The Non-Attendance of Mr. Wynn | me! Happy is the philosopher. Hh! ha! but the fact that Mr. Wynn—perhaps you will not believe it, but nevertheless 'tis Away she was in an instant, out of sight.

Much to the disappointment of the ladies ! whereas Mr. Wynn was thinking what and much to the satisfaction of the gentlemen, none of whom possessed his elegance of person and for that reason perhaps were a little envious of him when in the presence of the fair sex, Mr. Wynn failed to attend the afternoon At Home of the Honorable Mrs. Airy. Ot course he had received the customary pasteboard inviting his respected self to join the festive gathering, and known to be fond of such affairs, it was difficult for the feminine hearts to understand his absence. However, it is not of the disappointed ladies,

endeavor to keep out the chill which crept any rate so concluded Mr. Wynn as he sat a quiet and lovely spot. before the grate fire in his bachelor apartments. But just such a day to make a good horseback ride delightful, he sequestered roads where nature was be-

witching autumnal garb.
"Egad, I'll do it!" he exclaimed, clapping his hand upon his knee.

Now Mr. Wynn was a victim of whims. Everything he did was done instantaneously too, many things without thought or consideration-on the spur of the moment, to use a hackneyed expression.

As he often said, he detested people who required an eternity to make up their minds, who weighed a question first on one hand, then on the other, and back again to the first, only to be as far from a conclusion as when they began. No. Mr. Wynn was not of that species. He would rather toss a copper, to be governed by the way it fell than go into a long "thinking" of the subject. Not only in matters trivial was this characteristic dominant, but in the most important. For instance, come. A restless feeling overcomes me Mr. Wynn was a lawyer, and a clever one it is said, but the selection of a profession was the outcome of a whim, just as was almost everything else he did. "I'll be a but which I have only a small part. Egad, lawyer," said young Wynn in a whimsical I feel as poor Don Quixote of old might mood at the age of nineteen, and in the have felt, for I could wander on and on next breath, "I'll be a doctor." Then like this for ever, seeking new fields, adthere was a clash, but to be a sure a copper miring God's handiwork, as I jogged along, soon decided the matter, tails-lawyer, living as a child of nature in green fields heads-doctor, and so he became a rising and sylvan dells. Polly, old horse, you member of the bar-Gerard Wynn, would be my Rozinante, common sense my Esquire, of Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

A member of a club downtown and of a club uptown, keeping a stylish cob and quite a figure in society. He had, too, the advantageous to one, and as a result his circle of acquaintances was large. A jolly, free-and-easy fellow, with the young men he was of course popular; a good-looking, well dressed, agreeable and above all eligible, made him a favorite of the ladies, all of which qualities, in addition to his being a clever young lawyer and brilliant talker, gave him an enviable position in the estimation of the older people. Still Mr. Wynn at twenty-seven was as restless and erratic as Mr. Wynn at nineteen. In little everyday affairs one could depend upon him no more than a frail canoe could be relied upon to safely cross the broad Atlantic. It one made an appointment with him and he kept it, well and good; if he failed to do so, well and good, too, one would say, for was he not a victim of whims? Such was Mr. Wynn.

Perhaps some would call him unprincipled-a very bad trait indeed-and maybe he was, in trifling things, but that a despicable action ever emanated from him, that he ever slandered a friend or abused confidence reposed in him, no one could truthfully assert. The only fault to be laid at his door was that of being restless, unsettled, whimsical! Why, the very moment he decided to go riding was there not an artistic gem in the form of a square card, with the faintest odor of viorequested his presence that afternoon at the "At Home" of the Honorable Mrs. Airy, in every respect a most desirable acquaintance to cultivate, for bless you, was she not the leader of Toronto's most select? But while the invitation of this estimable lady certainly had priority over the whim which had seized Mr. Wynn, the latter must, as usual, be satisfied no matter it all the Honorable Mrs. Airys in Canada stretched forth their hands to welcome him.

Therefore Mr. Wynn no sooner thought of a horseback ride than he jumped to the telephone. "Hello Bobon! Have my horse saddled and sent up immediately. Immediately, do you hear, or egad, I'll break every bone in your man's body when

Then lighting a brain-stealing cigarette as he called them, yet in which he inconsistently indulged, he flew about the room like a madman as he changed his clothes a sultry day in summer. Concluding that for a riding suit. In what appeared to him an interminable time the man appeared with the horse, but instead of breaking every bone in the follow's body-and upon my honor it was a poor lean one that stood holding the prancing beast-Mr. Wynn slipped something into his hand which made him smile expansively as he stood cantering off, and then the smile on his lips yes, and in his eyes, too, slowly taded away to re-appear whenever he thought of

to follow Mr. Wynn. and much to the disappointment of mis- beauty lay. chievous boys fain to ridicule his very eleroundings, perfectly setisfied with himself the road. if not with all mankind. Where would be go, he mused, east, west or north? Ah! Good idea, he would tollow the sun as all lonely way and leave you with your medi- Miss Gwynn sat in another. Of course civilization did and go west. Then he tative thoughts. I would not for the world how near to one another they sat is none

funny thing it would be to race with old Sol, to ride on, on, and overtake him where? So at the idea he laughed.

The tavorite rendezvous of Toronto's debeyond Slattery's. Slattery's with shadows of the past hanging about it, recalling a world of pleasure, for who does not know | called it. Slattery's and who forgets the good old days when the antiquated place rang o'nights with youthful joy and merriment, where time after time gay spirited young men and women tripped the light fastastic nor of the satisfied gentleman, but of the to their heart's content? Ah, me! young non-attendance of Mr. Wynn upon which men and women who have grown faded and worn just as the once familiar haunt To begin with, then, it was the afternoon has, just as we all are taking on old age. of a cloudy Saturday in autumn. In the rheumatics and gout. Past Slattery's then, city everything looked gray and cheerless, about High Park and beyond, there are from the clouds rolling one after another sandy paths and shady roads along which overhead to the streets below. Men one can gallop as much as one pleases, hurried along with hands in their overcoat | where, if desired, quiet nooks can be picked pockets and shoulders shrugged in vain out in which to dream away the live-long day, hob-nob with nature, moralise and into their bones and made their teeth philosophize without interruption and be chatter in spite of them. Yes, it was a as much alone as was ever Robinson bleak day, both indoors and outdoors. At Crusoe on his isolated isle, for indeed it is turn his all-humor against, "a lot of over

So Mr. Wynn cantered on, leaving behind him the noisy city. Passing Slattery's he drew rein, and having at all times an thought, a ride into the country along eve for the beautiful the picturesque scenery about did not escape his admiration. Truly, he thought, the soul would be dead that could not see the loveliness of those hills and valleys, those tinted leaves that

seemed flushed by a fever killing them. "How like am I to those very leaves," he mused, "for have I not bloomed to manhood only to fade away in old age, and those crushed ones lying there on the ground are unnoticed in the presence of the living loveliness, just as I shall be forgotten when I take the inevitable drop from the tree of lite. But there is a glorious hereafter for man! Yes, that is the reward for struggling on through this tumultuous stretch of time. Then if those leaves took so beautiful with nothing but destruction awaiting them, how grandly magnificent man should strive to be in the light of what is to when I think of the broad expanse of this world which I have never seen-the work of an infinite Master given all to enjoy, Sancho Panza, the beautiful about me my lady Dulcinea, the world, the flesh, and the devil the monsters I would fight against. natty dog-cart at Bobon's, Mr. Wynn cut Pshaw! The world's prosaic. I would I had lived centuries ago when men swore swords." But unfortunately for Mr. Wynn, he lived in an age of stern reality, no matter which way he looked at it. Above him a to pursue her way alone. telegraph wire stretched along the road. from which came a mournful hum like a song full of weirdness. It annoyed him and clashed with his dreaming, so he drew his horse off the main road to a quiet path running from it. Here he stopped, dismounted, threw himself upon the ground, drew a brain-stealer from a neat little case, and smoked. "I wonder," he mused, "if it is not better for a man to be a little insane than wise; not that I am a sage, in fact I sometimes think I lean towards the crazy side. Crazy, forsooth! I would rather have a lively imagination, approaching insanity even, that would make-erwell, giants of windmills as Don Quixote did, than have none at all and everything in its hideous reality unmasked of the

ideality which might be put into it." "Ha! ha! ha! That is good, Mr. Wynn. I am pleased to hear a member of that stern profession—the law, you know admit, even to himself, that there is still left in him a little of the sentimental."

"Miss Gwynn!" exclaimed Mr. Wynn, springing to his feet at sight of a young lady before him, who continued laughing at what she had overheard.

"Yes, Mr. Wynn, Miss Gwynn, out lets about it, on his table, which politely for a little exercise on that dearest of beasts, Zip. Miserable day in town, nothing to do, no place to go-

"The Honorable Mrs. Airy's?" inter-

rupted Mr. Wynn. The Honorable Mrs. Airy's! No, no. Of all places spare me from such as that. Too oppressively stately for me anyway, Mr. Wynn. So not wishing to succumb to ennui, I broke the bonds of propriety and hied me here alone, hoping to shake off the depression in a jolly gallop, when, behold, sauntering gaily on I espied a riderless horse grazing on the highway, which I found to be Mr. Wynn's Polly. ·What an adventure,' I exclaimed, and with wild thoughts of brigands of old breaking out afresh in this peaceful country a great deal merrier, and I am sure any-I grew alarmed for your safety when happening to look down this quiet path I found Mr. Wynn sitting against a tree calmly smoking a cigarette just as if it were Polly, not caring to be a party to her noticed in search of something more interesting. I brought her back. Ha! ha!

What an adventure indeed." and stood before Mr. Winn in her well fit- were close at hand? Not a bit. Howting riding habit, was young and beautiful. ever, instead of being near that frigid and gazing of that "'ansome gem'un" gaily What more is necessary to say? Whether mysterious spot they found themselves not she had the golden tresses of a blonde or far from a country tavern by the roadside, the raven locks of a brunette, whether her from the windows of which gleamed a comyears were eighteen or twenty, whether her cortable and inviting light. In fact, so the shining piece which lay snugly in his nose was turned up or turned down, her comfortable and inviting did it look that waistcoat pocket. Poor tellow! What eyes blue, black, or green for that matter, at Mr. Wynn's suggestion they decided to pleasure a little generosity wrought in him. is of no consequence at all. That she is enter, have supper and return to the city If the heavy purses would but think-well, young and beautiful is quite sufficient, so by moonlight. Ah, me! Ah, me! What beautiful indeed that to look at her was bliss is the lover's. Handsome, well dressed and well mount- like some of us beholding a masterpiece of Two guests from the city, especially of ed the young man attracted considerable art which we know is beautiful but to save so distinguished appearance as Miss Gwynn attention as he rode through the streets, our lives could not tell just wherein the and Mr. Wynn, was a little out of the

Mr. Wynn leaned against his horse, gant white riding breeches, and to the slowly puffing his cigarette and watching chagrin of the lively young women who the smoke as it rose in the air and died cast tond eyes at him, Mr. Wynn rode away. Miss Gwynn, suddenly springing prepared?" So they entered the room, merrily on, utterly unconscious of his sur- into the saddle, turned her horse towards

"Well, Mr. Philosopher, as you seem inclined to silence I shall proceed upon my fire "toasting" himself, as he said, while smiled and a passing damsel blushed be- have disturbed your profound reverie had I of my affair, should not concern the reader cause she thought it was meant for her, known you were given to such spells. Ah, and has no possible bearing on this story,

leaving the echo of her merry laugh in the heart of Mr. Wynn.

Now had that young gentleman followed his first impulse he would have mounted his horse and pursued the flying beauty, but it ended in being overthrown, not by wise consideration, but by impulse number votees of the saddle is away out Bloor street | two, which was to throw himself upon the ground, giving vent to round rebuke of himself for being such a "duffer," as he

"Egad, I have known the time when I would give my right hand for such an opportunity to have a quiet talk with that divinest of creatures. Out on you Gerard Wynn, for a fool, an idiot, to let such a chance escape you. Oh, my darling, love realize that it had all been a dream. of my heart, return to this disconsolate

But the beauty returned not and Mr. Wynn again resorted to heaping rebuke a dream? Bah!' upon his head. To tell the truth I would not like to repeat the hard names he called himself, for I am sure the language was not such as had won him that enviable position in the estimation of the older people which I have mentioned.

"Confound society," muttered Mr. Wynn, at a loss perhaps for something to dressed women (outside the ball room) and coxcomb men. Damme, I'll get out of it. I hate their nice phrases and their empty talk, their glaring flattery, under sham, a glitter, and hollow as a drum. Confound those sickly cigarettes, too," and he threw away the little white thing. "Henceforth I'll smoke the old clay pipe which has made better men than did ever those tissue paper stripes. Come, Polly, we'll go home and jurn Bohemians.'

So, having exhausted his spleen, Mr. Wynn mounted his horse and rode towards the city, with a scowl on his face, his hat drawn over his eyes and wearing a most dejected mien altogether, far, far different from the dashing young man of a few hours

can cause in the heart of man!

"Confound everything," growled the cause she knew it, for the tone was so gruff | ance. - Toronto Saturday Night. that it might have come from where Mr. Wynn felt his heart had sunk-away down in his boots, as he put it.

"Well, you are a pretty fellow to talk

The speaker was the beauty, if Mr. Wynn could believe his eves and ears. "Why, from where did you come, like a

Mr. Wynn, his dejection and gruffness of voice giving place to the merriest mood and the sweetest of voices.

"Overtook you of course," answered the beauty, "which you might have discovered before had you been philosophizing. Ha! Ha! Mr. Wynn, the philosopher! What faculty of making friends, which is always by their heads and the cross of their a joke! But, as I said, you are a pretty fellow to talk of ideality when you would leave poor me-an ideal creature surely-

> "My dear Miss Gwynn," replied Mr. Wynn, "you might leave your praises to be sounded by others.'

"Come, come, Mr. Wynn," laughed the beauty, "I am not going to quarrel with you, for I know you want company and I laus. do not object to your escort-that is, not much, you know.' "Oh!" from Mr. Wynn.

"Oh. indeed!" from Miss Gwynn. "Well, turn back and have a spin. Besides, Miss Gwynn, I-I want to say something to you.

"Oh!" from Miss Gwynn. "Oh, indeed?" from Mr. Wynn. "Now, Mr. Solomon, what have you to

say? Something in the philosophical line, "Fairest of women," cried Mr. Wynn, in mock seriousness, "dismiss that levity. I want to ask you to-er-to-to marry

me-to be my wife, you know." The beauty stopped her horse and Mr. Wynn did likewise.

"I-I did not think you could be so-so cruel, Mr. Wynn," she said, "to-to talk of-of such a-a serious-serious affair so -so lightly. I-I might have known better than-than-than-," and what did the lovely creature do but break down and Here was a pretty state of things for Mr. Wynn. Oh! for a quiet nook where he could clasp the darling to his breast and tell her what a brute he was to talk so lightly; how, nevertheless, he loved her better than his life and seriously meant what he had said, although it might have been couched in words more endearing. But the best Mr. Wynn could do was to draw his horse up beside hers, put his strong arm around her fairy waist and tell her-well, bless you, what a different aspect an explanation will put on things misunderstood. So it was with the beauty, for her tears soon vanished and her merry laugh again took their place. But-let me whisper it-I do believe the laugh was one could have seen there was a brighter light in her beautiful eyes.

On they drifted, walking their horses all time. What they talked of has, of course. nothing to do with this story, which is just as well, for it would take volumes to tell of owner's dreaming, had wandered away un- all they said At anyrate they talked so much, regardless of their surroundings, that before they knew it darkness was fast approaching, with them far from the city. The merry speaker, who had dismounted | What cared they, though, if the north pole

ordinary to mine host. "If they would not mind the delay." quoth he, "would they please step inside the sitting room while supper was being where a cheery fire burned upon an oldfashioned hearth. Mr. Wynn took possession of an easy chair and sat before the

People usually imagine that their bones

and fresh air, went to sleep in the presence of the beauty, has a great deal to do with this tale. No disguising it, no use attempting to shield him from the contempt he well merits, Mr. Wynn dozed in the presence of the beauty and in the hour of his betrothal-the hour which should be the happiest in a man's life. Still, contemptible as it seems, Mr. Wynn slept on complacently until awakened by a shrill voice yelling into the room:

"Supper!" With a jump he was on his feet and lo, what do you think happened? Why, Mr. Wynn was standing before the grate fire in his city apartments just beginning to

"A dream?" cried he. "The divine Gwynn, the horseback ride, the country rheumatism, which no physician undertavern, and oh, those kisses full of bliss, all

said, but it looks better in print and sounds a person says that he feels a thing in his

After raving about the room a few moments he threw himself into the chair again. "What! Have I been sleeping and dreaming here all afternoon like an overgrown infant? Have I missed the Honorable Mrs. Airy's affair where no doubt the beauty was and where I anticipated such a glorious time? Bah!"

When his landlady's Abigail called him to supper the second time it was fortunate which lies deep hypocrisy. Bah! 'tis all a for that young woman that she did not put her head in the doorway again, for I am afraid that in his mood then Mr. Wynn would have done serious damage to that head.

He swallowed his disgust and disappointment as well as he could, but for the rest of that night the friends he met wondered what new whim had seized Mr. Wynn for, as they said, he was like a bear with au afflicted cranium, whatever that means.

However, as the illustrious William put it, "All's well that ends well," and as I received a short time ago a neatly printed card upon which the names of Miss Gwynn and Mr. Wynn significantly appeared I Oh, women, women, what misery you take it that everything ended smoothly and satisfactorily as a fairy story of our youth. Now ladies, so much disappointed when lonely horseman as he proceeded on his Mr. Wynn failed to appear at the Honorway, and it his Polly did not take flight at able Mrs. Airy's At Home, you know the sound of her master's voice it was not be- true cause of that gentleman's non attend-

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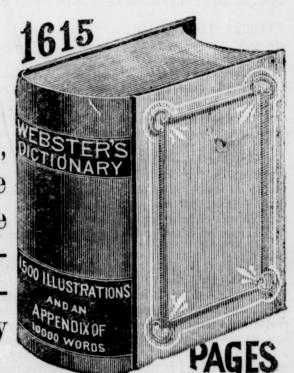
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