

Men and Birds.

The bluebird sings a song... An' sings a song or cheer...

A Proposal Under Difficulties.

By Tom Masson.

Castleton, on his way to Miss Pinkery's, had known that young lady was frantically trying to reach him...

And yet his tranquility was after all only an appearance. And appearances, as we know, are often deceitful.

Castleton was in love with Miss Pinkery, and by some strange fatality he had set this particular day and hour to declare his passion.

It seemed so easy now. But would it be, face to face with the object of his adoration? That was the burning question.

Miss Pinkery, on her part, was not nearly so tranquil as her lover. She knew he was coming, and possibly she suspected what his errand might be.

Miss Pinkery's perturbation, however, was not due to this fact alone. This interesting and beautiful young woman lived with her married sister...

There was nothing to do, therefore, but to place Miss Pinkery in charge of the infant in the emergency.

"Ah," he said to himself, "there's that baby. I hope they won't bring him down again to look at. Some people don't know enough to keep their children out of the way."

The maid showed him into the drawing-room. The wall came nearer and nearer. Castleton's heart sank.

The curtains parted, and Miss Pinkery, holding in her arms twenty pounds of chubby humanity, entered, an apologetic smile upon her face.

"You'd better not stay," she said. "I tried to reach you over the phone, but you had gone. My sister is away, and the nurse is ill, and I've just got to watch this youngster. Now you better run along. He's a dear little fellow, isn't he?"

The baby shrank back as Castleton approached, and this time gave a genuine, old-fashioned yell.

"Not at all—I don't mind if you don't. Besides, I have something important to say to you."

Miss Pinkery hesitated. After all, what did it matter? They knew each other pretty well by this time.

"Very well," she said, "but would you better go up into the nursery, if you don't mind. His toys are up there."

So up stairs they went. Castleton sat down on the side of a rocking horse.

After all, he thought to himself, why wasn't this the best time and place? "Dorothy," he began, "I have something to tell you. You know I—"

It was evident that the baby resented this intrusion. He had seen Castleton attempt to take his aunt's hand, and his chivalry asserting itself even in one so young he let out at the top of his voice.

"Surely," said Castleton. "Here, old man!"

After some coaxing, the baby, all smiles, permitted himself to be placed on the knee of the stranger.

"What have you been doing to him?" she said almost savagely.

"Nothing," said Castleton. "I merely held him together. Here, you take him and I'll heat that bottle."

He went solemnly out into the hall, where the bottle was reposing in a saucer full of hot water.

"Roll it around," said Miss Pinkery. "Now take it off and put it on my cheek. I'll tell you whether it is hot enough."

Castleton took the bottle in his hand, and approaching the one he loved best in all the world, solemnly proceeded to lay its surface on her cheek.

Castleton, however, was too quick for him, and he got it away just in time.

Miss Pinkery, in the meantime, between the baby's frantic cries, managed to convey the information that the bottle was hot enough.

"But you must hold him," she said, "while I prepare it."

Once more Castleton took the shrieking infant in his arms. This time he was mad. He walked that baby up and down as if he had been a sack of meal or a musket.

An then as Miss Pinkery came in and took him and applied that bottle to his lips and put him in his crib there was silence, blissful, well earned silence.

Castleton wasted no time. He took her hand in his and led her gently to the alcove.

"Dorothy, dear," he said, "will you see me? I love you."

She smiled. "If you had asked me that question this morning," she replied, "I would have kept you waiting, because you might have been mistaken in your feelings."

But after all you have been through with I'm going to say yes right away, because I know now that you must love me."—New York Times

How to Throw the Lariat. There are three general methods of throwing, with many minor variations of individual habit.

First is the plain, straight cast, nose remaining around above the head from right to left, by a rotating wrist movement.

Some "ropers" throw a small loop, hard and fast, almost on a level; others a larger, looser kind, which nevertheless "arjives."

The aim is somewhat to the right of the object to be roped—a foot and a half on a twenty-five foot throw; the exact instance of release being governed by weight of rope, wind, velocity of swing, etc.

Judgment comes instinctively with practice. The rest of the rope is held coiled in the other hand and released as fast as desired two or three coils being retained.

To "snub" the rope (wind it about the post) after casting in the instant of time allowed is a trick quite as difficult as throwing properly.

The Mexicans, with their large-diameter pommas, have to take only one turn; the American pommas, being smaller, requires two.

The pomma after smokes from the friction created, and is frequently deeply grooved and almost burned by the rope.

The important part played by the trained cowboy is obvious. He is taught to settle back on his haunches the moment the rope begins to tighten, and in many other ways materially to assist his master.

The second method of throwing is exactly the reverse, i. e., the nose is swung from the left to right above the head before release.

This is called the "California throw," and possibly gives a little greater range. At any rate, one or two of the longest throws I know use it, and I find it so myself.

It may be only a personal result. Any good "roper" can throw either way.

The third cast is the "overhand" throw, which, as its name implies, is for use in confined quarters.

It consists in trailing out the loop on the ground behind one and snatching it forward by an underhand motion.

World Magazine.

A Chat About the Eyes. Eyes, mirrors of the soul, may, perhaps, be considered more beautiful and attractive than any other feature of the human countenance.

Dividing them into two great classes, light and dark, it has been said that the dark indicates power, the light, delicacy.

Black eyes, so called—for they are really of so deep an orange that they appear black contrasted with the white surrounding them—are tropical.

Sometimes they seem dull and sluggish, but the forces they betoken are only slumbering, so that any chance spark may set them ablaze.

With such eyes the intellect will be powerful and the passions strong. Clear blue eyes belong to temperate regions.

Other intellectual indications being equal, what they may lack in power and passion they will make up in subtlety and versatility.

Hazel eyes show steadiness and the power of constant affection; green, emerald orbs, though frequently fascinating, are dangerous, for they are a sign of coquetry and deceit.

The eyes of genius are said to be of varying tints, like the sea, sometimes blue, tinged with green or orange.

In certain lights or when affected by emotion, deep and almost dark. These are but few of the indefinite varieties in tint.

It should never be forgotten that eyes are more capable of misleading than any other feature.

Form and color may indicate much; the glance, steady or soft, perhaps even more. Widely expanded eyelids see much without reflecting greatly beyond the present moment.

Eyelids half closing over the eyes denote less facility of impression, but clearer insight, more definite ideas, greater readiness in action; they notice less but think and feel intensely.

Deep set eyes with wrinkles at the outer corners show penetration and a course of labor. Eyes set near together, especially when there are wrinkles across the nose, are a sign of cunning and meanness in small things; money matters and otherwise.

Set wide apart the character will be generous. If too wide careless and extravagant. The proper distance between the eyes is the length of one eye.

A Bare-Headed Nuisance.

A Forceful Protest Against Hat Removal in Elevators. There is a great deal of savage, though discreet, criticism from the men of the city against the custom of removing their hats in the elevators of public buildings when ladies are in or enter the cars.

Some months ago the Washington Post took up this question in the National capital, and the letters it received from men and women both almost unanimously condemned the practice, and to-day that city enjoys substantial relief through a general ignoring of the senseless custom.

Atlanta equally needs a reformation. The practice is not followed in public conveyances of any other kind. In steam and trolley cars, in buses and carriages, men retain their hats on their heads when in transit.

They do this even when executing family, friends or sweethearts. There is no rule of same logic by which obligations should be put upon busy men in public elevators to doff their hats in "some time and three motions" fashion every time a migratory woman enters the car.

In case of unusual circumstances the man may be expected to uncover while saluting a lady in the elevator, but otherwise sense and comfort demand the abolition of the uncovering custom.

Preachers are discouraging uncovering of heads in cemeteries during funerals. It is a good thing, therefore, for business men to discourage the bareheaded nuisance in public elevators.

Any one who has witnessed the wriggling and twisting of an elevator car full of men to adjust their books, papers, umbrellas, etc., and get elbow room with which to make off their hats when some female enters the car can appreciate how great will be the relief when the custom shall have been abolished.

There is really no chivalry in such a compulsory act. It is no compliment to the lady, for propriety prohibits her from recognizing the implied obedience to "her lordship," and the whole transaction goes for naught—provided the man sweats about it after he is out of earshot of the lady who caused the annoyance.

That the custom should be abolished is the opinion of nine-tenths of the men and all sensible women. But why will he brave enough to break the rule and set the example of his abolition by refusing any more to comply with it?—Atlanta Constitution.

WORDS OF WISDOM. Punishment is not persecution. Every act is both a consequence and a cause.

Better be a good man than a man of goods. A sugared smile cannot sweeten a love life.

Love cannot be limited by latitude or longitude. If we were innocent our griefs would be harmless.

It is of no use to urge abstinence while you are organizing appetite. There is no hope of being a polished, smooth pillar without the experience of the rough quarry.

The world will not be convinced of the sweetness of your faith by the sourness of your face. When right is on one side and riches on the other, you cannot raise the one without lowering the other.

When we look on the world as our own plum we are almost sure to find that we have eaten it too green.—Ham's Lion.

A Region of Darkness. The deep sea is a region of darkness as well as of low temperature, for the direct rays of the sun are widely absorbed in passing through the superficial layers of water.

Plant life in consequence quite absent over ninety-three per cent. of the bottom of the ocean, or sixty-six per cent. of the whole surface of the lithosphere.

The abundant deep-sea fauna, which covers the floor of the ocean, is therefore ultimately dependent for food upon organic matter assimilated by plants near the coast lines, and on the surface of the dry land itself. It thus happens that at the present time over nearly the whole floor of the ocean we have mingled in the deposits the remains of organisms which had lived under widely different physical conditions, since the remains of organisms which remained in tropical sunlight, and in water at a temperature of eighty degrees Fahrenheit at their lives, now lie buried in the same deposit on the sea floor together with the remains of other organisms which lived all their lives in darkness and at a temperature near to the freezing point of fresh water.

The marine deposits now forming over the floor of the ocean present many interesting peculiarities according to their geographical and bathymetrical position.

Trapping Otters in the Winter. The otters are most engaging animals, and replace the strenuous industry of the beaver by an abounding gaiety which nothing can restrain.

A recent record of trapping in the Northwest showed how otters are caught in the winter. They have a way of making slides down the snow-covered banks into the water, and playing at the truly national Canadian game of toboggans, using their own backs as toboggans.

The slide ends in the water, and here the trapper sets his gin, not at the bottom of the slide, where the otter arrives flat first with a splash, but, with a cold blooded ingenuity, just a little further on, so as to catch the poor beast's foot when he is on his legs again and running back to have another slide.

A Hot Climate Fur. Monkey is the only costume fur which comes from a hot climate—namely, West Africa. Recent reports from that coast state that the monkeys are almost exterminated, and that there is no more monkey fur to be relied on in the market; but this probably means only that the supply is exhausted in the readily accessible parts.

Chinchilla would rank among the choicest furs if only it were more durable. It may be doubted if any animal fur so much resembles the finest plumage of downy feathered birds as the skin of this little mouse of the Andes. Unfortunately it is easily spoiled by wet.



Practical Aids in House Keeping.

Delicious Jellied Fruit. Jellied fruit is a tempting dish on hot evenings. Arrange some fruit on a glass dish, having flavored each piece with sugar, and lemon juice.

Set the dish on ice, and between each layer pour some lemon jelly that is in a semi-liquid state, pile the fruit, arranging it tastefully, and coat all with jelly. When quite set, scrape off with a spoon any jelly that has fallen into the dish, beat it with a silver fork, and arrange it over the fruit.

A New Cooking Utensil. Among the latest labor-savers for the kitchen is the new patent wire lining for the saucepan, shown herewith.

This handy little device is used for steaming and cooking vegetables, and does away with all the inconveniences (and possibly scaldings) of straining the vegetables. Besides, it cooks the

vegetables perfectly without sunbaking or breaking.

This new lining has a strongly made saucepan top with cover complete, the bottom part is formed of wire latticing and fits the saucepan, while a lip or edge at the top of the wire prevents waste of heat and keeps the lining in place.

It is made in three sizes, to fit the different sizes of saucepans.

A Wicker Hanging Seat. For anything which is so generally admired as is the hanging seat, one finds it surprising that so few of them are in use.

The cost no doubt is the cause. One may find plenty of seats built for two, just as comfortable if not as novel as this clever thing in wicker. This one measures seventy-six inches in length and thirty-four

inches in depth. It is fitted with ropes and hooks and is very attractive for a roomy hall, a den or a broad porch.

It is prettiest when stained a softly deep forest green, though a coat of red makes it a telling spot when the house is of gray stone or gray stone and weathered shingles.

Natural wicker color is never out of the way, and it is cheaper and more lasting. Besides, it scrubs beautifully. Those who are fond of a hammock, but object to getting so mixed up that a dignified down-comer is impossible, find these hanging seats especially to their mind. One may be wanted gently to and fro with positive dignity.

A Corner Closet. While closet room is at a premium, says Good Housekeeping, an arrangement which is both convenient and ornamental is to nail to the wall two pine boards, meeting in a corner of a room, each board about two and one-half or three feet long.

A corner shelf is then perfectly firm if slung lightly across the upper edges. Hooks may

be screwed to the boards and to the upper side of the shelf and dresses suspended in front of all. A handy woman has constructed such a closet

for herself. With a little more expense and the help of a carpenter, a light, movable pine framework, with top and floor, can be made to fit into the corner of any room where it may be required. Besides being movable, this has the added advantage of not marring the walls.

Wall paper may be nicely cleaned by rubbing it with the soft part of rye bread.

Soda is an excellent article for cleaning tinware. Apply with a damp cloth and rub dry.

A drop or two of vanilla flavoring added to a pot of chocolate greatly improves its flavor.

A jar of lime on the pantry shelf or on the cellar floor will keep the room dry and the air pure.

Too rapid boiling ruins the flavor of any sauce. It must boil up at once, but should never do more than simmer afterward.

If in cooking too much salt has been put into an article, the same amount of brown sugar put into it will counteract the effects.

To remove paint or varnish marks on glass, rub with a little warm vinegar, or with the edge of a copper coin dipped in water.

Salt and vinegar will remove the worst spots of verdigris on brass or copper. Wash off with soap and water and polish with a whiting wet with alcohol.

An effective centerpiece for a table is an electric lamp placed on a mirror, with a stained glass globe reflecting the varied colors of the glass used in the design of the shade.

A good way to purify the air of a sick room in rainy weather is to pour a little oil of lavender into a cup of steaming hot water. This will also purify dining rooms and halls of disagreeable cooking odors.

Window wedges are worth much and cost little. No bedroom window should without its wedge, for by means of it rattling may be prevented

on stormy nights, and the occupant of the room may sleep undisturbed.

Tablecloths are marked nowadays or the diagonal line from the center to one of the corners, the initials being usually put about one yard from the center. They may be placed parallel to this perpendicular line or diagonally

When the Count Proposed. "I don't see how the count could propose to you when he can't talk any English and you don't speak French."

"Oh, it was very easy. We were sitting in the parlor. Pointing up at an old painting of papa, the count took out a piece of paper and a pencil. Then he set down a dollar mark and after it placed a figure 1. Looking at me out of his big, deep, eloquent, lovely eyes, he began making cipher after the dollar mark and the figure 1. When he had made four ciphers, which with the other figures meant \$10,000, he stopped. I nodded my head for him to go on. Then he made another cipher. That meant \$100,000. I nodded my head again. He made another, which raised it to \$1,000,000. I nodded for him to go ahead. He put down another cipher, making it \$10,000,000.

Then I smiled and took the pencil from him, and he caught me in his arms and—ah, it was so lovely! It almost seems like a dream to think that in three weeks I shall be a real countess."—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Sturdy Hero. One of the novelists, referring to his hero, says: His countenance fell. His voice broke. His heart sank. His hair rose. His eyes blazed. His words burned. His blood froze.

It appears, however, that he was able to pull himself together and marry the girl in the last chapter.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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FOR THE FAIR LATEST NEW YORK FASHIONS

New York City.—Combinations of tucks and shirring are notable in many of the latest gowns and waists and are exceedingly effective in the fashion.

One of the newest stocks for negligee wear is a very soft silk handkerchief of unusually large size. This comes in five or six colors, navy blue, dark green, black, and a lovely shade of crimson.

The handkerchiefs are dyed batik fashion; that is, by having small stones tied in the silk in an irregular pattern before being dyed. The parts covered by the thread are left white, and the effect is a design of small sketchy circles or wheels. The handkerchiefs are folded three times on the bias, wound twice around the neck, and tied in what children call a hard knot. They are very good.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Attention to Details. The details of a gown or costume are a point of much consideration this season, says Toilettes. Much delicate handwork appears, which at once raises a garment above the commonplace in these days, when machine-made, ready-to-wear clothes are turned out by dozens.

Pin-tucking, feather stitching and fagoting and hemstitching done by hand always lend distinction to whatever they adorn. Correct cut, correct lines and correct set of all the different parts of the gown and the girdle, stock and other accessories are of the utmost importance, and are the cachet of up-to-date, successful dressmaking.

Russian Embroidery Popular. There is a great deal of Russian embroidery used, great coarse stitches of bright blue and red with touches of black done on heavy linen. Adjustable collars of this, with often an attached front piece, are smart with wash blouses.

Embossed Velvet on Silk. Small embossed velvet designs appear on summer silks, generally on white grounds, often in one color, but sometimes in vari-colored dots, like small confetti between satin or cord stripes.

Woman's Tucked Jacket. Tucked jackets in half length are exceedingly smart and are shown much favor both for suits and odd wraps. Those for warm weather use are made of taffeta, of chambray and linen, those to be worn when greater protection is needed of cloth, pean de sole and all reasonable jacket materials. This

Blouse and Bolero. Blouses are arranged to give the best possible results with the least amount of bulk and the flounce falls in the soft and graceful folds that are always so desirable.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is ten and three-quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide, eight and a half yards thirty-two inches wide, or two and seven-eighths yards forty-four inches wide, and two and one-eighth yards of applique to make as illustrated.

Shirred skirts are in the height of vogue and are exceedingly graceful and effective made of the fashionable soft and clinging materials. The very stylish model shown is adapted to all of these, the silk and wool fabrics as well as to those of cotton and linen, and in the case of the original is made

of mercerized batiste. The shirrings are arranged to give the best possible results with the least amount of bulk and the flounce falls in the soft and graceful folds that are always so desirable.

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Woman's Blouse and Bolero. Fancy boleros of all sorts are much in vogue and make charming bodies over the soft full blouses with which they are worn. The stylish May Manton one is shown in the large drawing in moss green velvet ribbon, piped with white and held by fancy stitching, over a blouse of white pounce with embroidered dots of green, but it is equally well suited to a variety of materials. Strips of material or lace can be substituted for the velvet or the jacket can be made of one material, plain silk, brocade, lace, linen or anything pretty and attractive that may be preferred, while the blouse is suited to all soft and pliant materials.

The waist consists of the blouse, that is made with full fronts and back, and the bolero. The blouse is gathered at both upper and lower edges and is joined to a plain collar at the neck and to a basque portion at the lower edge and closes invisibly at the center front. A fancy collar, plain or draped, is arranged over the foundation one and is closed at the back. The sleeves are full and ample and are gathered into straight cuffs. The bolero is made with fronts and back and fitted by means of shoulder and under-arm seams. When,