

Annotations of Annabel

Books.

FAREWELL TO YOUTH. (Storm Jameson.)

DEAREST:

Edward, the Prince, proving irresistible target for eyes of Empire and beyond, carried us all with him in headlong race across the surface of the world. To adapt Mr. Davies' poem—

In midst of life, though full of care,
We've all found time to stand and stare,

as with mind's eye and heart's hope each of us followed the son of the Royal house in his high endeavour to reach the mecca of his father's bedside. Greatly appreciative are British people of magnificent assistance on that mighty trek prompted by love and duty, and noble courtesy from differing nationalities and all sorts and conditions of men. Now we rejoice with them that do rejoice, inside and outside of Buckingham Palace, that the King, who has never failed his people in war or in peace, is emerging from the dark valley of "twilight and evening bell."

TRUE to type, during weeks of anxiety the Queen carried on the day's work with undaunted courage and in accordance with the traditions of our race. So it happened that last week thousands were thrilled to hear her voice for the first time over the wireless. The occasion was the unveiling at Tower Hill of a Memorial to men of Marine and Fishing Fleets who, during the Great War, gave up their lives, finding vanished sepulchre in the "unplumbed, salt, estranging sea." The noble words spoken by Queen Mary were, "To the glory of God and in honour of brave men." Peace to their memory, heroes of fishing smacks and game small vessels,

that have been immortalised in most moving verse by Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

MR. Philip Guedella, in "Bonnet and Shawl"—assuredly as inspired title—makes witty and ruthless commentary on characteristics and code of the Victorian female, as unpleasantly sometimes she was designated in the dear old days. Apparently wives of great men all remind him they can make the lives sublime of their beloved partners by deliberately repressing feminine individuality, and exhibiting a sweet subservience that in theory throughout the ages has been beloved by man.

THE alertly brilliant Jane Welsh Carlyle, one of Mr. Guedella's ladies, rather kicked against the pricks of holy yoke of matrimony with the great and tempestuous Sage of Chelsea, finding him vastly unentertaining, in spite of his being so grandly conscious of "this vast Universe that storms in upon us, infinite, vague-menacing...", and oblivious to little homely happening and happiness strewn along the path, that go far to make that universe worth while. Hard to live in the rarified mental ether of so gigantic a genius, his attractive spouse discovered; nor was she first or last so to make conclusion.

In the Gospel, according to this vivacious English journalist, who uses his lightness of literary touch to such amusing purpose, the Victorian woman escaped marital misunderstanding by moulding herself according to prejudice and predilection of her lord. Which method, by traitors to the great cause of feminism, is still practised as the better way of matrimony. 'Tis one, be it said, not to be despised, if the man be worth it. And quite often he is!

IN passing, occasional wonder arises as to why children of this day and generation are permitted to go on shouting themselves hoarse, thereby ruining timbre of voice and nerves of their pastors and masters. In my abode dwells a youth, a handsome child, the only son of his mother, and she a widow and my landlady. At times I admire sturdy grace of this young barbarian at play, sun-bleached shock of hair and ruddy countenance. When, however, lingering long just outside my window at front gate, fumbling lovingly and noisily with iron latch, opening it violently and immediately slamming it for sweet pleasure's sake, the while he shouts to boon companion Gordy (presumably contraction of name unknown)—which, shrieked explosively, makes admirable expletive—then I abjure him and his gang, and peace on earth, goodwill to men, fades into the mirage of a lost illusion.

MEANTIME Beauty, adorned and unadorned, crowds pavement and emporium, sweetly intent on doing her darndest to get the right things for the right people and pay her debts of heart and head. Amid profuseness of choice 'tis not difficult to find suitable trifles. Pink perfection of be-ribboned sachet, puflet of posy make pleasant standby; while novel and lovely are tiny mirrors, small slight stems supporting gilt frame, oval glass flanked by miniature presentment of powdered, rose-fichued Watteau-like mayde of old.

And, so stifling that long look back on past days diffused with light that never was on land or sea, we welcome linking up of friendship and recurrence of the happy Christmas-tide.

Your

ANNABEL LEE.

Stooping and "Slumping"

REDUCING exercises, dancing, swimming, tennis, golf—all these things are taught by experts and studied by enthusiasts; but deportment has taken a back seat.

It would be sad to see unfortunate young girls spending a whole hour on a sunny afternoon learning how to get in and out of a car with grace and decorum. Sad, because the young girl of to-day has many more interesting ways of spending her afternoons, whereas her grandmother at a finishing school did truly spend many hours learning how to get in and out of a

landau or a barouche, and for her it was a normal occupation.

But is equally sad to see so many lovely people in so many lovely frocks spoiling themselves and their frocks because they do not know the first rule of deportment, which is an easy graceful carriage.

Yet good carriage not only increases the charm of a good figure and preserves its beauty, but has also power to make the indifferent figure far less obvious.

It is not difficult to acquire. In fact, at the salons where they teach reducing exercises and exercises for general physical fitness, they are always ready to teach their clients how to hold themselves and walk correctly. The difficulty lies in the fact that so few women

seem to realise the importance of this knowledge.

This importance is easily tested, both from the point of view of its effect upon the appearance and upon the physical health of the individual.

Watch the woman who stoops and pokes her chin out and "slumps" when she sits down.

You will notice that her back gets rounder every day, her chest flatter, her chin and jaw muscles flaccid, and her waist and hips large and ungainly. Isn't it obvious that when you poke your chin out your jaw line becomes blurred, that when you stoop you are not giving your lungs a chance to work properly, and that when you slump in your chair your spine is allowed to do everything it ought not to do, and your waist and hips are bound to thicken?

AT the recent French General Election, the election boards in the Paris boulevards were used by women to appeal for the vote. They emphasized the fact that in 28 countries in the world 150,000,000 women have obtained the vote, and that French women are among the last in Europe to be without it.

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