

A BUNCH OF VIOLETS.



HERE is the card" cried Ruth Ashton as she opened a box containing a gorgeous bunch of violets.

"It's anonymous," she exclaimed joyously. "From some unknown admirer who cares so much that he's afraid to sign his name."

"Can't you guess who sent them?" questioned her sister Jane, anxiously. "Don't you think they're from Cousin Rob?"

"Cousin Rob! I should say not. Cousins are not apt to send those kind of bouquets all tied in chiffon ribbons."

"It may be from George Butler, who sings in our choir. That's just who it's from. Not long ago we were discussing our favorite flower and I remarked I just adored the modest violet. Talking is not much on his line, but the way he turns my music is a perfect education."

"Has he ever shown you any special devotion? Don't be too positive; you may be mistaken," suggested practical Jane.

"No, I'm sure he's the Mr. Anonymous. When they're most devoted they're usually diffident to show it. It must have taken a whole week's salary to pay for that bouquet," added Ruth, who was prone to exaggeration.

Ruth was on the shady side of 20; very little happened to disturb the even tenor of her life. All her days she had craved for admiration from the opposite sex, but no one was the wiser.

The last few years she had devoted her time to teaching in the settlements, joining in the activities of different woman's clubs.

At the meeting of the Service club that afternoon when Ruth read her paper, the violets were pinned on her waist with their faces toward hers as if begging to be admired and loved.

While reading her report on children's play grounds she was fairly radiant, saying to herself, "I wonder if they all know I have a beau?"

One of the committee said to her in the most natural way, "You must have a special friend," with a meaning glance at the corsage bouquet.

"I have, but don't mention it as yet," she answered quietly. The news spread like wild fire, and there were many conjectures as to who the mysterious party was.

All were happy in her happiness. At last Ruth was going to make a grand match, judging from the violets.

Do You Know What a Pomander is?

What is a pomander? Originally it was a mixture of aromatic substances, carried about to counteract bad smells, but by the early part of the sixteenth century it had come to mean the case in which such perfumes or deodorizers were carried.

A Royal Rebuke.

No one would be likely to call King George V. a divinio jure monarch, but if one story of him is to be believed he possesses a considerably greater degree of spirit than is usually credited to him.

"Oh," said the first lord of the admiralty piqued, "and what is your idea of the constitution, may I ask, sir?"

"This," said the king quietly, extending his hand toward the first lord, palm downward. There was nothing left for Churchill to do but kiss the proffered hand and retire from the room, which he did.—New York Post.

Byron and His Mother. How different Byron's character might have been if he had had a different mother! A worse parent for such a child can hardly be imagined.

Although at times indulgent to excess, her temper bordered on insanity. She rarely passed a week without an outburst of hysterical rage.

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One on the Proofroom.

There are few words in an unabridged dictionary that have not at some time invaded the proofroom of this office, but one came in the other day, an utter stranger. It was in the body of an astronomical article.

"This beats me," said proofreader No. 1 to the copyholder. "Let's see the copy."

There it was written in a heavy hand in the blackest of black ink. "It's got more legs than a spider," said the proofreader—"only six letters in the word and five of 'em below the line."

There it was sxyzyg—three of the six letters are y's. "What does the blooming word mean?" asked the copyholder. The proofreader for the first time in many moons declined to give an opinion.

The dictionary was consulted: "Sxyzyg—the point of an orbit, as of the moon or a planet at which it is in conjunction or opposition." The word is pronounced siz-z-gee.

"Sounds like the cracker to a college yell," said the proofreader as he closed the book.—Indianapolis News.

About a Pair of "Pants." A Detroit man who had contributed a bundle of his castoff clothing for the relief of the victims of a great fire received from one of the sufferers the following note: "The committee man give me amongst other things what he called a pair of pants, and 'twould make me pant some to ware 'em."

At one time when the weather was frosty the propriety of a bowl of hot punch was fair. James Russell Lowell, editor in chief, had an impending engagement which was to take him some distance, and he was looking at his watch at frequent intervals.

"Have another glass of punch," said the autocrat. "It will shorten the journey."

"Yes," said Lowell, "and double the prospect."

A Beach That Changes Color. There is an island in the gulf of Mexico where the beaches change color twice daily with the tides. When uncovered the sands are purple, but the inflowing waters quickly transform them to gold.

In ancient times, before the invention of stirrups and luxurious saddles, horses were taught to kneel to permit their riders to mount.

"John," his wife complained, "I wish you would be more careful. It seems to me you never go to a banquet without spilling soup on your shirt or your vest."

"I know it, Mary. I guess I'll have to let my whiskers grow."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Could Work It. Store proprietor (hiring a new clerk): "You know how to work a cash register?"

"Yes, sir. I was one of the first to get on to it. I can work anything from a taximeter to a gum slot, but they watch you closer nowadays."—Satire.

It Meant a Present For Her. Gibbs—You say you were wrong in quarreling with your wife. Then why don't you go home and admit it? Dibbs—The price of admission is too high.—Boston Transcript.

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