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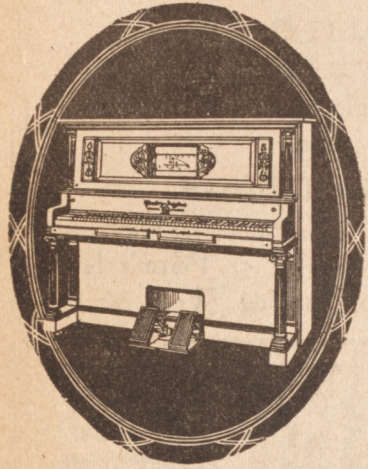
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THE MISSES YOUNG

A CUT IN VAUDEVILLE

It was Christmas eve. The vaudeville house was dark in front and the people who had taken part in the performance were trooping out of the stage entrance. One young man lingered behind the others. Just as the doorman called "All out!" a girl passed hurriedly and disappeared through the doorway to the side street.

The young man who would have paid no attention to the girl, being in no mood for exchanging Christmas greetings or other amenities, but just across the threshold her foot slipped and she fell to the sidewalk with a sharp little cry.

"I hope you're not hurt," he said in kindly tones as he leaned over her deferentially.

"No-o!" she said sobbingly; "I'm a-all right, O'oh, I'm not c-c-rying because of the f-fall; I'm c-c-rying because I'm homesick and it's Christmas e-e-eve."

The last words were a childish wail and the young man looked at her amazed. He had seen her every night that week. She had been in a marionette turn with five other girls. He had been in the dumps all week, however, and had left directly after his turn until tonight, when he thought of the empty, cold little room at the third rate boarding house so repelled him that he had decided to stay in the theatre as long as the lights were on.

"By golly!" he said, boyishly, impulsively taking his handkerchief from his pocket and offering it to her in place of the little damp ball she was dabbing her eyes with, "do you feel that way, too?"

"Why? Do you?" The tone was almost friendly.

She looked very little, very child-like, very much in need of protection as she stood there and his chivalry rose to the occasion.

"We will walk on," he said, quietly. Some men over there are staring. Perhaps you had better tell me your name, mine is Ted Warren."

"Mine—my real name—is Jessica Rand."

"Thank you! I'd much rather know your real one. You said you were homesick; does that mean that you are here all by your lonely, with no folks to fall back on for a jolly day tomorrow?"

She gave him one quick glance; then entirely reassured by his expression, nodded.

"Then let's celebrate together," he proposed eagerly. "We'll begin tonight, very simple, because you know," he explained, naively, "I'm not terribly flush. We'll have a nice little supper and then I'll take you home."

Youth is volatile and its impressions are fleeting. Before the young couple had been together half an hour they had forgotten that they were blue or homesick. Ted was beaming at Jessica and she in turn was dimpling at him.

"Tell me what on earth ever sent you on the vaudeville stage?" he demanded, wonderingly.

"I will, if you'll tell me what sent you on," she retorted.

"Stubbornness, I guess," he answered, frowning as though at some unpleasant recollection. "My father is in the grocery business and he wanted me to go in and help him—offered me a partnership, too, but it wasn't high toned enough. I thought the world was aching for the sight of Henry Irving's successor. I made a grand stand play of starting at the bottom and working up. I started where I said I would, all right."

His tone was grim, but the corners of his mouth twitched.

The girl laughed outright. "My mother and father wanted me to stay at home and learn to do housework—housework! I couldn't bear to think of the future Ellen Terry washing dishes. So here I am."

He leaned over the table and looked at her earnestly. "Says," he murmured.

mured, confidentially. "I be made up my mind I was about the blindest fool that ever came down the pike. I've had all I could do to keep from telegraphing my dad all week."

Her lips quivered and her eyes suddenly filled.

"Have you felt that way too?" he queried, softly.

She nodded vigorously.

He gazed at her for a moment in silence, and then his face broke into wrinkles of laughter. Hastily he pulled a few bills out of his pocket.

"Got any money?"

"Ten dollars. Father sent to me. They think"—she ducked her little head with shame—"that I earn a great deal of money. They don't know that it keeps me guessing to get from one town to another on the circuit."

"That's just what my folks think," he admitted, flushing boyishly.

"Got a private telephone booth here, waiter? Two? Good! Find out the charge to Racine and get Henry Warren on the wire for me."

"What's your town, Jessica?" he he asked, after the waiter had departed. "Kenosha? For heaven's sake!"

"What are you going to do?" she demanded, breathlessly.

"Going to telephone my dad and ask him if the prodigal calf can come home. Then you're going to telephone yours and tell him you're sick of shams and are coming home to learn to do housework. You'll need to know it, you see, when we go to housekeeping."

"When we—" she breathed.

"That's what I said," he responded, masterfully. "A girl like you has got no business on the vaudeville or any other stage. She belongs in a home." His eyes caught and held hers. The interchanged look was honest and sweet. She smiled and then grew troubled.

"I don't know what to say to my folks. I haven't been quite honest with them. I didn't want them to know how badly I wanted to come home. I'd have gone at the end of the very first week if it hadn't been for my pride."

"Racine is on the wire, sit!"

"All right; give him your number at Kenosha, Jessica."

They came out of the booths at the same time and regardless of the colored man in livery threw themselves into each other's arms.

"All right, Jessica?"

"All right, Ted. Father wants me to come home tonight. He says he'll come back with me after Christmas for my things."

"That's just what my dad said," shouted Ted. "We can just make the 12.30 Northwestern. Dad and mother will be at the train."

"So will mine. Oh, Ted, isn't it splendid!"

"It sure is! Waiter, my check! Jessica, I'll come up day after tomorrow to meet the family. Tomorrow I think we owe to our folks."

Breathlessly they ran for the station and rapturously they gazed from the car windows as the train whizzed along. Fences and fields were covered with snow. The world looked like a Christmas card and life stretched ahead of them one uninterrupted round of Christmas festivities. At Kenosha a sleigh waited, but it was empty and a strange man held the horse. Jessica could not even see Ted as he called:

"Good-by, and Merry Christmas, Jessica!" but she managed to send her voice over her father's shoulder:

"Same to you! See you tomorrow! Oh, mother and daddy, it's good to be home!"

The train whizzed away toward another waiting mother and father, to whom it carried a happy boy, cured forever of wanderlust.

And that is the reason there were five marionettes instead of six at the Christmas matinee and the reason that Ted Warren's monologue was cut from the bill.

A STORMY DAY CUPBOARD

MAKE TEETHING PAIN-LESS

Teething time is always a time of anxiety to mothers. At this time baby becomes cross, restless and nervous. His gums pain him, he is troubled with constipation or diarrhoea, spasms, colic or convulsions. His little life is in danger unless a medicine is given him to keep his stomach sweet and pure and his bowels regular. There is a medicine in Baby's Own Tablets. Nothing can equal them during the teething period. They have lessened the worries of thousands of mothers. Among them is Mrs. W. A. Yeardon, Halifax, N. S., who writes:—"I have used no other medicine for baby but Baby's Own Tablets and I would not be without them. Last summer baby was greatly troubled with his teeth until I gave him the Tablets. They helped him and now he is a big healthy child." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Stormy days when the younger children cannot be much out of doors are apt to be trying to the little people themselves, and to nurses, mothers and friends. One nurse has evolved an excellent scheme, in the form of what she calls a "stormy day" cupboard.

The key of the cupboard is kept by the nurse, and the cupboard is opened only on stormy days, or for children who are kept indoors by little ailments. Inside the cupboard a varied assortment of games and amusements are kept, and here, too, are special stormy days dolls and Teddy bears that disappear when the sunshine comes again; scrap books quite different in character from those used at other times; boxes of paints and crayons nicer than the everyday ones and a magnifying glass with interesting natural history specimens for the children to examine. Naturally also there is an assortment of books, full of pictures, and a collection of postcards and pictures to arrange and paste in scrap books. These while away the very dreariest moments.

In order to do special honor to the stormy day cupboard the ceremony of opening it may be made one of mock solemnity and great dignity. There may be a special key-bearer

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Visit our ready-to-wear department and you will be delighted with the new spring garments. New spring suits in newest styles and colors. Newest spring coats in medium weight, latest styles. Children's spring coats. Ladies' dress skirts, all colors, latest styles large assortment. Ladies' new net waists, ladies black silk waists, ladies white lawn and linen waists.

A. MURRAY & CO.

MAY SHORTEN THE GAME SEASON

(Montreal Witness.)

The eleventh annual convention of the North American Fish and Game Protective Association opened at the Windsor Hotel this morning, Dr. Finnie presiding. The report of the secretary-treasurer, Mr. E. T. D. Chambers, showed an excellent year for the Association, and the various other reports all went to show that the branches have been doing excellent work. The work of the Association has been very successful, and much new legislation has been obtained, as well as the repeal of some laws that were injurious to the protection of fish and game. In this connection, Dr. Finnie, dealing with the condition of the Province of Quebec, spoke of the very long open season. This, he said, was not due to the indifference of the Association, but rather to the many unfavorable conditions they had to contend with. It is, however, probable, said Dr. Finnie, that the season will very soon be shortened by at least a month.

Those present at this morning's session included Dr. Finnie, Dr. Bishop of Boston; Premier Hazen of New Brunswick; the Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer of New Brunswick, and Messrs. G. H. Richards of Boston, Chas. E. Wilson of Glen Falls, N.Y.; G. A. Farmer, H. B. Charlton, L. O. Armstrong of Montreal; J. O. Townsend of New York, W. H. Parker of LaSalle, Peche, W. A. Emment of Montreal, E. T. D. Chambers and General Butterfield of Vermont.

At tomorrow's proceedings, over which Sir Lomer Gouin will preside, Mr. J. P. Townsend of Philadelphia, will read a paper on "Extirpation and Its Applicability to Violators of the Fish, Game and Forestry Laws," and Mr. W. T. Robson of the C.P.R. advertising department, will read one on "The Value of the Tourist Sportsman as a Means of Publicity for Underdeveloped Country."

Dr. de Van's Female Pills

A reliable French regulator; never fails. These pills are exceedingly powerful in regulating the generative portion of the female system. Refuse all cheap imitations. Dr. de Van's are sold at \$3 a box, or three for \$10. Mailed to any address. The Scofield Drug Co., St. Catharines, Ont.

THE BATTLESHIP WINNIPEG

(From the Victoria Times)

It would be a courteous act to name the first Canadian cruiser the "Winnipeg." That city is the farthest away of all Canadian cities from either coast, and logically might be expected to be the least interested of all others in naval matters. Instead of that we find people taking a keen interest in the matter of naval defence. Naming a ship after their chief city would tend to increase this interest and would be a compliment to the city holding the commanding inland position near the centre of the continent. We feel sure that Victorians would forego any claim they might feel they had for recognition in this matter in favor of the prairie capital. If we are not mistaken there is already a "Victoria" in the British Navy, but we have never heard of a "Winnipeg."

dressed in a red paper coat and hat to represent robes, and this child may carry a small cushion on which to bear the precious key. The other children may line up in procession to march to nurse for the key, and the key giving being presented to the little gathering, all will march to the cupboard in great state.

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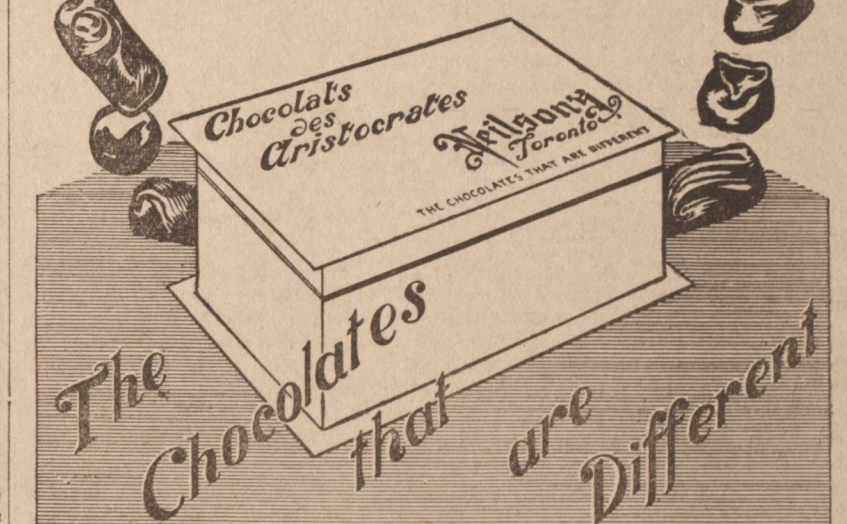
And you may be sure that we use even greater care in selecting materials for making chocolates than we do in presenting them attractively.

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"Chocolats Des Aristocrates"—"Cherries in Marsh-chino"—"Hard Centers"—"Chocolats Italiens"—are only four of the 33 different kinds we make.

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