

## THEY'RE AFTER WEALTH.

DEVICES OF MEN WHO WANT TO MARRY MONEY.

The Dangers to Which a Woman With a big Bank Account is Exposed Through Fortune-hunters—Incidents of Many Narrow Escapes Related.

Everyone knows it was a great and clever man who declared that a woman with youth and money is absolutely the most favored and enviable creature in existence. But he evidently had not taken into account the fact that it is precisely those two fascinating possessions which expose her to pitfalls and disillusion almost beyond belief. For one thing, there is always the wily fortune-hunter to be reckoned with, the inevitable man who must marry money because it is not in him to earn it.

In that sense alone, it is safe to say that the girl with a snug banking-account, or safe 'expectations,' seldom nears a marriageable age without being marked as legitimate quarry by a swarm of impecunious gentry who accept 'all's fair in love' very literally, and are frequently open to employ any artifice in order to carry off the prize. With competition in this line so desperately keen, indeed, it is not at all strange that the average wealthy girl is doomed to run the gauntlet of a whole series of traps and subterfuges, although she may not recognise them as such.

A good many well-placed people drew breath sharply over the narrow escape, not long ago, of a smart American girl who 'did' London under an easy-going chaperon. Half a million dollars was the faintest estimate of the father's profits on pork, and the fortune-hunters were proportionately strenuous and numerous. The majority were snubbed at a glance, but one handsome and fascinating gentleman, who posed as an Italian Count came thrilling near making a sordid romance of it. Photographed views of his supposed vineyards and mansions at Naples had been actually sent across to the gratified parents in Chicago, and preparations went with a rush towards a climax.

It was only his eagerness of a sudden to have the knot tied quietly by license that aroused the girl's suspicion, and averted another society shudder. She demurred, and in the meantime the 'count' was arrested for a most paltry debt. Subsequent investigations showed that all his credentials were worthless, and he had been working a most elaborate scheme for winning a rich wife and clearing off an appalling list of embarrassments.

Society records are simply rich in such instances. The facts do not often transpire outside 'the circle,' but it is pretty well known that an earl recently came very near having a circus-rider for his son-in-law. The young lady, who, though of age, had evidently not lost all her girlish notions of romance, had been travelling abroad; and in some way or other the circus-rider had managed to get a real or fancied hold upon her affections. To the family's dismay, he followed her back to England, but agreed to take his broken heart out of sight in consideration of a sum of money. This being refused, he announced his intention of taking action for breach of promise; and meant it.

In an interview with the earl, he produced a batch of letters which were to prove his case; and to get these back, and save an unpleasant publicity, the other was compelled to come down with a handsome cheque. But the chief irony of the affair lay in the fact that, as was later discovered, the letters in question were partly forgeries, and that the man was a pure adventurer who had set himself to win a rich wife by hook or by crook.

Blue blood and beauty, however, are of small account with the determined fortune hunter. Some time ago the Lancashire newspapers had a paragraph to the effect that an obscure mill-operative had, by the death of her almost forgotten uncle, come in for a considerable sum of money. Needless to say, there were shoals of men to suddenly discover that she was a wife worth winning—only the girl happened to be shrewd, and was in no hurry; at a scoffingly declared the man who wooed her must prove that he valued her for herself alone.

She had not reckoned with the subtle resource of the dowry hunter. Some few weeks later, as she was riding her bicycle back from town along a lonely part of the high road, a murderous looking tramp sprang from a ditch and grasped her handle-bar, with hints of violence if she did not give him money. Nearly paralyzed with terror, the girl was making a feeble resistance, when, by an exquisite coincidence, a gentleman leaped the hedge close by, seized the molester, and administered what seemed to be a severe thrashing. He was on a walking tour, he explained, as he proffered her a stick of cordial and trundled her machine along the road, and should never be thankful enough that he happened to be on the spot.

To shorten matters, the impression lasted, and a few weeks later still the girl and

her rescuer were made man and wife! Then—then the money commenced to fly, but the crash came when, by accident, she discovered her husband in company one day with the very man who had played the tramp on that high road. Then, when too late, the truth leaked out, and the wife had to realize that she had fallen an easy victim after all to the clever trick of a mere fortune-hunter.

Assuredly, no one could count the number of moneyed ladies who have been duped into marriage by needy adventurers through the medium of matrimonial advertisements. It might seem strange, but proof upon proof has transpired of the fact that the very woman who, possessing means, have learned by experience to regard would-be husbands with suspicion, have walked into this most simple of traps set by the wealthy-wife hunter.

An amusing and astounding instance of this cropped up in a police court a short time back, when an indignant wife asked for a separation order, on the ground that she had been tricked into marrying by shameful pretences.

As proof, she produced a copy of a matrimonial journal published in the provinces, and in which 'a gentleman, possessed of £5,000 wished to correspond with a lady (age and locks of no particular account) having similar sum in her own right, with a view to a wedding and setting up in the grocery line. Replying out of sheer curiosity, she had been introduced to the gentleman of easy tastes who had in turn introduced his lawyer's and arranged matters, as it seemed, most satisfactorily. But the grocer's business was a dream. Now after a bare month of marriage, she made the discovery that her husband's means consisted of exactly three suits of clothes and a consummate cleverness.

### GUARDED BY WILD BEASTS.

The Safest Way to Secure Jewels From the Burglar's Neighbourly Schemes.

Paradoxically speaking, precious stones are never really safe in safes, for the jewel thief is a prince among robbers, and boasts that he can find a way into the strongest iron-box ever made. Nevertheless, he must be able to get at the safe before he can despoil it, and sometimes living obstacles are thrown in his path which with all his ingenuity and cunning he finds it impossible to overcome.

An Italian nobleman keeps fifty thousand pounds' worth of beautiful stones in a small and fragile casket, but the man who wants to reach them must first pass through the den of a fine panther, then through the abode of a magnificent lion, and finally through a veritable hot-bed of poisonous snakes. In fact, the innocent-looking casket is hedged round on all sides with wild animals of the fiercest type, none of which would hesitate to attack an intruder. An experienced keeper is also in constant attendance, and he alone can safely traverse the perilous road which leads to the jewels. The nobleman had originally no intention of guarding the family treasure in this

way, but after three almost successful attempts to steal the jewels had been made, he bethought himself of his private menagerie, and had the cages so arranged that the casket lay just in the middle. The plan succeeded admirably, and for years the jewels have remained undisturbed in their air tight receptacle.

A tiger, which made itself notorious by killing its keeper is now living in a cage worth thousands. Built into the thick wall behind it is something which looks like an ordinary cupboard, but which is really a hiding place for a collection of jewels belonging to a rajah. These precious stones were actually stolen and recovered thrice in one year, and it was only as a last resource that the Englishman responsible for them handed them over to the tender mercies of the tiger. Now he feels himself secure, for the animal has such a bad reputation that the thief who beads it in its den will require more than ordinary courage.

Last summer the tiger's keeper, who sleeps on the premises, heard tortured screams issuing from the room below, and hurried down in time to see a man clambering through the window. Dim as the light was, he noticed also that there were deep scratches on the fugitive's face, and that the angry tiger's claws were tinged with red.

What the thief intended doing is not very clear, but it is certain that he ventured too near the bars, for big splashes of blood were found on the floor of the cage, and a lacerated finger bore testimony to the fact that the tiger had defended its charge well. While such an animal remains on guard, it seems unlikely that the rajah's jewels will ever change hands again.

Early in the sixties a gang of thieves learnt that an eccentric menagerie owner had jewels of immense value secreted in the lions' cage. To gain possession of these precious stones, the gang surprised the show people one moonlight night bound and gagged the two attendants, and opened the door of the cage. Then one of them, with reckless courage, jumped in and unfastened the grating, which fell down and shut the trio of lions in their sleeping-place.

After that it should have been easy to find the treasure, but the gang searched all over without avail, and could extract no information from the terrified attendant. At last, just as they were getting desperate, a deafening roar made them look at the grating, from behind which a beautiful lion was staring at them angrily.

'The jewel-box!' cried the ringleader. 'They've hung it round the brute's neck!'

So indeed they had, and the gang, realising in a flash that all their well-laid plans had come to nothing, riddled the poor lion with bullets and bolted. Five minutes later they were all in the hands of the police, while the jewel-box was lying safe



## When a Boy Enters

This school he is not given a text-book with a lot of definitions to learn, as in the old way, but he is put at once to doing business as it is done in the outside world. Send for Catalogue.

## The Currie Business University,

Cor. Charlotte and Princess Streets, St. John, N. B. Telephone 991. P. O. Box 50.

and sound beneath the dead body of its four looted guardian.

### HOMES ON WHEELS.

Temporary Refuges Provided for Workmen on Railways.

That the management of the Northern Pacific Railway appreciates the fact that if you want a man to work and give him a good bed to sleep on is evidenced by the system of 'boarding trains.' The outfit consists of commissary, store, kitchen, dining room, and refrigerator cars and sleeping cars. The force necessary for the train averages about one man for every twelve workmen, the distribution of occupants being about as follows for each 100 workmen: One head cook, 1 second cook, 4 waiters, 1 watchman, and 1 commissary clerk, 8 in all. The commissary has a buyer who purchases supplies in bulk for distribution to all camps controlled by it. The regular bill of fare includes two kinds of meat and three vegetables, with pie or pudding for dinner and sauce or preserves for supper. The kitchen requisition blank, upon which the chief cook obtains his supplies, covers a complete assortment of materials, under the heads of fresh meats, dry meats, breadstuffs, eggs, butter, coffee, and tea, vegetables, (fresh and canned,) milk, (fresh and canned,) green and dry fruits, &c. The commissary department carries a stock of all the various articles of clothing for which a demand is likely to arise, and tobacco, cigars, pipes, matches, knives, postage stamps, &c.

All of the cars are fitted up from ordinary box cars, the arrangement of the sleeping car being perhaps of the greatest interest. Each car accommodates twenty men. One full side of the car is taken up by two story berths, each intended for the occupancy of two men. On the opposite side of the car are four single berths only, and the remaining space toward the other end of the car is occupied by a stove, wash basins, and other simple toilet arrangements. Ventilation is provided for by four windows. The beds are furnished with excel-

sior cotton-top mattresses and blankets of a weight according to the climate in which the train is stationed.

These outfits are reported as working to the greatest satisfaction of the railroad company, for the men do better work and more of it from having a good sleeping place. It is also stated that the completeness of the equipment is a material benefit to the railway company itself, which is felt by the transportation department especially in the ease of call for carrying new men to replace dissatisfied ones, and in furnishing passes to local supply points for commissary goods.

The same company now has twelve trains of this kind stationed on the Northern Pacific and thirteen on the Santa Fe, Pacific and Southern California roads.

### Active Man Wanted.

To read this advertisement and then give Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor a trial. It never fails to cure. Acts in twenty-four hours and causes neither pain nor discomfort. Putnam's Corn Extractor extracts corns. It is the best.

### YANKEE ADVERTISING DODGE.

Shrewd Hustler Makes a Good Clean-Up with Cheap Cigars.

An ex-collector of customs relates this as among his experiences: Some years ago and shortly prior to the holidays a man came into the office and said that he wanted to talk with me personally. He looked like an unsophisticated fellow who had come in from the country to try his hand at business, though he had sharp features and a nasal twang.

'Mister,' he began when we were alone, 'I'm in a kind of a snarl and I've come to you because I want to do the square thing. I had a nice lot of Havana cigars shipped to Windsor, thinkin' I could do a stroke sellin' 'em here in Detroit. I had a man there to take care of 'em till I came on, but he, not knowin' nothin' about the law, packs 'em cigars in a boat and brings 'em over here without payin' no duty. I reckon it was smugglin' but he's honest as the sun and I hurried right here soon's I heard of what he'd done. Here's a sample of 'em cigars,' as he held out a box, and I want to say right here that I never had a more delicious smoke. He took me to the little room he had rented and showed me hundreds of boxes on which he paid the duty and I let the matter drop. It got into the papers, even to my verdict as to the quality of the cigars.

'Then my honest Yankee made a special Christmas sale, patronized chiefly by ladies who did not care so much about the credit of having once selected good goods. He was closed out in no time and disappeared. There was a rank odor in the local atmosphere that Christmas. The cigars were cheap Connecticut fillers and cheaper Pennsylvania wrappers. The cigar he gave me was a 'ringer.' Uncle Sam got money that did not belong to him, but it was an advertising scheme out of which the Yankee made a fat thing.'

### Power of a Prima Donna.

An operatic prima donna has often been known to make queer demands upon her manager. A recent instance in the case of Fraulein Wedekind, the justly celebrated soprano who is principal singer at the Royal Opera House, Dresden. This lady, it is said, declined to renew her engagement at Dresden unless her finance was granted a government appointment. Even kings have to bow to the aristocracy of art, so that his majesty of Saxony graciously acceded to Fraulein Wedekind's request and appointed her young man as assessor of taxes.

### CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

**RESIDENCE** at Rochesay for sale or to rent for the Summer months. That pleasantly situated house known as the Titus property about one and a half miles from Rochesay Station and within two minutes walk of the Kennebec Falls. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fenety, Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24 6-11

## Many of Our Students

Purchase a 12 month's certificate covering both Business and Shorthand courses. As the average time for either is 10 months, students who are intelligent and energetic, should have both diplomas at the end of 12 months. Remember, our Shorthand is the Isaac Pitman's, and our Business Practice the latest and best, and we hold the right for the exclusive use.

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