

## Confessions of an Every-Day Wife

By Idah McGlone Gibson

WE MEET MAJOR GORDON AGAIN.

When we arrived in our rooms we found them filled with flowers. Both Letty and Mother Symone had evidently telegraphed to florists in New York, but among the American beauties and other stately blossoms I immediately sighted a corsage of salmon pink rosebuds and even before I looked at the card I instinctively knew that my "rescuer" had probably telephoned that order to the florist from the pier, because in no other way could they have appeared so quickly after Major Gordon learned my name.

Toddy snatched the bouquet and buried his nose in it and then said with a laugh:

"Is your rescuer trying to pin a rose on me?"

Be still, Toddy, can't you be serious for a moment?"

"Yes, I can be very serious when I look at you, my dear, and realize that none, not even a Major, knows you but to love you. And if a Major must do this, what do you think will happen to a poor Lieutenant?"

"Theo, do you realize that you have said many flattering things to me in the few hours since you met me at the pier?" was my question.

"My dear, I had nothing to do but think of you while I was away, and every hour that we were parted you seemed to grow sweeter to me. Don't look at me as though no woman had ever heard that before and that I am unique as a soldier husband, for I want to tell you that wives all over this country to-day, yes, and in other countries, are being appreciated as they have never been before.

"A man very quickly finds out, even if he sees no more than I, just what woman is in his heart; just what woman he wants to be in his life."

"Yes, but will it—"

Theo quickly put his hand over my mouth.

"Come, now," he said, "none of your doubts and fears. That's just like a woman."

Theo continued to make me feel that we were simply lovers when he went down to lunch.

"Where shall we go tonight, sweetheart?" he asked. "What plays have you seen?"

"Theo, you make me laugh," I said. "I have been in New York two days, and each night I've had my dinner in my room, tried to interest myself in reading, and been lonely."

"Were you really lonely without me, dear heart?"

"That's a nice question to ask, after the eloquent descriptions of loneliness I have put in all my letters!"

"But I want you to say it to me."

And then, as we were seated at the table, he forgot all about his heart and gave his undivided attention to his stomach.

As I gazed around, suddenly my eyes alighted upon Major Gordon, who seemed rather embarrassed to be discovered staring. He was with a most beautiful woman and I smiled to note her annoyance at being for the moment, like myself, a secondary consideration.

With a flash of pleased recognition the Major bowed as he caught my eye. I knew that she was asking if he were speaking to someone she also knew, for her head was slightly turned away. He shook his head and she turned round for a closer inspection, intuitively knowing that no male acquaintance would have invoked that smile.

As she did so, Theo, having finished his steak, looked up. She caught his smile and quickly said something to her escort. Up until this time I had thought possibly the lonely lady was possibly Major Gordon's wife, but immediately I knew that no wife would ask her husband as frankly as she asked the Major,

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to be introduced to my husband. Major Gordon immediately arose and crossing to us said:

"I hope you will not think I am presuming, but Mrs. Charlton would like to meet Mrs. Symone, and if you have nothing in particular to do we might form a little party for the theatre this evening."

Toddy cast an inquiring look in her direction, and before I could answer said:

"That's a splendid idea. You've probably been here long enough to know what shows we should see, Major."

"Then we'll meet you in the corridor after luncheon."

(Tomorrow—"A Theatre Party.")

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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the post office of Kingsclear and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

H. W. WOODS,

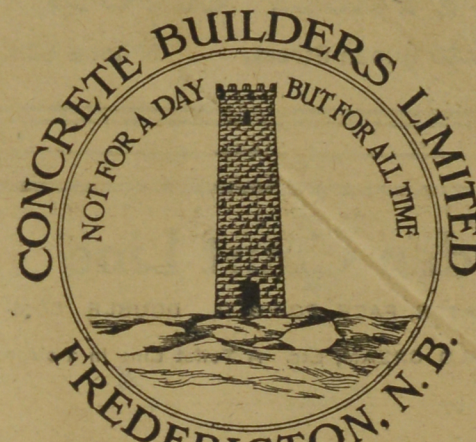
Post Office Inspector. Post Office Inspector's Office, St. John, N. B., June 23rd, 1919.

## REMINDER OF WATER RATES.

Water consumers are again reminded that Water and Sewerage Rates must be paid by MONDAY, June 30, 1919, in order to get the discount.

G. R. PERKINS, City Treasurer.

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## OVER THE CIGAR STAND COUNTER

(Chicago News.)

"One might think that a man in my position would have a large acquaintance among the gentler sex, travelling as I do from city to city and meeting thousands upon thousands of people per annum."

After this flight of speech the shoe salesman gazed into the eyes of the girl at the cigar stand to see the effect it had made.

"But," continued the shoe salesman, "I can truthfully say, Miss Finnerty, that you are the only girl I am personally acquainted with. You are the only girl whose personality appeals to me; whose beauty, gentleness—"

"Where do you get that stuff?" cut in the girl at the cigar stand. "I'm not familiar with the classics, Mr. Minihan, but your chatter sounds as if it had been taken out of one of those ten-cent novels they sell on trains to make the passengers forget the awful service the company is handing them."

"Oh, Miss Finnerty," spoke up the shoe salesman laughingly, "you are so delightfully facetious. Do you realize that I look forward for months to the happy day that brings me here just to hear your effervescent wit?"

"It is," said the girl at the cigar stand, "about as effervescent as a cherry phosphate with the war tax on."

"Has anyone brought sadness into your life since I spoke to you before, Madeline?"

"No, Mr. Minihan. But if I'm as wonderful as you and 245 other customers say I am—including thirty-six other shoe salesmen who buy their smokes here—why has no theatrical manager rushed up to the showcase and slipped me a contract? Why has no millionaire put down his 50 cent Havana in awe and asked me to be his bride—his own rare beauty?"

"Madeline, they have not the eye for the beautiful that is possessed by this poor but honest shoe salesman, this ix-town a week drummer who knows an orchid when he sees her. A benighted knight of the sample case whose mind dwells in a realm of—"

"Man," said the girl, "I must say you can use the most lovely language I ever heard. But that will be about all. Now light your pipe and be on your way."

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