

The Native Charm

As Westcott realized the import of the letter his mind reeled dizzily in a rush of conflicting emotions and then overmastering all else came the mighty sense of power.

Lying dormant and unexpressed within himself had long been the desire to become a potent factor in the great world beyond the limited scope of Merrittown, and now, by the will of David Thare, the opportunity lay within his hands.

It was with only a slight pain that he faced the parting with his mother and the faint regret at the thought of Ruth was tinged with resignation.

After the first glad, welcoming thought, the mother glanced with a sudden fear about the dingy old home. How insufficient and intolerable it would seem to him now.

Ruth glanced wistfully at the white muslin dress it was the prettiest one she had and yet it seemed so inadequate. The memory of those first eloquent letters flashed upon her of the marvellous gowns which he had described.

When Westcott jumped from the train at Merrittown his step was eager and impatient. He drew a great breath of the keen fresh air and his eyes lingered about the familiar streets.

"I have been longing for the sight of the old rooms, the touch of the home and the touch of the dear old things. It was that and something else—which brought me back. I want it all just as it was, the old, stuff pictures, the wax flowers in the little glass case and everything.

PARADISE FOR SUPPLICANTS.

Corner of the Sahara Where Feminism is in Full Swing. A French explorer just returned from Africa has addressed an open letter to Mr. Lane and to the women doctor Mme. Pelletier, the great advocates of women's rights.

The Tuaregs, says the explorer, are crafty, cruel and treacherous, but they are ardent apostles of feminism. The Tuareg women are indeed privileged beings. They have control of their own, which their husbands are not allowed to mount, and their household duties are, so to say, nil.

They are allowed to have an admirer who saddles their camels and runs errands for them. According to the custom, the attitude of this admirer must remain strictly platonic. For if he starts making love to the lady the husband dies into a temper, and an angry Tuareg becomes a dangerous creature.

According to the laws of the country the Tuareg woman need not follow her husband unless she wants to do so nor is she compelled to serve her house. She is educated, for she can read and this accomplishment, not shared by the other sex, gives her a privileged position in so far that she acts as judge or arbitrator in all difficult cases.

The Antiquity of Man. In his lecture in Washington, Professor Penck said that it has been known for quite a long time that in western Europe man existed during the glacial epoch. We now know that the great ice ages consisted of different glacial times separated by interglacial times.

Conservation of Mass. So much has been said lately about the apparent upsetting of long-established scientific axioms that particular interest attaches to a recent confirmation of a principle that has long been tacitly assumed as correct.

Astral Spirits. The Oriental religions taught that a star had its special spirit, termed a "star" or "vital principle." This doctrine passes into the religions of the Greeks and Jews, and even into that of the Christian world.

Aluminum-Foil. Methods have recently been invented for rolling out sheets of aluminum even finer than those of the ordinary tin-foil. The specific weight of aluminum is about one-eighth that of tin, and its price at present is only half that of the other metal.

THE DRUMMER'S STORY

The short December afternoon had closed in the little Colorado village among the mountains, and this was Christmas Eve. The boarders at the Fountain, a small hotel, and the only one in town afforded, had feasted the evening meal—a meal similar to that which was to be found at all small villages in the West.

The inmates of the hotel comprised the landlord and his beaming wife, two hired girls, some 15 or a dozen miners, and five or six drummers, tonight of the grip, who were forced by the inclemency of the weather to take refuge at the Fountain.

The snow had been falling steadily all day, and was still falling, the drifts in some places being several feet deep. The men were seated around the table, some playing cards and others telling stories.

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Egyptian Eye Paint. Ancient Egyptians to save their eyes decorated their eyelids with beautiful black velvety antimony paint, which protected from glare and Egyptian sore eyes.

Boarding Houses. The first time a man eats at a boarding house he is a "chesterfield" in manners, but before he has taken three meals there he is playing a grab game like the rest of them.

THIEVES TO CATCH THIEVES

Many Former Bandits Now in Mexico's Mounted Police. The rurales or mounted police have pretty nearly put a stop to brigandage. Several years ago the Government reorganized the wisdom of the old adage "Get a thief to catch a thief" and offered pardon and protection to all brigands who would enter as rurales.

Most of them took advantage of the offer, writes Dillon Wallace in Quinsay, and with these men on the side of law and order holdups soon became infrequent, and the rurales developed into a wonderfully efficient mounted force to hunt down bandits.

The rurales of Mexico compare favorably in bravery and reckless daring with that wonderful organization the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada and are by far the best armed force in Mexico. Their calling gives them opportunity for wild adventure, and has satisfied the craving for a life of danger, which led many of them, to be brigands in the first instance.

Christmas Temptations. "I don't know how it is," sighed Mrs. Wescott to her husband, "I start out to do my Christmas shopping full of generous impulses, and lose them by the way."

"Last year I bought the waist for dater all right, but when I got it home it was so pretty and just the color I love. As long as she didn't know about it, I reasoned, there was no harm done."

"The joke of it was," concluded Mrs. Wescott, "that she had done the same thing, only instead of sending me a check collar, she had sent a card-collared one."

"My husband is very heroic," said Mrs. Slack. "For instance, he will give up his visit to the club to play backstraps with my old mother, and she is his mother-in-law, you know."

The Temperate Zone. Prof. R. de C. Ward, a meteorologist, points out that while the term temperate zone very well describes the climate within the band of the earth's surface which it includes in the northern hemisphere, it is often misleading when applied to the corresponding band in the northern hemisphere.

Tantalum of Great Value. Tantalum, regarded as a rare metal, is becoming cheaper, and is being tried for razors and surgical instruments. It seems to be superior to fine steel. A thread of tantalum, almost too fine to be seen by the naked eye, supports great weight, also makes fine filament for incandescent lamps and is more economical than carbon.

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