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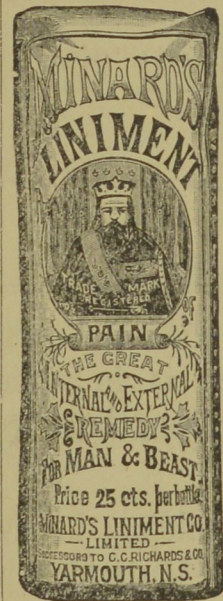
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Detroit, Mich., Feb. 17—The Joint International Waterways Commission met here today and discussed among other matters of importance, the Livingstone channel in the Detroit River and the pollution of boundary waters by various industrial establishments.

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A GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST

BY GENE STRATTON PORTER

(Continued.)

Being in a circle of her best friends, which to her meant her keenest rivals and hardest critics, she grew rigid with anger. Her breath hurt her painful chest. No one thought to speak to the musicians, and, seeing the floor filled, they began the waltz.

Edith Carr grew very white as she stood alone. The idolized only daughter of the Carr family hoped that she would drop dead from mortification, but nothing happened. She was too perverse to step aside laughingly and say that she was waiting for Philip. Then came Tom Levering dancing with Polly Ammon. Being in the scales with the Ammon family, Tom scented trouble from afar, so he whispered to Polly, "Edith is standing in the middle of the floor, and she's awful mad about something."

They hurried to Edith. "Come, dear," said Polly. "We are going to wait with you until Phil gets back. Let's go for a drink. I am so thirsty."

"My betrothed left me here," Edith said. "Here I shall remain until he returns for me, and then—he will be my betrothed no longer!"

Polly grasped Edith's arm. "Oh, Edith!" she implored. "Don't make a scene here, and tonight. He can explain! It's only a breath since I saw him go out. I thought he had returned."

"He has been gone just long enough to show every one of his guests that he will leave me standing alone, like a neglected fool, for any passing whim of his. Explain! His explanation would sound well! Do you know for whom he caught that moth? It is being sent to a girl he dined with all last summer."

Speech unloosed the fountain. She stripped off her gloves to free her hands. At that instant the dancers parted to admit Philip. Instinctively they stopped as they approached and with wondering faces watched in Edith and Philip, Polly and Tom.

"Mighty good of you to wait!" cried Ammon, his face beaming with delight over his success in capturing the yellow Emperor. "I thought when I heard the music you were going out."

"How did you think I was going on?" demanded Edith Carr in frigid tones.

"I thought you would step aside and wait a few seconds for me or dance with Henderson. It was most important to have that moth. It just completes a valuable collection for a person who needs the money. Come!"

He held out his arms. "I 'step aside' for no one!" stormed Edith Carr. "I await no other girl's pleasure! You may 'complete the collection' with that!"



She drew her engagement ring from her finger and reached to place it in one of Philip's outstretched hands. Ammon saw and drew back. Instantly Edith dropped the ring. As it fell, almost instinctively Philip caught it in air.

"Edith, for the love of mercy, wait until I can explain!" he begged. "Put on your ring and let me tell you how it is."

"Never! Your conduct is infamous!" "Come to think of it," said Ammon deliberately. "It is infamous to cut a girl who has danced all her life out of a few measures of a waltz. As for asking forgiveness for so black a sin as picking up a moth and starting it to a friend who lives by collecting them I don't see how I could. I have not been gone three minutes by the clock, Edith. Put on your ring and finish the dance like a dear girl."

He thrust the glittering ruby into her fingers and again held out his arms. She dropped the ring, and it rolled some distance from them. Henderson followed its shining course and caught it before it was lost.

"You really mean it?" demanded Ammon in a voice as cold as hers ever had been.

"You know I mean it!" cried Edith Carr.

"I accept your decision in the presence of these witnesses," said Philip Ammon.

"Where is my father?" he asked of those around them. The elder Ammon, with a distressed face, hurried to him. "Father, take my place," said Philip. "Excuse me to my guests. Ask all my friends to forgive me. I am going out for a time."

He turned and walked from the pavilion. As he went Hart Henderson rushed to Edith Carr and forced the ring into her fingers. "Edith, quick! Come, quick!" he implored. "There's just time to catch him. If you let him go that way he never will return in this world. Remember what I told you."

"Great prophet, aren't you, Hart?" she sneered. "Who wants him to return? If that ring is thrust upon me



"I accept your decision in the presence of these witnesses."

again I shall fling it into the lake. Signal the musicians to begin and take this dance with me."

Henderson put the ring into his pocket and began the dance. He could feel the muscular spasms of the girl in his arms, her face was cold and hard, but her breath burned with the scorch of fever. She finished the dance and all others, taking Phil's numbers with Henderson, who had arrived too late to arrange a program. She left with the others, merely inclining her head as she passed Ammon's father taking his place, and entered the big touring car for which Henderson had telephoned.

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