

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

A few days ago a number of gentlemen met in this city and decided to form a social club, lease or buy a residence and furnish it and equip it on a sumptuous scale. This club is designed for the amusement and pleasure of its members. It does not appear that we, of Washington, will continue to begin working from the top down, instead of from the bottom up. With such a crying need here for organization to promote and finance commercial enterprises it does appear that if men can organize to spend money lavishly for amusement they ought to be able to organize to spend money judiciously to foster business enterprises. With not a single colored grocery store of size and stock deserving the name of a grocery store in Washington; with all grocery stores of any dimensions, located in negro neighborhoods, controlled and operated by Russians, Greeks and Italians; with not a single dry goods, hardware, confection or china store or bank in this city of 127,000 negroes, it would appear that it would be far better to organize clubs to promote business rather than to furnish amusement. And these are anything but amusements. This is a serious period in our history. With a whole host of representatives passing Jim-crow measures, and each day the daily prints carrying cruel, outrageous attacks upon the race by members of congress; with right after right and privilege after privilege being swept away; with the door of opportunity being closed more effectually every day, there ought to be something more serious to command our attentions than the providing of a sumptuous club in which to roll our time away with nectared wines and aimless conversation. The sumptuously appointed social club, among the whites, came after the amassing of wealth and business success. Just at this particularly crucial period in our history, which invites serious thought and earnest work, a social club, sumptuously appointed, would be the limiting of Nero—fiddling while Rome burned. Let's begin at the bottom and work up, rather than at the top to work down.—The Washington Bee.

No man who is just and unbiased will condemn you for contending for what is right; therefore, we should contend for what is right. This, of course, should be done in the proper way, at the proper time, and at the proper place. This is a lesson that some people are yet to learn. Human rights are very sacred, and no man should be deprived of them. Every sane man should contend for his rights. We have civil, political and religious rights. The man who stands up for his rightful rights in the proper way will be respected and will in the end get them. God is not dead—right is bound to win.—The Baptist Reporter.

For as a general rule, the colored women have had more courage to speak out in the defence of the womanhood of the race than the colored men, who are to a great or less extent cowards and trimmers, they having no higher object in view than to appropriate all the honor and glory unto themselves. They are unwilling to speak out in thunderous tones against the many outrageous wrongs and insults heaped upon the weak and defenseless women and children belonging to the Afro-American race.—Broad Ax.

In Houston, Texas, the colored people have thirty barber shops, one bank, one dry goods store, three undertaking establishments, two bakeries, six printing offices, forty groceries, five newspapers, twelve contractors, one brickyard, nine lawyers, four dentists, sixteen doctors, three drug stores, ten real estate agents, six notary publics, five peace officers, two carriage and wagon manufacturers, twenty-one blacksmith shops, thirty restaurants, four hotels, two insurance associations, one badge factory, two beauty parlors, three jewelers, four ice cream factories, one business college, two night schools, two architects, sixteen hucksters, fourteen trained nurses, twelve music teachers, fifty dressmakers, one kindergarten, one veterinary surgeon, three cementers, eighteen painters, six cabinet makers, three sign painters, one sign painter, one second-hand store, six cement contractors, two stone cutters, fourteen brickmasons, three tailor shops, four hack lines, two steam laundries and two photographers.

It pays to be kind in kind.

Mrs. Booker T. Washington, president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, delivered an address before the teachers of Tuskegee Institute, in which she took occasion to speak on the subject: "What Negro Women Are Doing for Themselves." Mrs. Washington declared that the association was opposed to the turkey trot and ragtime. She was frequently applauded.

Benevolence must be well hid toward some people, or it will be overtaken by them.

Our people should wear themselves from the habit contracted in slavery of calling one another "nigger." Usually we are not offended at this term of derision when it is used by one of our race, but our resentment wells up when a white man refers to one of us by that misnomer. Use the word NEGRO instead of the word "nigger." Doesn't this sound alright for sarcasm? "Now, that negro thinks he is smart."

The light that lies in woman's eyes never lie in vain.

That year after year football is getting a strong footing among the athletic events of the negro schools and colleges of the country was demonstrated very clearly last fall by their general participation in the game.

The schedule of games of the various schools was more complete and more satisfactory to the public this year than ever before and with but few exceptions was played without a hitch.

Everything taken into consideration the teams representing most of the colleges have shown themselves to be well versed with the new game, and some of their exhibitions have called for the highest praises.

The season has come to a close with two teams standing out pre-eminently above the others; they are the Atlanta Baptist College and Howard University. Both teams at least for the present year will have to content themselves with sharing equally the honor of holding the leadership among the negro colleges of the country. A meeting between the two this year would have been a battle royal with a toss up as to which would be returned the victor. The Atlanta Baptist College met and virtually slaughtered the other Atlanta schools and won from Tuskegee Institute and Fisk University two of the most beautiful contests ever seen on a southern gridiron. Howard University on the other hand won most decisively from all her opponents.

To date seven bills have been introduced in the Illinois legislature, all of them antagonistic to the negro. They are known as the Shaw bill, the Campbell bill, the Foster bill, the Freeman bill, the Hollenbeck bill, the Karch bill and the Full Crew bill. With the exception of the latter, the sponsors for these measures place the blame for their action upon the Jack Johnson incident. The Campbell bill seeks to establish the "Jim Crow" car on the transportation lines of Illinois, especially on the street cars of Chicago and the other large cities. C. W. Lassell has bought Peter Sims for \$2,250. This trotter is said to have shown better than 2:12 last year. Leota J., by Royal McKinley, has been beating 2:07 in California, and Hanover, by Richard Alto, has been in 2:09 1/4.

O'Neill, that was one of the best three-year-olds in the country, has been wintered by Geers and now is to go to Valenteine. George H. Eastbrook will race a number of his horses in the Pine Tree state circuit. Ramey Macey will drive the half-mile. Sir R. has been sentenced to the half-mile game in the Canadian northwest. If work was what he needed, he will get it there. Optimistic Val. Shuler thinks he will drive Peter McCormick in 2:05 this year. He considers this one faster than Sterling McKinley. The price for which Billy Burke was sold to the Russians has not been given, but the horse was insured for \$10,000 before being shipped.

The Prix du President de La Republique, a steeplechase handicap at two miles, six and one-half furlongs, was won at the Anteuil track by M. Gouville's brown filly Sybilla. The stake was valued at \$12,600 with a trophy added.

The other man's philosophy was never meant for our circumstances.

The executive board of the National Baptist convention have decided that in connection with the next annual sessions of that body, in September, in Nashville, Tenn., there will be an exhibition of the progress the denomination has made since the emancipation. The plans are yet to be worked out in detail. Dr. Booker T. Washington was at the board meeting in Nashville last week, giving counsel and offering his aid financially. It is estimated that the proposed Baptist exhibition of the advancement of their work along lines of education and religion, the building of schools, churches, the work of publication of literature, current and permanent, statistics and material evidences, will cost three thousand dollars. To start Dr. Washington and other members of the committee subscribed liberally and the denomination will be called upon to help this laudable phase of the next annual meeting.

Your true friend will warn you of the impending dangers and assist you to steer clear; the false friend will magnify them but offer no relief.—The Torch Light.

Intellectual qualifications and moral stamina are of course the prerequisites for the school room in our race, and after them comes the proper connection and who you stand with in civic affairs. Are you wise enough to get right?—Saturday Evening Tribune.

Some of the every day policy players and "liquor guzzlers" are away over in the "amen corner" on Sundays; can sing psalms the loudest and exhort sinners the strongest, but by their walks and works are they known.—Arkansas Review.

An opportunity not used and has been allowed to flitter away is opportunity gone—and it is lost forever. If you are awake, feasting, playing, singing or crying, or whatever you are doing, when it knocks arise and let it in, for if it passes by it comes not back again.

The National Baptist Sunday school congress, to be held in Muskogee this year, might become a question for neighborly debate and fireside meditation till the snow melts.—The Baptist Rival.

SPORTS

BILLIARDS

Now that Willie Hoppe has regained the 15.1 billiard title, a challenge is momentarily expected from Cal Demarest.

AQUATIC

Harcourt Gould and A. G. Kirby of the famous Oxford Old Blues have consented to coach the Yale varsity crew for the race with Harvard.

George Van Vleet, formerly coach of the Staten Island Boat club, New York, has signed to act in a similar capacity for the Minnesota Boat club.

WRESTLING

Pat Connolly, heavyweight champion of Great Britain, defeated "Poly" Grimm of Seattle in two straight falls in 47 and 13 minutes at Vancouver, B. C.

Stanislaus Zbyzsko threw Charley Cutler in forty-four minutes at Chicago, using a crouch and head scissors hold. Henry Wirth defeated Irish Haggerty in two straight falls.

HORSE RACING

It is announced that the New York state fair is to open a futurity.

The 1913 racing season in Italy opened with the meeting at Verona.

One of the latest purchases by Walter Cox is the trotter Special Parole, 2:19 1/4.

They are beginning to hike in California, as a green trotter recently stepped a half in 1:02 1/4.

Every stable at Lexington is rented for the season, and a number of late comers have been disappointed.

Four Stockings, by Kinney Lou, is to be staked in some of the events in the Michigan circuit this year.

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BASEBALL

Dave Gregg, Veau's brother, has signed a contract to play with Toledo.

"The Reds are a lot of loafers," says Art Fromme. "Nobody except Ralph Works."

Beals Becker, whom the Giants sold to the Cincinnati Reds, is ticketed for a regular job in the Reds' outfield.

Manager Griffith has definitely decided to hold Calvo and Acosta. The two Cubans will be retained all summer.

Cozey Dolan is said to have landed a berth in the Philly outfield. He has proved the fastest man in Doolin's camp.

Johnny Beall, who was drafted from Denver by Cleveland last fall, has cinched the job as pinch hitter of the Naps team.

"Cal" Brown, one of Connie Mack's young recruits, has been showing wonderfully, and it is expected that he will be one of Mack's regulars.

"The reason I joined the Cubs was because I think they have a better chance of beating New York out for the pennant," said Roger Bresnahan.

The Cleveland Naps have secured the services of a new right-hander. His name is Abb Peddy, and he hails from the Dodson (Miss.) Independent club.

Cy Dahlgren, who refused to report to Cincinnati last season, and played semi-professional ball, was reinstated by the National commission. He was fined \$25.

Tom Cantwell, the former Georgetown athlete and Cincinnati pitcher, has been chosen to coach the Business High school baseball team of Washington, D. C.

Three Cubans—Baldomera Acosta, Jacinto Calvo and Rafael Almeida—hold major league contracts. All three of them are picked by the wise ones to shine this season.

MANAGER HINCHMAN



Bill Hinchman, the former Cleveland player, and now leader of the Columbus American association team, expects his club to be an important factor in the race for the pennant in that association this year. Among other players under his control Hinchman has "King" Cole, the former Chicago Cub pitcher, who asserts that he has regained his old-time form and will be the sensation in that league this year.

PUGILISM

Jim Coffey knocked out George Rodel, the Boer heavyweight, in the fifth round at New York.

Tony Caponi outpointed Glenn Coakley, the Indiana middleweight, in a fast ten-round bout at Fort Wayne.

Spike Kelly finished Jack Foreman of Cairo, Ill., in the second round of a scheduled eight-round fight at Memphis.

The bill passed by the legislature to legalize fifteen-round boxing exhibitions in Utah was vetoed by Gov. William Spry.

Pal Brown of Hibbing, Minn., was given a decision over Jerry Murphy of Indianapolis in a fifteen-round bout at St. Joseph, Mo.

Johnny Lore, the New York lightweight, added another victim to his belt by outslugging Grover Hayes in a six-round bout at Philadelphia.

At Brisbane, Australia, Sam McVey and Sam Langford fought a twenty-round draw. In their previous meeting Langford won by a knockout.

Patsy Drouillard, the Canadian lightweight champion, and Mickey Sheridan of Chicago fought each other to a standstill in an eight-round bout at Windsor.

Johnny Summers of England knocked out Frank Picato of Los Angeles in the nineteenth round of a scheduled twenty-round bout at Sydney, Australia.

Jack Shelton of St. Louis hit offener and harder in an eight-round slugfest match than Joe Sherman of Memphis, Tenn., thereby grabbing the decision at St. Louis.

Texas Dowd, trainer for Jess Willard, has taken the management of Jim Harper of California, Mo., whom he wants to see against some of the best heavyweight crop.

In a tame six-round bout at Philadelphia Johnny Krause easily defeated Al Ketchel of New York. John Lore of New York shaded Willie Houck of Philadelphia in a six-round bout.

Harry Lewis of Philadelphia knocked out Jack Harrison, England's champion middleweight pugilist, in the third round of their scheduled twenty-round bout at the National Sport-club.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Innisfail Stars of St. Louis were defeated by the Tacony team of Philadelphia at soccer, 4 goals to 1.

Germany figures it will cost \$375,000 to prepare their athletes for the 1916 Olympic games, to be held in Berlin.

Kansas university, by winning the last event, the two-mile relay race, was victor by one point in the eleventh annual indoor track meet with the University of Missouri. The score was 43 to 42.

A new world's amateur record was hung up for the 120-yard hurdles by Fred Kelley of the University of Southern California in his college's dual meet with Leland Stanford. Kelly made the distance in 15 flat.

Capt. Wendell S. Kuhn, of next season's Princeton hockey team, and former Capt. Hobey Baker, who led the Tigers this year in hockey, are agitating a movement in favor of making hockey a major sport at Princeton.

The duke of Somerset has accepted the presidency of the British Olympic Council, resigned by Lord Desborough. Though not strictly an athlete, as Lord Desborough was, he has always been a great exponent of field sports of many kinds.

Announcement was made that the University of California will be represented in the eastern collegiate meet next May for the first time. The contests are held in the Harvard stadium, and eight men probably will go from Berkeley, Cal., to take part.

The German Union of Gymnasts comprises 1,250,000 members, which is far in excess of any other sport in the German empire. The German Football league has 160,000 members, the Amateur Athletic Union 120,000, the Cyclists' league 50,000 and the Lawn Tennis league 30,000.

TASTY MAPLE SUGAR ROLLS

Confection That is a Luxury Where the Supply of the Saccharine Delicacy is Assured.

In maple sugar regions delicious little baking powder biscuits or rolls are made of this saccharine delicacy. To make the rolls take a quart of bread dough after it is molded for the first rising and knead into it one cupful of grated maple sugar, a quarter teaspoonful of soda and a teaspoonful of butter. Let it rise, then mold again and cut out in small rolls. Let these rise for fifteen minutes and bake in a quick oven.

In making maple biscuit prepare an exceptionally rich, tender baking powder crust. Roll out about half the thickness of an ordinary biscuit and shape with a small cutter much larger than a silver dollar. The top to a small baking powder can or the cover to a tea caddy make good cutters. As each biscuit is cut out, cut in halves again, sprinkle small bits of the maple sugar over one-half of the biscuit dough, moisten the other half and press it over the first. Lay close together in the pan in which they are to be baked, so they will rise instead of spreading. Brush over with milk or melted butter and bake in a quick oven until they are brown but not hard. Serve as soon as ready.

WASH DISHES IN WOODEN TUB

Best Possible Utensil That Can Be Employed, for Reasons Given Herewith.

Small wooden tubs are best suited for the washing of fine dishes, as they offer no hard surfaces or protruding handles upon which to mar or crack ordinary pans are used, take the precaution to turn the handles in such a position that they are out of the way in lifting the dishes from one pan to the other. Place in the bottom of each pan a pad made for the purpose, or fold a towel. There should be a pan or tub of warm rinsing water in which a little mild, pure soap has been dissolved, a deep receptacle holding plenty of hot water, and a draining basket holding a soft pad or folding towel.—Today's Magazine.

Making Apple Pudding.

Three cupfuls cored, pared and quartered apples, grated rind of one lemon, quarter of a cupful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls lemon juice, half a teaspoonful of salt, three eggs, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one heaping cupful of flour, one teaspoonful of baking powder, and one cupful of milk. Mix the sugar, lemon rind, lemon juice, flour, salt, baking powder, milk and well-beaten eggs. When smooth add the apples; pour into a buttered baking dish, and bake in a moderate oven for one hour. Serve hot with wine sauce. For the wine sauce: Cream half a cupful of butter with one cupful of sugar, then add four tablespoonfuls of whipped cream and one tablespoonful of sherry wine.

Left-Over Sandwiches.

Sandwiches left over from an afternoon tea or reception need not be looked upon as just so much wasted material. The careful hostess utilizes them in many ways. Ham sandwiches can be transformed into a breakfast dish simply by toasting them to a golden brown and pouring over them a cream sauce into which have been stirred minced ham and parsley. Where a more hearty breakfast dish is desired allow one patched egg to two small sandwiches, arranging the eggs on the toast before covering with the cream sauce.

Maple Parfait.

Pour one cup of hot maple syrup into the well-beaten yolks of six eggs, cook over boiling water until thick, remove from the fire, beat until cold, fold in one pint of cream beaten until stiff, flavor with one teaspoonful of vanilla, turn into a mold and let stand packed in salt and ice from four to five hours. Chop finely one cup of blanched almonds, cook in oil until brown and drain. Sprinkle the parfait with the nuts before serving.

Green Peas With Ham.

Boil and drain a quart of young peas; shred finely two rashers of raw ham, and fry them for a few minutes with a small piece of butter. Add two small, green onions, finely chopped, and the peas; moisten with three tablespoonfuls of bechamel sauce, two of cream, and season with salt, pepper and a pinch of sugar. Let all simmer for a few minutes longer, turn out on a hot dish, garnish with fried bread croutons, and serve hot.

Catawba Pudding.

Whip one pint of chilled double cream until solid, and gradually mix in one cupful of unfermented grape juice and the same amount of powdered sugar. Add as additional flavoring a tablespoonful of orange juice and freeze as for ice cream. Repack in a melon mold and serve unmolded on a glass platter, sprinkled with chopped pistachio nuts.

Save Soap Ends.

Never throw away old pieces of soap. They can be used for making soap jelly for washing flannels, blouses, etc. Put by the pieces till you have a good collection, then pour on enough boiling water to just cover them, and still dissolved. Keep in a jar and use as required.

Cake Omelet.

Mix together two large spoons of flour and half a pint of milk, free from lumps. Add four eggs, well beaten, and a little salt. Bake in a small pan, in a hot oven, till there is no depression in the center, which will be in about twenty minutes. Serve immediately.

Hard Gingerbread.

One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one-half cup of milk, one-half teaspoon of soda, two teaspoons of ginger, flour enough to roll thin. Cut in squares and bake quickly.

Stiffening Old Hair Brushes.

Old hair brushes which have become soft can be made quite hard and firm by dipping them in a strong solution of alum.

FIRES OF FRIESLAND

Custom That Goes Back to the Days of the Vikings.

Has Been Held To Tenaciously Through the Centuries, Having Its Origin in a Pagan Festival Held in Rejoicing.

Every year on the eve of St. Peter's day, piles of straw are lighted throughout north Friesland on old sepulchral mounds or in places sanctified by tradition. From place to place these bonfires answer one another and from island to island far away out to sea.

The custom is a very old one. In earlier times the majority of the menfolk of north Friesland earned their living on the sea. In winter they stayed at home, but as soon as the days got longer, when spring came round, or even earlier, they put away their fishing gear and went out to sea. Once again the people gathered together to a feast, the flames shot up and sped the news from island to island that preparations were being made for departure, and then they went.

In heathenish times they danced round the blazing fires and called on their god Woden for his protection and an old Latin rhyme, which has come down to us in a mutilated form, shows that the custom dates back to the times of the Romans and the migration of the nations. At that remote epoch in dancing round the fire, they uttered the name of the god Jupiter, and besought him to eat their sacrifice.

At that time it is known that the Friesians were to the most distant shores in search of war and plunder, and consequently such a festival was fully justified. A still greater significance is attached to the festival in the times of the vikings, to whom the Friesians attached themselves and undertook long and dangerous journeys in their company.

When Christianity found an entrance into the land, says the Hamburger Nachrichten, the rough manners of the population were of course toned down, but the church fought in vain against the old custom, and the fires continued to blaze as of yore. At last the church felt itself compelled to put a veneer of propriety on the old wicked carousal and the festival was fully restored to its pre-eminence as a popular fete.

The first of joy were now christened "Eikeen" and the next day was given up to great banqueting and dancing. How many earnest prayers from wives, mothers, brides, elders and children have ascended to heaven at these "Eikeen!" The day after was set apart for the departure of the men, who trooped to the harbors and put out to sea, followed by the good wishes of those they left behind them.

The latter at once started upon a new kind of existence, a life of rest and simplicity. After St. Peter's day no more lamps were lit; the simple supper was eaten by daylight and instead of generous diet, only bread and water stood on the table. The summer passed in quiet work, and then all minds turned to their loved ones far away and the hopes of their return.

Sounds Firstrate, But—

How to remain young and escape the disadvantages of "middle age" was explained by Dr. Josiah Oldfield, the food expert.

"There ought to be no such thing as middle age," he said. "If a man lives properly, he can carry the spirit of youth to the end of his days. I am on the way toward 90, but I feel entirely young. The secret is simple. A man must submit himself to mental and physical discipline and eat wisely and not too well."

Dr. Oldfield's rules are: Think big thoughts and cling to noble ideals.

Live on the fruits of the highest minds.

Do not waste time over petty things and do not take narrow views.

Take fruits, vegetables, oils, pure wines, eggs, butter, milk and bread. Avoid shoddy, second-hand food of all kinds.

Bathe every morning and rub the skin with a towel.

Change underclothing every 24 hours.

Message of Meteorites.

Recent observations have conclusively established that meteorites are not of earthly origin, but reach our atmosphere from outer space. Their general similarity of structure and composition suggests they must have a common origin. Some think the meteorites come from the moon's volcanoes, but this is unlikely. Another suggestion is they are ejected from the sun.

Sir James Dewar, speaking at the Royal Institution, England, says that some meteorites have been found to contain minute quantities of carbon compounds of such a character that their presence in a terrestrial body would be regarded as an indirect result of animal or vegetable existence. But, he adds, they might possibly have been absorbed by the stones in their passed through an atmosphere containing these compounds in a state of vapor. If not, then their presence indicates life in the outside universe, either in the stars or sun, or in the smaller bodies scattered through space—or even in space itself. But of this he is skeptical, he says, on present information.

Cancer and Cockroaches.

Two medical investigators, one in England and the other in Copenhagen, have come to the conclusion that cancer is due to cockroaches, possibly through some alliterative process of reasoning. Hence—swat that cockroach. We are not without hope that if we but kill a sufficiency of animals, we may yet prolong our lives.

Multum-in-Parvo Disturbers.

As small letters weary the eye most so also the smallest affairs disturb us most.—Montaigne.

CUPID'S BUSY DAY

It was an annual custom in Wellsburg for the Coffee club to give a formal dance at least once a year. It was also the custom for young men to honor the young women of their hearts with escort on that occasion. Wilbur McClellan had taken Eleanor Eastman to the dance, but during the evening Eleanor had seen Clara Wheeler look into his eyes with an expression that conveyed volumes. She had also seen Clara put her hand in Wilbur's with a familiarity that enraged her. Eleanor did not know that the girl's actions were designed especially for her eyes.

Clara was an outsider; that is, she had not been born and brought up in Wellsburg. She had come there as private secretary to the president of Wellsburg's single bank. She was popular with the men, because she was different, which militated against her being held in high regard by Wellsburg's girls and women. So, when Wilbur was taking leave of Eleanor that evening, there was a scene. At its finish, Eleanor burst out:

"I never want to see you again."

As he turned the knob of the front door, Wilbur answered:

"Such an arrangement will be a relief to me."

The next morning both were sorry. Eleanor kept to her room, at intervals dabbling hot towels to swollen eyes. Wilbur went to his work as usual, but all day the angry, flushed face of a girl stared up at him from his desk. Several such days passed. Each regretted the hot words that had tumbled out unbridled, but each was too proud and too hurt to make apology.

"She doesn't care," said Wilbur, "else she couldn't have talked to me that way," and when he was offered a position in a nearby city, he eagerly accepted the change of environment. He had intended to telephone "goodby" to Eleanor; but Clara Wheeler had asked him to a chafing-dish supper in her rooms, and as he assisted her in creaming the oysters, she had whispered, "Did you know that Eleanor Eastman is going to marry Tom Nolan? Rather sudden, isn't it?" Just then an odor of burning oysters was wafted from the chafing-dish, and Clara's question remained unanswered. But it sufficed to send Wilbur McClellan out of town without telephoning to Eleanor Eastman.

Eleanor was much in the company of Tom Nolan that winter, but summer and fall passed without any engagement announcement. Eleanor had heard that Wilbur had prospered in the city. She had also heard that he was to come to Wellsburg for the Coffee club's dance. The latter information was vouchsafed her by Clara Wheeler in that insidious way of hers. Eleanor's cheeks flushed. She was ill at ease. Clara looked straight into her eyes.

"Why, I didn't know you were interested in Wilbur," she said.

"Yes, I have always liked him," stammered her prey. "Our families have been in-intimate for years."

"You can't blame me—for-asking—when—we are—"

Clara stopped short, the color mounting to her cheeks in well-feigned embarrassment.

The result was that Eleanor again locked herself in her room, with hot towels easing reddened lids. How it galled her, the "we" that Clara had enunciated with such unmistakable meaning! She had always nursed a tiny hope in her heart that Wilbur would some day come to her and say, "I'm sorry, Eleanor. I love you. Let's be sweethearts again." How could she bear to meet him at the dance with Clara, because, of course, that was why he was coming—to take Clara!

A few days before the annual dance it became known that Eleanor was not going. Her friends said she was not well; that the doctor had ordered a rest. After a few days she went for a short walk, tempted by the fine weather. Something prompted her to go into the little shop and revel in the attractive love tokens. Each one that she took up reminded her of Wilbur. Many a volume of love verses had he given her. A wild impulse seized her. "Why not?" it would be her last message. She selected the verse that matched her mood, and as she started toward the opposite counter to have her package wrapped, her eyes were full of dreams. In the aisle, a man was bending over a pretty picture. As he raised his head, Eleanor cried:

"Wilbur!"

"Eleanor!"

At the dance Coffee club matrons and maids were set agog with the discovery that the "lassie with the lips so rosy, with the eyes so soft and bright," upon the arm of Wilbur McClellan was none other than Eleanor Eastman. It was Clara Wheeler who was