Anything black will produce more disturbance in the mind of a baby than anything white. A child refusing to go to a relative in dark clothes would not hesitate if the suit were changed to a light color, with a white, red or blue necktie.—Ladp.

Accustomed to Irish Bugs.

One Irish judge elector, Mr. Foster, of Dublin, was used to Irish bugs. He was so cool that he had been known, when begged and goaded from his hill a bird with his right barrel, another with his left, and then throw his gun for a friend to catch.—"Forty-five Years of Sport."

The demand for willow wood for artificial legs has grown immensely in recent years. The fussy men on the stags talk glibly of cork legs, but light willow limbs are more popular.

A New York woman photographs odd people in odd situations. She picks up subjects on the streets or anywhere and pays them to sit for her. She sells the photographs to artists.

Beautiful Maltese Women.

The Maltese women are among the prettiest of their sex, both as to their physical attractiveness and wholesomeness of manner and character. They are as a rule more petite than those of Italy and Spain, but are very perfect as models of proportion and natural grace. Their carriage is superb. They possess an assurance which is never boldness, with a modesty unknown of with prudery. Their feet, hands and head are very small. Their faces are rather than oval; their eyes and mouth are large and expressive, and there is an upward, crescentic curve of mouth and lack in their face that is very winsome—at least to men.

They are not generally intellectual, but, before still, they are remarkably homogeneous and are like birds of song in all the domestic joys. They make early, loving mothers at fourteen and grandmothers at thirty, when they are still youthful and charming. During the reign of the knights quite an aristocracy of wealth and nobility for an island so soon sent population upon up in the islands, which continues to this day, and the Maltese women of this class are types of the greatest beauty and elegance.

As the sons of the middle and lower classes are noted for quality, cloth, frugality and many other excellent characteristics built in the crucibling alloy of Maltese blood and sorrows, and to know this and of their affections, two hundred and nineteen lines and ways to so find in every expression of Maltese female loveliness so added and lasting charm.—Malta Letter.

Her Rules of Conduct.

The following "rules of conduct" fell out of a little woman's pocketbook the other day and she allowed me to copy them. She is a belle in the small city where she lives, and has a host of admirers around her.

I don't let a man smoke when he walks or drives with me. If he knows no better than to do it, I promptly tell him what I think of it.

I don't give my photograph to men I meet occasionally, but I am wise now I should have by and by to know that my face might be hanging up in Tom, Dick or Harry's room.

I don't let a man take my arm when he walks with me. If he does I tell him that I prefer him to give me his arm.

I don't go out with a man friend just because he asks me. I like it better if he asks another lady to go too—his sister, for instance.

I don't let any man "see me home" from church. If he hasn't gumption enough to take me home and go through the service with me he may stay away altogether.

I don't let a man friend give me presents unless it is something of trifling cost, like fruit or flowers. And I always arrange it so he can't do this respect.

I do not encourage any young man who is not perfectly polite and agreeable to his mother. When my mother tells me he is a good deal of bar.

I don't allow a caller to stay later than 10 o'clock. If he does not go of that time I politely tell him my custom.—New York Recorder.

City Girls in the Metropolis.

One cannot help noticing in passing through Broadway or Fifth avenue, or when attending the opera or the theatres, that the metropolis has never known so many beautiful women as at present. I stood in the windows of a Fifth avenue clubhouse the other day and saw the procession file by for an hour or more. It was bewildering, inspiring.

But these were not all New York women, although the dames of the city are fair enough in good earth. In the shopping neighborhood and on the promenades now you will see women from Boston, from Chicago, from Philadelphia, from St. Louis, from New Orleans and San Francisco. More than this, you will see fair dames from Paris and London. Some of the more experienced critics say they can tell a woman from Boston from one from Chicago, and one from St. Louis from one claiming San Francisco as her home. There is a good deal of bunding about this, and yet there is a modicum of truth in it too. A Boston woman has of course an individuality of her own. She has somewhat lost faith in Bowdin, but she still worships Hub of an intense sort and in an intense way. But she is handsome, and if she does wear dainty glasses on a pretty nose, and largely for effect, you must admit that the effect is good.

The Chicago girl used to be described as being perky and loud. As a matter of fact she is now very like her New York sister, since the latter has gone in for open air sports. The New York and Chicago girls now have physiques not inferior to those of their brothers. Indeed, this is in many cases putting it mildly. As for beauty, they are in that quality what the New York gamin pronounces out of sight. The southern beauties are not beauties to the same extent as formerly, and any one who expects the San Francisco woman to be very different from her eastern cousin expects too much. To admire all these you must see them together, and then note the picture, and if you do not admire it I pity you.—New York Cor. St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Impure Ice and Typhoid Fever.

Some years ago Dr. Charles Smart, of the United States army, filtered the atoms of mountain fever to the melting snow of the Rocky mountain streams, and inferred that the germs of this typho-malarial fever were brought down from the snowy sky water, refrozen and frozen during winter, and then passed into the streams in an active condition when the snow melted in May, June and July. It is frequently the case that impure ice is the agent of transmitting typhoid and other fevers.—Engineering Magazine.

Alaric's Grave.

It is said that when Alaric, the conqueror of Rome, died, that "a river was turned aside to make a place in its bed for his grave, and when he was buried the water was again let into its former channel, and the prisoners who had helped to bury him were killed so that no one might find out where the conqueror of Rome was buried."—Yankee Blade.

Pressed Sawdust for Fuel.

A curious and profitable business has grown up in the Maine woods about the sawmills, in the utilizing of the immense quantities of sawdust by compression. Thousands of tons of sawdust are pressed into compact blocks and bales, and in this form is finding a ready market for kindling and fuel in the eastern cities.—Interview in New York Sun.

Commentary.

"The bishop made his words felt deeply today, I think."

"I differ. I think he talked through his hat a good deal."

"And even then—it is a fish hat you know."—Chicago Blade.

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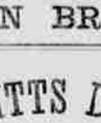

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