



A MATTER OF TEMPERAMENT

Major Owen passed almost with a look of relief down the steps from the crowded reception-rooms into the garden. He was not a musician, and although all that was best and most unpronounceable on the London concert stage was at present performing in her ladyship's drawing-room, the only comment he could find to make to Phillip Rutherford was that there was too much of "this beastly fiddling."

insult and an outrage. He had to sit through concerts; they were very good concerts, and a very good concert was, from the Major's point of view, the very worst sort of concert. An ordinary concert, as he sometimes observed, he could understand. He was made to dance frequently, and in the small hours of the morning, when respectable, middle-aged gentlemen should be in their beds. It was very trying, but gradually it dawned on him that there were one or two compensations. Christine certainly behaved very nicely to him. He brought her a ring (diamond and sapphires), and her reception of it gave him great pleasure. He repeated this pleasure by buying her other things. After a fortnight he owned to himself that things might have been worse.



In the art gallery of the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, a collection of butterflies and moths are on exhibition. Specimens of 500 insects are included, all lent by the Denton brothers of Wellesley, Mass. Some striking examples of primitive coloring and markings are shown, one of the best of which is Kallima inachus. When flying, this butterfly is attractive, but when at rest it so closely resembles a dead leaf as to be almost indistinguishable from it, and thus the insect escapes its enemies. In fact, not only does this butterfly imitate, both in color and shape, the leaf of the plant upon which at its habit to alight, but also so closely imitates the fungus growth to be found upon the leaves, that in some specimens distinct species of fungi may be recognized. Butterflies are also shown which mimic owls' heads, spiders' webs, feathers, snakes' heads, and other natural objects.

Chicago News: M. Gerome, one of the most eminent of the older French painters, has recently expressed some interesting opinions on the condition of modern art. An interviewer visited him in his studio at Clichy and questioned him about the prospects of the art section of the great 1900 exhibition in Paris. Concerning the exhibition M. Gerome was not encouraging. He himself will send nothing to it. "There are," he said, "too many pictures, too many artists. A flood of pictures, works of art of all descriptions, will pour in from all quarters of the globe to fill the buildings reserved for their reception at the Champ de Mars. Quantity rather than quality will be, I fear, the rule; endless walls of canvas, patterns of plaster and terra cotta. There are forty times too many artists and a general public growing ever more indifferent to their productions. I fear that our poor confreres must die of hunger."

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TOADS AND BATS. Their Usefulness in Destroying Troublesome Insects.

As a result of experiments with toads and bats, it has been demonstrated that a house, or even a community, can be rid of various troublesome insects, including flies and mosquitoes. These experiments were made by Professor Clinton F. Hodges at the University of Worcester, Mass. Professor Hodges' first experiment was with the toad. "I constructed a small pen in my garden," he said, "and in it, in a pan of water, installed a male and female toad. To attract food for them I placed within the inclosure bits of meat and bone. The results were as satisfactory as they were unexpected. The toads spent most of the time sitting within reaching distance of the bait and killing the flies attracted by it. I watched one toad snap up eighty-six house flies in less than ten minutes. "One day I gathered a quantity of rose bugs in a tin box and began to feed the bugs to a toad. At first I did not count, but finding his appetite so good, I started to count. When I had counted over eighty bugs and the toad showed no signs of wishing to conclude his meal, I picked up a previous toad, my beginning to count he had taken anywhere from ten to twenty bugs. I found the toad equally greedy for rose beetles, canker worms, ants, caterpillars, moths, June bugs, weevils, snails and many other insects. So, too, in a house, a room may be cleared of cockroaches by leaving a toad in it over night.

"A single toad may destroy over 2,000 worms during the months of May and June, and one of these harmless creatures may well do a gardener's service to the amount of \$19.88 each season. One toad can raise \$20,000 worth of toads at an expense of not more than 20 cents. "Farmers in England buy them, paying as high as \$24 a thousand, for use in their flower beds and gardens. For household purposes a small number of toads could be given homes in an aquarium. At present toads could be let loose to kill bugs, while in a cage or wire screen a foot wide and two feet long, the top of which is kept open. It is only necessary to put in two or three toads, provide them with shelter, with a dish of water in one corner, and then keep them supplied with bits of raw meat and an either refuse matter calculated to attract flies."

In speaking of the bat, Professor Hodges said: "We have no animal more interesting and probably none more valuable, and certainly none less understood and more abused in the United States. They are easily tamed, absolutely harmless when gently handled, and make pets as funny as tiny monkeys. As destroyers of many of our most pestiferous night flying insects, like mosquitoes, the bat is almost our sole dependence, and, as he is known to hunt insects afoot, as well as on the wing, he is also of some value for larvae that do not fly. "My attention was turned to the bat through the codlin moth, the insect to blame for most worm eaten apples. In an orchard near my home I found nine of the grubs of this insect in a minute. Chancing to go to another orchard, hardly a mile away, I found only four of the grubs in an hour's search. There is an old barn near by, in which live a colony of between seventy-five and one hundred bats. The owner informed me that his apples were always free from worms."—Bangor Industrial Record.

On Whiskers. From the dawn of civilization whiskers have been regarded as the outward evidence of wisdom.—The Yakima Democrat.

Tentative efforts are again being made in favor of somewhat shorter skirts, but no one can make an absolute prophecy concerning them. As the matter stands at present in the hands of fashion designers and specialists, the traveling and walking costumes have the skirt at the back so well mounted and arranged over a close-fitting skirt as to give the effect of a slightly trained model without its former inconvenience. This, however, is exceptional, and the majority of new tailor styles, or those in present use, have a skirt which continues to sweep the ground at the back.

The medium-weight but closely woven wools are the very best fabrics to select for utility suits for the winter. The greens, browns and dark-plum and wine colors present a most attractive range of beautiful shades this season. The lightest and deepest tones, with a number of intermediate shadings, are alike popular. The new Russian blue is a superb color, and the very handsome dye called Roman blue is worn alike by matron and maid and by blonde and brunette. Some of the English-made costumes of Russian-blue cloth are elegantly trimmed with pink fur, the overdress of blue cloth thus adorned, the skirt, of pale biscuit-colored cloth, almost hidden by the long redingote, but showing a skirt border of applique work in Roman-blue cloth.

It has already been discovered that the pipings and applique designs arranged on fancy capes and jackets cut and worn badly, and give the garment a worn appearance before its time. This applies not alone to the medium but the higher-priced wraps so decorated. But where a roll of silk braid outlines the applique designs this trouble seems to be averted.

IN AMERICA bodies seem to wear out quicker than anywhere else. In the struggle for wealth, the stomach is neglected. Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation, Biliousness are the result. A strong stomach is essential to good health. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters for fifty years past has been making strong stomachs. It is a blood purifier, an appetizer—a nerve tonic. IT STIMULATES THE KIDNEYS wakes up sluggish livers—in fact, makes people well. All druggists sell it. Accept no other.

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Some of the new cloth and velvet redingotes are closely fitted and double breasted and cut down in the neck with revers slashed into deep points that are decorated with cut work en applique or else edged with a band of rich silk embroidery. The front of the redingote from the belt to hem is much cutaway and rounded at the bottom, revealing an untrimmed underskirt of reppe silk, or a pattern of pink cloth. The close sleeves match the redingote in fabric, and the guimpe matches the underskirt with a decoration applied to it that corresponds with the garniture finishing the edge of the slashed revers.

Besides the enveloping redingotes, newmarkets and other long garments, the three-quarter models for tall women, the fitted coats with little outside boleros and the host of trim little tailor-made jackets of every sort and color of wool are seen so smart and becoming costumes in early winter, a costume shawl or pink cloth. The close sleeves match the redingote in fabric, and the guimpe matches the underskirt with a decoration applied to it that corresponds with the garniture finishing the edge of the slashed revers.

There are new graceful models in both five and seven gored skirts, the backs cut to conform to the latest manner of adjusting a certain amount of fullness at the back in one very deep box plait, in two narrower ones or in a number of long tucks or French shirings very closely massed.

A Street Named for Dreyfus. It is well known that many an episode of contemporary history all over the world is chronicled in the names of streets. A few months ago the Municipal Council of Ledignan, a town in the Department of Le Gard, voted that a new street in their town should be called Rue Picquart. During the excitement which followed the reception of the bad news from Rennes, the Mayor proposed that the Rue de la Republique in Ledignan should thenceforward be named "Rue Alfred Dreyfus." The motion was enthusiastically welcomed, and all the conscript fathers of Ledignan, with one solitary exception, gave their votes for the alteration of the names.—London Daily News.

GRATITUDE. I's feelin' mighty thankful sence I read dat message sent to de good people 'r'm de U. S. President. I's feelin' mighty thankful dat I's gone a pow'ful purty chicken foh to celebrate de day. An' Razer Jim, he come along a-slain' up an' he hyrd me bein' thankful, an' says he, 'I would'n stoop, 'Ter brag; you's got de chicken now; but in a day or two 'jes' come aroun' an' maybe I'll be thankful de day.

Christine pointed out that it wasn't the same thing at all. "No," he answered, "I suppose not." In matters of art his education had been somewhat neglected. "But," he went on, "I have really seen some photographs which I liked better than the things which had been colored by hand." She laughed at him, and instructed him. "But why do you go to Delmay?" he said. "If you're going to have my portrait done I'd have it done at Delmay prices. Delmay charges no end of a lot, just because he got some of those writing chaps to scribble about him in the papers."

Miss Blake was a patient woman, but she got weary of continual attendance at Delmay's studio. After repeated sittings she still seemed to be progressing very slowly; she didn't like to tell him to hurry, especially as he was always perfectly charming to her, but she asked him to bring with a vague idea of a sense of the social obligation might lead him to shorten those sittings as far as was possible. The Major suggested that he should see the portrait, but Christine thought that it would be better for him to wait until it was finished. "It was nearly finished when Delmay found me," she said, "and he said that he would bring it to me further, and that he would have to begin all over again. Once or twice, as Miss Blake sat in the studio, turning over the illustrated papers, her head nodded and her eyes closed. She told Christine that it was very boring. Christine said she was very sorry, but seemed in the best of spirits.

Once more it was late at night, and the Major paced his chambers. They no longer had the air of a dream that might pass at any moment. In fact, he knew that, except when he was away for the shooting, or spending an occasional week in Paris, he would inhabit them for the rest of his natural life. Christine's letter had opened up to him a new world of possibilities. "It was your impetuosity that drove me into it. I was frightened, and hardly knew what to say, and gave way. I had my fears even at the time, but I thought that I would give it a fair trial, and see if I could bring myself to love you. I am sorry if I have given you any pain, but I know now (some things which have happened recently has shown me) that I could never really love you like that."

He read this through twice. Then he recalled that scene in the garden where the proposal had been made, and he remembered from whom particularly the proposal had come. And then, though he was sore at heart, he grinned sardonically. It says much for the generosity of his nature that, although he was not present in response to Miss Blake's invitation to the reception on the occasion of her niece's marriage with Maurice Delmay—it says much, I say, that, though he was not present—he sent silver candlesticks—four of them. The Delmays still use them.—To-Day.

Paris correspondent of the New York Post: Visitors to Ca'ro will remember in the Museum of Gizeh (there is a replica here in Paris in one of the upper

The beautification of St. Louis, from an architectural as well as a practical standpoint is occupying the attention of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The plan upon which they are working includes the construction of a system of boulevards connecting the various parks a park on the river front, the grouping of public and private buildings along Twelfth street, including locations for a new Criminal Court building, and the doing away with the Four Courts, a new jail, a public library building, a fine arts building, union markets for North and South St. Louis, as well as the ornamentation of Twelfth street itself on a scale of grandeur.

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts announces that the sixtieth annual exhibition will open on Monday, January 15, 1900, and close on Saturday, February 24th. The Temple gold medal will be awarded to the painters' jury of selection for the best picture painted in oil by an American artist, without regard to subject. The gold medal of the academy, founded in 1803 by John H. Converse, will be awarded at the discretion of the Directors, in recognition of high achievement in their profession to American painters and sculptors who may be exhibitors at the academy or be represented in the permanent collection, or who for eminent services in the cause of art or to the academy have merited the distinction. The Walter Lippincott prize of \$300, with an option on the part of the founder, reserved for one week after the announcement of the award, will be given for the seventh time for the best figure painting in oil by an American citizen. The Mary Smith prize of \$100, founded by the late Russell Smith, will be awarded by the Exhibition Committee for the twenty-second time "to the painter of the best painting (not excluding portraits), in oil or water colors, exhibited at the academy, painted by a woman artist, resident in Philadelphia, for qualities ranking as follows: (1) originality of subject; (2) beauty of design or drawing; (3) color and effect; and, lastly, execution.

The Boston "Advertiser" remarks of the proposed permanent Dewey arch in New York City: "Although the arch is to be erected in honor of the American navy, there is no reason in the world why it should be erected in New York, except that New York wants the honor and desires to have the city beautified by such a monument. Precisely. And that is just why New York should raise the money to settle the bills. It would be better not to have the project begun at all than to have New York passing the hat for weary years, too mean and too miserly to pay for the arch itself. The story of the Grant monument recalls so many painful memories that it might fairly be expected that the people of New York would be ashamed to risk a repetition of that affair."

Mrs. Ruth Berkeley, Salina, Kas., says: "One of my grandchildren had a severe case of Scrofula, which spread and formed sores all over her body. Her eyes were attacked, and we feared she would lose her sight. The best physicians treated her, but she grew worse, and her case seemed hopeless. We then decided to try Swift's Specific, and that medicine at once made a complete cure. She has never had a sign of the disease to return."

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