How a Modern Lady Clara Vere de Vere Creeped a Revolution—The Department.

(Correspondence of the Chicago Times.)

GUYMARD, August, 15.

So delicious lazy had we all become—partly because we had nothing to do, and partly because we did not desire to accomplish anything—that had the accusing angel visited us, and inquired of us to what uses we had put our talent it is doubtful if we could have roused enough energy to answer him at all. "Lying supinely on our backs," was not just the thing we were doing, either, and perhaps we may better be understood by our lady friends, by announcing that we were in chronic crimps about the head, boudour slippers on the feet, and Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy in one of our hands and the other holding a turban fast to our heads to show our respect to our former condition of feminine pride, which did not permit crimping pins to be seen by anybody but the maids and husbands. This we did all day long, with the exciting diversion of listening for the bells which rang us to meals, and of attending to their call with an alacrity which would be surprising to any one who did not know the ravenous conditions to which this atmosphere reduces everybody who breathes it.

All the week long we were profligates of time, and wasted the hours as recklessly as if there was to be no "rolling together like a scroll" of this flat earth. (You know that this pretty, but not very cheering prophecy was made before the world was declared to be round. Had it been a modern sentiment it would have been expressed in a less poetic manner.) Saturday always fetched a ripple to our surface like the results of a subsoil plow, and our spirits rose, our muscles became active, our crimps blew out, and we were alive again.

To be sure, now and then a lady, whose nervous energy was more than common, had some false crimps sewed to her turband, and although she looked comparatively pretty, we were too indolent to be roused into envy, and so it did not pay to stir. All the masculines, with one exception, being either married men or mere strips of boys, were, of course lazy. They eat, slept and fished. Happily they did not catch anything, and they would have been very uncomfortable if they had, because the fish might have been a serious thing to their torpid muscles. Fishing where there is no danger of a nibble is such a delicious thing in a locality where returning health and nature's efforts to restore rounded contours and return to your original dimples preoccupies your energies exclusively. Our fisherman throw out a "crazy bait," lie back under the drooping bows of the trees, which sway just enough in the laggard breeze to fan away the flies and cool their brows, and happy in the consciousness that they are in the woods and are fishing for something or other which they hope—and not without reason—will never trouble their hooks.

In the capital of Siberia that city which is not frequented by American ideas, they have an ordinance that no bells shall shall be worn by horses within the limits of Irtusk, because their jingle will make such a noise that the pedestrians cannot hear a sleigh approaching, and will be in danger of being run over at the crossings. With a remotely similar sentiment or belief, the fishermen in these wilds fasten their lines to a tree so that they shall not know when the aquatic mouth opens to the bait.

It would be frivolty even to endeavor to be interesting to anybody during the week. To be sure, now and then, a poetic creature alluded in a delicate tone of voice to the "flimsy flounces of a fog which were worn by the mountains on the green borders of their robes," or the "round, laughing moon" was apostrophised in a sentence which was too sickly for a complete period, and died instantly. This condition pervaded all women, and all men, with one exception, which I have not mentioned, and he is neither man nor boy, but

A WIDOWER.

His habit has been to devote himself to each available lady (the assortment of availables was limited to three) in regular order and giving himself up to one for a few hours, and then to the other, with thr most scrupulous and conscientious attention to fairness in the division of his smiles.

He is young.
He is rich.
He is handsome.

He is impartial in the division of his poetry and his boquets, and he "piazas" them up and down outside the window in a regular succession that would do credit to a believer in the policy of rotation in office. He repeats his pretty things with a precision that suggests the annual receipts for gingerbread, which are regularly published by the religious newspapers. (By the way, can anybody tell why the religious journals are so fond of relating to their readers how this wonderful loaf is concocted? If they have a three inch space in their columns for which there is no quotation from Thomas a-Kempis of the right size they always resort to making gingerbread). I know the widower must be very attractive to the woman whose affections are not proocupied, and who is fortunate enough to be one of his three "objects," because, if this devotion occurs in the morning, her crimps are in full bloom for dinner, and the next prandial meeting her appetite is gone, and another lady's crimp and muslina flutter to the breeze in a sort of temporary triumph, which she doubtless considers a thing to be relied upon. Deluded creature! One lady is a blonde, and we call her by the pretty and appropriate name of Pearl Powder. One is a brunette, and glories in the title of Lily White, while the other one, who is a *mezzo* of each, is known to us by the name of *Rouge*, and their various heights and general styles are as diverse as their complexion, yet the widower, who is either very cunning or remarkably imaginative, tells each one of them with tears in his sky blue eyes, that she is the exact counterpart of his dear, dead angel, and the effect is very perceptible in the tear-rumpled handkerchiefs.

Isn't he lovely?

And impartial?

And faithful to the expectations of society?

And a benefactor to this Castle of Indolence?

Nearly two weeks ago, the star in our Saturday ripple was profound. It was an actual wave. It inundated us. Far up from the victories of the sea shore, where she had doubtless walked a conquering queen, came the original

LADY CLARA VERE DE VERE.

She brought her trunks. There were eleven of them. She said that she was weary of clothes and of the frivolities of dress, and the vanities of silken robes, and consequently, she had sent her wardrobe to town, and had come in her simplicity and naturalness, to seek the innocent pleasure, and rest among the simple folk who had fled to the mountains.

What a plunge she made into the very depths of our rural quietude! I may be permitted to tell you, because it is the truth, that she stirred every manly bosom with admiration, and every woman with envy. She seemed the offspring of Nature's most lavish mood, and affluent in wealth of coloring, and beauty of form. She made even the hearts of the trio tremble for their as yet undevided portion of the widower. She smiled her pearly teeth at the porter, and he trembled so deliciously at the favor that he never could tell whether or not he was offered pecuniary compensation for carrying up the eleven trunks. He is "certain sure" that he did not accept anything but a radiant glance from her pink lips. For one entire day she held herself aloof from the sleepy people, while she took her bearings and formed her plans of attack upon whoever was available prey. The married men might do for present amusement, but she had trifled away too much of her youth already, and she meant business. The slips of future men could do nothing but adore this creature of glow, and color, and untold magnificence, while they held their breast with one hand and felt for their approaching beards with the other, and kept silence. She did not go to sleep in the forenoon, as the other ladies did, nor wear a concealing turban at breakfast time to hide some unknown baldness, or a pile of barbarous crimping pins. She ate beautifully as if it were a fine art.

It was not long before she discovered the rotary motion of the one beau, and she focussed her witcheries upon him with most wonderful power. If she did not make him tremble, she certainly did make the poor little slippers of Lily White, Pearl Powder and Rouge shake like aspen leaves. Of course I mean that "morally speaking," they shook not a little.

O, what muslins she wore! The man who saw the "flounces of fog" on the skirts of the mountain, perceived the *marabout* plumage of an angel on the borders of her garments. The next day but one every turban in the house was off, all the paper crimping pins were gone and the outline of every woman's brow was softened with those fairy shadows which suggested the moss which deepens the beauty of a rose. How we all did bloom, though! Not because we felt equal to the required emergency, but it was an effort which self-preservation demanded. Tresses floated in the morning breeze, and by some herculean effort of the general dressing maid, they did not die at eventide, but looked even lovelier than ever. How beautifully she waltzed with the widower! Her lovely outline against his dark evening dress was a thing of beauty to be remembered with pleasure—by him; but to us it was heart break, and envy, and general misery; while to the trio, it meant absolute and utter defeat.

The evening went, and the heartsick simpletons retired to their troubled slumbers, resolving to distinguish themselves by appearing as ugly and being as stupid as possible, but they rose to fresh dresses, full-blown crimps, and a touch of hopeful color, for all that.

The beau saw nobody but Lady Clara Vera de Vere, and he could not drink his goblet of milk, poor sick calf! The trio saw the waning appetite of the man lost their own, much to the delight of the landlord. Lady Clara was dressed in a ravishing cambric robe, with lavender ribbons, and a pale, pale rose in her chesnut tresses. How meek and unconscious she looked. The beau, who seemed to be haunted by an accusing conscience, turned his eyes to Pearl Powder, and resolved to be true to his determination of equal distribution, but Lady Clara's beauty, and her waltzing, had been too much for his heart, while but a few hours after, when he found her reading her little velvet bible to a small unalphabetic boy, under a tree, his very knees trembled with veneration.

Later in the day. Lady Clara completed the exhibition of her complex impression by taking to the latter-day muscular accomplishment of pulling an oar on the lonely lake which has the wooded fringes. This time the head of the beau was quite as much affected as his heart had been, and we were all waiting upon the shore to see him plunge down upon his knees before her as soon as he was safe on the land—(a boat is such an unsteady thing in which to do any of that sort of thing) when by some agitating movement over they both went, and the water caressed them in its unkindly arms. He fetched her ashore in a state of blissful breathlessness, and when he laid her reluctantly down in the arms of unfriendly women, his heart was broken with a sudden snap.

Explanation. Her paint came off. Her crimps, fluffy, and shadow, and sweet, were left in the ripples, which were still trifling with them. Her padding got away. Her teeth fell out in her gasps for breath.

Consequence. The beau left on the first train. She went on the second. The trio take their meals in a group, and compose remembered sentences of love and points of comparison with the dead wife. The rest of us have gone to sleep again, and that is what we did in the mountains.

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8:45 a. m. (Sundays excepted), Day Express.
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