

THE UNPOSSESSED.
My Heart's Desire hath led me
Through barren lands and vain,
And bitter bread she fed me,
And bade me drink of pain.
Ah, me, I climbed a weary way
To heights of her disdain.
Yet would I give the years I live
To walk the path again.

The Heart's Possessed beside me
Leads me a level way;
There may no ill betide me,
No thirst or famine stay.
She hath no wish but wish of mine,
No joy save to obey.
And at my side her form must bide
Until my dying day.

My Heart's Possessed hath stilled me
From all unrest malign;
Yea, ceased the hope that thrilled me
With too keen pain and fine.
Yet, O my Heart, my Heart's Desire,
My unguined dream divine,
That never turned the while I yearned
Nor closed her hands in mine!
—Helen Scott, in the Smart Set.

THE PROPOSAL.

The garden was wonderful in its fresh spring beauty, the delicately tinted lilacs, the fruit trees that were immense banks of bloom, and the sunshine that played upon it all, throwing some of the colors into high relief and shading others, glowing richly in the soft shadows; tender perfumes hovered in the warm air, while fragile, delightful rustlings and whisperings were all that broke the silence.

Jean de Gace, as he opened the gate, drew in a long breath of happiness. From where he stood he could see the green sweep of the lawn, the graceful trees and winding walls, his heart grew light, and, smiling, he bowed deeply to this paradise.

A white skirt fluttered near the edge of the little wood, moving with a quick, rustling motion; he recognized the parasol, the dainty rose-colored waist, and the white skirt, and as the owner of the parasol turned the corner he caught a glimpse of a beautiful face.

M. de Gace felt happier and younger than ever; his forty-five years slipped away from him as a dead leaf from its branch; he did not know what it was to grow old. He had married very early in life, and his wife, whom he adored, had died soon after the birth of their son; and since then, on account of the passionate eagerness with which he had thrown himself into his work, he had scarcely perceived the passing of the time.

There was no touch of white among his brown hairs nor in his short mustache, and his step was quick and alert.

But during the last year since the Mainfroy had moved into the country house that adjoined his own estate he had grown younger than ever; he had scarcely noticed that his son Robert had left for Japan, as attaché to the French Embassy, nor that Miss Maud, his finest mare, whom he had entered for the Oaks race, had suddenly gone lame. He was absorbed in one dominating thought that he was in love with Helen Mainfroy, and that, in all probability, should he ask her hand, it would be given him.

Suddenly she called to him.

"I have just been down to see your horses run; Norfolk is simply superb."

M. de Gace was enchanted, not with the compliment bestowed upon his horse, but with the bright joy of Helen's smile. He looked thoughtfully at her, delighting in each fresh aspect of her beauty, and then, feeling that it was time for him to make some reply, he asked:

"Is your father here?"

"Yes," she answered, conscious of his emotion, "he is settling his accounts in the summer house. I heard the little tinkle of the bell by the garden gate, and, thinking it was you, I came to meet you."

"How good of you!—Guess, if you can, who dropped down upon me yesterday, fresh from the skies, or rather from another world?"

"From another world?"

"Yes; it was Robert, my young diplomat. I didn't expect him for another month, but he came through without stopping, and arrived without even sending me a telegram. He seemed to think it was an everyday affair to come back from Japan."

"I shall be very glad to meet him," said Helen, lowering her parasol.

"One reason of my coming here now was to ask your permission to bring him to call tomorrow," said M. de Gace slowly. He was silent for a moment, as if to give more emphasis to his words, and then he went on, his words coming crisply and his eyes fixed upon the ground.

"Robert is now definitely settled, his career is established, and he has nothing to do but to go ahead; he was still a good deal of a boy when he went to Japan, but he has come home a man; I do not need to worry any longer about him. And it is this fact that has decided me to take, with your father's permission, a step with whose nature I have already acquainted him."

In spite of himself the man looked up to watch the effect of his words; Helen was standing motionless, while the quick color played in her cheeks. Her little hand trembled upon the handle of her parasol as she traced vague patterns in the garden walk.

M. de Gace longed to take possession of this little hand, to tell her

how much he loved her and ask her if she would be his wife. He felt instinctively that the moment was divine. Had he been younger, he would have done it, without pausing for an instant, but certain ages have their certain bashfulness. He was silent, timid, and trembling, as if he had been only twenty.

"You know we are always glad to see you," said Helen simply, breaking the long silence.

"Very well, then, I will come tomorrow. I will not disturb your father now."

"Why, are you going already? We have scarcely seen anything of you lately."

"You are good to say so!"

Yes, Helen was good, she was beautiful and she was charming. M. de Gace kept repeating the words to himself as he walked beneath the tall, spreading elms, where, at the end of the driveway, a groom stood waiting, holding his horse. With naive care he constantly assured himself of her love, remembering how she always came to greet him, and her smiles and soft handshakes. Was it, after all, only sympathy that she felt for her lonely, agreeable neighbor? But no, she had blushed just now, she understood the hidden meaning of his words, and she had said "Tomorrow." Besides, he had already spoken to Mr. Mainfroy, perhaps Helen's father had told her?

He stopped short, reining in his horse suddenly.

"What if she only wants to marry me because I am rich and the Baron de Gace?"

He drove the thought away with a quick exclamation of anger, knowing it unworthy of the girl he loved, and touching his horse with the spurs, he galloped home. As he turned the corner, he saw his son Robert, flashing down the road in front of him, on his bicycle, and from his seat upon his splendid animal M. de Gace compared himself with his son, thinking rapidly:

"On the whole, I am better than he."

The next day, as the father and son entered the Mainfroy's parlor, they surprised Helen arranging her flowers. She had not looked for them so soon, and had not heard the carriage, and supposing herself alone for some time yet, she was still dressed in her loose morning dress, her arms bare and her hair simply tied with a ribbon. M. de Gace uttered a smothered exclamation at the lovely picture she made among her flowers.

"Mercy me, let me run away!" she cried, seeing them stand suddenly before her.

"Before you go, please let me introduce my son," said the baron, smiling, "and please forgive us for coming so soon. We really couldn't wait."

Blushing rosy-red, Helen lifted her eyes to those of the young man, standing so tall and straight beside his father. Their looks met and lingered. A moment later she had disappeared, closing the door behind her.

"Great heavens!" cried Robert, "how charming she is, and how pretty!"

"You think so?" queried his father.

"Yes, indeed, and I understand better now what you seemed to be hinting at yesterday, dad; I assure you that if this is the young lady of your choice, I am more than ready to fall in love with your plans. But do you suppose she would be willing to go off into foreign lands? For with my career—"

He was interrupted, for just then Mr. Mainfroy entered.

"My daughter has told me, my dear baron," he began heartily, "and I understood immediately. You know what a daughterly affection she has for you and I know what a man your son is; we will speak frankly, will we not? We must wait a little to see how the young folks get along together, and then—"

M. de Gace looked at his son, whose eyes were shining brightly, and, without a single muscle of his face betraying him, he felt the agony in his heart.

"Thank you, sir," he said quietly, "for your kind words about Robert. I hope you will allow him to come here often, for I think they will please each other. Robert is a good fellow—"

And he added simply:

"And Miss Helen is an adorable young lady."—*Francis de Nion, in Washington Post.*

THE WAYS OF SNIPE.

Modern Hunter More of a Naturalist Than His Forefather.

Those who have followed and studied the long billed mystery of the marshes know that, as a rule, the bird rises some yards from the intruder's boot, attains top speed with a few sounding wing strokes and speeds away in a peculiar zigzag or twisting flight, which may be continued for few or many yards before the bird settles to its swift but steadier advance. Every experienced snipe shooter remembers how baffling was that flight during his apprenticeship to the gun, and how often the artful dodger in feathers saved his life by his apparent craft. Fifty years ago, the great majority of even accomplished sportsmen merely were destroyers. Excellent gentlemen, according to their lights, they were prone to measure their enjoyment by the size of their piles of slain, and precious few of them knew or cared much about game except during the actual shooting season.

Reliable books about birds, now so numerous, then were exceeding few, so about all the average man knew

of his game was what he personally saw during a few lively days each year. Today, things are different. At least one-third, and I hope one-half, of our shooting men are more naturalists than sportsmen of the old school. They have read more and closer because there has been more sound reading open to them, and that reading, as it should, has taught many useful things.

Perhaps it merely aroused the curiosity of the readers, but in any event it accomplished a deal of good by encouraging folk to keep their eyes open and carefully note the hitherto neglected little things of its day. It is human nature to try to catch 'tother chap lying, or tripping, so when the man half educated in sportsmanship found a new fact in a book he was skeptical, yet watchful, because it would be a feather in his cap to prove that book incorrect.

The fact in question may have been about snipe; and he, a veteran of that field, had killed thousands of snipe, yet never saw such a thing as the book described. The next time afield he would be loaded for snipe, and, incidentally, for writers. That time he was observant. Because he was looking for a small thing, his eyes were wide open, and most likely he saw that very thing, and possibly a few others. Instead of roasting the book, he reread it in quest of other small matters. He was now fairly started upon the true trail, for he had tried the "observation habit," which really is the most satisfying thing connected with field sport.—*Illustrated Sporting News.*

HOUSES OF CONCRETE.

New Idea in Construction Gives Promise of Success.

Dwelling houses and factory buildings with concrete walls, in which the concrete has been molded in place in large masses, have become comparatively common; but in recent years a species of hollow concrete block construction has been introduced which, in some respects, appears to promise even greater advantages. Such hollow concrete block houses are, in a measure, highly developed examples of the remarkably durable adobe houses of Mexico and the Southwest of the United States, which, though built simply of large sun dried blocks of clay, appear as though hewn out of one solid mass, and have been found to successfully resist both great heat and heavy tropical rains.

Walls built of hollow concrete blocks, with their inclosed air spaces, tend to keep houses warm in winter and cool in summer, and the only problem of satisfactorily building them has been that of cost. This, however, we are told, has now been solved by a machine which turns them out quickly and cheaply and in all desired sizes. The molds are made with removable sides, and after the block of concrete has been formed, these sides are swung out of the way and the block can be lifted out and left to thoroughly set. Grooves and tongues can easily be formed in the blocks, enabling them to be rigidly tied together in building up a wall, and openings can also be provided in them to receive the ends of floor beams, the joints being subsequently filled with cement, if desired, to insure greater security.

Many houses have of late been built with such blocks, and their popularity seems to be on the increase. In appearance such concrete block walls resemble masonry; in fact, the blocks can be fashioned after almost any desired pattern.—*Cassier's Magazine.*

Milk in Manufactures.

Napkin rings, hair combs, walking stick knobs, brush backs and handles, cigarette cases and nolders and a variety of other small objects are now being made of milk, according to a Paris correspondent. It appears that much of the cheap imitation ivory now in the trade comes from the cow. There are even alleged pearls worn in earrings, or in other kinds of so-called fancy jewelry, which are literally drops of condensed milk. A nobleman owning immense estates and large farms in the Loiret Department has set up a factory for carrying on this new industry. His cows produce some two hundred gallons of milk a day, two-thirds of which is sent to Paris in the season. But in the summer the demand falls off, while the cows continue to yield the usual quantity. Hence the ingenious nobleman's new departure. The casein obtained from the milk is converted, under great pressure, into ductile substance called "lactite," the possible uses of which seem to be unlimited. It is this sub-product of milk which is replacing celluloid in the market as an imitation ivory.

Reed Birds—How to Cook 'Em.

Reed birds are skinned and cooked whole, but rarely cleaned. The most approved way of cooking them is to put three or four on a skewer and broil; or wrap them one by one in salt pork or bacon—put on a skewer and roast seven or eight minutes in a hot oven and serve on slices of fried hominy, with watercress on nice, white chicory. Sometimes they are cleaned and stuffed with a little sweet potato before wrapping in bacon and broiling. In nearly all the larger cities the most of the reed birds found in the markets are sparrows. When these have been fed on grain it takes a connoisseur in game to distinguish the difference.—*Washington Star.*

NEW IDEAS in TOILETTES

New York City.—Loose coats of all sorts are greatly in vogue and make ideal cold weather wraps. They can be slipped on over the gown with per-



COAT WITH CAPE COLLAR.

fect ease and without danger of rumpling. This May Manton one includes several novel features and is adapted to a variety of materials, but is shown in pastel tan broadcloth with the cape collar of velvet trimmed with fancy braid and edged with heavy ecru lace. The inverted pleats, that are stitched with corticelli silk, give exceedingly becoming lines while providing the fullness and flare that are much in vogue. The sleeves are novel and effective as well as comfortable.

The coat is made with yoke portions to which the fronts and backs are attached. Both the coat and the sleeves are laid in inverted pleats, the outer ones being stitched flat for their entire length, the inner left free for a portion thereof to provide flare at the lower edge. The sleeves are in bell shape and fit with comparative snugness

quarter yards twenty-one inches wide, twelve yards twenty-seven inches wide or seven and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide, with seven-eighth yards of tucking and six yards of braid to trim as illustrated.

Very Fashionable Stockings.

Stockings of striking effect have narrow bands of lace inset, many of them of contrasting colors, the most striking being black in white. An inch band of lace in some of the stockings undulates serpentine fashion over the instep and up the leg. In other stockings the inch bands are put in to form conventional designs over the instep, and in others inch bands of lace are set around the stocking from the ankle, perhaps the length of it.

Hats For Misses.

Misses' hats are very large, the crowns are quite high, and are either trimmed with a very long plume, caught in with a buckle at the front of the crown and drooping over the brim at the side, or else the crown is surrounded with very short tips.

Filmy Princess Dresses.

We hear of tulle and mousseline princess dresses, but, of course, these filmy fabrics are but "superstructure," requiring as a foundation a perfect dress of handsome silk.

Shoulder Capes.

Small capes that cover and protect the shoulders make a feature of the season's styles and are greatly in vogue both as parts of costumes and as general wraps. The two May Manton designs illustrated are admirable and are one round, giving a smooth fit over the shoulders, the other cut in deep points that fall in handkerchief style. Both are double and both show the stoles that are preferred to every other form of neck finish. As illustrated the round cape is made of tan colored cloth, the pointed cape of the



PRINCESS GOWN LENGTHENED BY CIRCULAR FLOUNCE ON SIDES.

above the elbows, and at the neck is the cape collar which can be further enhanced by fringe knotted into the lace when desired.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is five and a quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide, three and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide or three yards fifty-four inches wide, with one-half yard of velvet for the cape collar, four and a half yards of braid and one and three-quarter yards of applique to trim as illustrated.

Becoming Princess Gown.

Princess gowns are among the features of the season and are exceedingly becoming to well formed women. The one shown in the large drawing is both novel and handsome and allows of variations without number. The model, however, is made of broadcloth, in the new shade known as Lombardy plum, with the epaulettes and cuffs of velvet in the same color overlaid with applique of heavy lace, the square yoke and collar of cream chiffon, tucked and enriched with lace, and trimming of fancy braid piped with velvet. The color is as beautiful as it is new and the combination of materials singularly rich and attractive, but the gown can be made entirely of velvet, of cloth or of similar material. As illustrated the closing is made invisibly at the left shoulder seam and beneath the trimming at the left front seam, but it can be effected at the centre back if preferred.

The gown is made with centre fronts, side fronts, backs, side backs and under-arm goers. Both the centre front and the back are full length, but the side fronts, under-arm goers and side backs are lengthened by the circular flounce which is joined to the edges of the front and the backs. The epaulettes are arranged over the shoulders and the neck is finished with a regulation stock. The sleeves are among the newest of the season, and show deep flare cuffs, which extend well over the hands, and above them form full drooping puffs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is fourteen and a

same material in the shade known as mole-skin, both being finished with stitching in corticelli silk. The stole of the round cape is made of heavy ecru lace finished with drop ornaments, but that of the pointed cape is cut from the material, simply stitched and finished with fringed ends and drop ornaments placed at the neck and midway of its length.

The round capes are cut in one piece each and arranged one over the other and finished at the neck with the stole. The pointed capes as illustrated also are double and finished with the stole, but can be made with the under portion cut from the outer edge to the depth of the stitching on the upper cape only and joined thereto, thus giving the effect of two capes without the additional weight.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is for round cape two and three-eighth yards twenty-one inches wide, one and three-eighth yards forty-four inches wide or one and an eighth yards fifty-four inches wide, with one yard of all-over lace for the stole; for pointed cape three yards



SHOULDER CAPES.

twenty-one inches wide, one and a half yards forty-four inches wide or one and three-eighth yards fifty-four inches wide.

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THINK OVER THIS!