

OUT WHERE THE WEST BEGINS.

Out where the handclasp is a little stronger,
Out where the smile dwells a little longer,
That's where the west begins,
Out where the sun shines a little brighter,

THANKS TO LUCIA.

The people whose palatial house I had just begun to decorate had recently suffered a grievous blow. Their only child, a manly young chap of twenty-six, had, a short time after my undertaking the order, been sent back from France stone-blind, as the result of a big shell exploding close by him, the concussion having apparently produced some central lesion to destroy the visual sense.

Some chaps have all the luck," he said bitterly.
I was casting about for something to say when the door flew open and Lucia popped in. She looked prettier than ever in her short skirt and sailor-blouse, for Elliot's first act had been to hand her over to a capable woman and get her thoroughly rigged out for the civilized world, and I thought, with a pang, what a pity it was that Wade couldn't see her. He got on his feet and stood stiffly while I introduced them.

Mrs. Smith, a Virginian, and, despite her obvious ambition to be considered grande dame, a very kind and sensible woman, was intensely interested in what I told her about my guests, and plainly desired to promote them if, on inspection, they appeared to merit such attention. Mrs. Smith's nature was such as to require a protegee or two, and as this was precisely what Fiske needed to get recognition, I took him and Lucia there for tea. Wade may have made some mention of Lucia, but not much, I imagine, having no desire to share his find.

Painters who can work and talk without any appreciable detriment to either occupation, this arrangement had been entirely satisfactory. But the presence of a third person was a little distracting, so when Lucia joined us the following day, promptly told them that they had my permission to retire.

boy's self-restraint. He drew her to him and kissed her, and as he loosed her again, I saw that his eyes were glistening. My word! I have seen some love-making in my time, but never anything just like that, and being an emotional sort of an ass, I felt my throat swell. It was so sweetly natural, so unconscious. There was no more about it to embarrass one than if they had been a pair of woodcocks billing and cooing on a branch, and the female feeding her mate which had been blinded by some swine of a pot-hunter.

FARM NOTES.

-In March early cabbage, cauliflower, onion, parsley, radish, lettuce, early beets and tomato seeds will be sown in the hotbed. In April sow pepper, cucumber, melon and any of the seeds mentioned for March sowing.

-Humus is very essential in improving soil. Land that "runs together," bakes and breaks up cloudy is likely to give the farmer trouble. Such land needs humus. If barnyard manure is not available a cover crop might be grown to be turned under to increase the humus supply.