

THEY SAW BROWNING.

Now a Party of American Girls Took the Poet by Storm.
A good story comes to me from the other side about Robert Browning, says a writer in the New York Commercial Advertiser.

One day last summer the famous poet was strolling through Hyde park and just turning into Piccadilly when a bevy of American girls, who were in one of Cook's parties, espied him. The old man was walking along, leisurely sniffing the early morning air and smiling contentedly at himself and a pretty parlor-maid, who was dusting in a window of one of the big mansions overlooking the park. He is particularly fond of feminine admiration, but he was not prepared for the united attack that was in store for him. An elderly chaperon in the party was the first to espouse the poet, and at once gave the note of discovery.

"There's Browning!" she said.
There was a temporary panic, and thirty-nine women caught their breath and sprang forward a foot or two.
"Where?" they ejaculated.
"There!" said the old dame, pointing to the poet in his black velvet jacket, walking leisurely ahead of them.
"How do you know?" was the reply.
"Know? Of course I know. Haven't I seen his picture in the papers? I suppose you suppose I know Browning when I see him?"

"Are you certain?" said thirty-nine shrill maiden voices in unison.
"Yes," was the calm reply, "you can't fool me on Browning; I know him," and she started after him on a run. The others followed her, they swooped down on the old man like the locusts of Egypt. He stood still and threw up his hands in horror; he retreated to a stoop, looked down on the forty pretty maidens, and asked almost breathlessly what they wanted.
"Is this Mr. Browning, the poet?" asked one of the girls.

The poet nodded an assent.
"Then you are just the man we want to see," the forty women chimed in chorus.
"Really, ladies," said the poet, "you overwhelm me. I have not the honor of your acquaintance, I—I—"
He proceeded no further, but retreated a step or two further up the stoop as the forty women moved forward like one man. It was no use. The gray-haired poet continued until he backed up against the door, and the women followed him remorselessly.

"You must think our conduct strange," said one of them, "but we have read so much about you and read so much of your works that we really are anxious to see you and know you." "Yes," said another, "and we want your autograph, every one of us."

Instantly forty autograph albums were pulled out and shoved under the old man's nose. Forty hands were stretched out to grasp his. There was no getting away from them. He was backed up against the door and the women were obstinate. He shook each hand as it was presented to him until the whole number had retired satisfied; then, after one girl had handed him a stylographic pen, he proceeded to write his name in his own hand, writing in each autograph album. This took some time and attracted some attention, but there was no getting away from it. When his name was written on the last book he ran down the steps as nimbly as a boy and off across the park like a frightened deer.

That night forty tired heads rested softly on forty autograph albums under forty pillows in a London hotel. If the rest of their European trip had been a failure they were not thinking of that when Browning; they had taken him by the hand; they had his autograph; they were indeed happy American girls!

WHEN VIEWED THE RIGHT WAY.

A Girl Whose Profile Was Beautiful, but Was Ugly.

"I have walked about the public buildings for a good many years, and I have learned in that time something about beauty," said a well known correspondent to a Washington Post reporter. "Did it ever occur to you that a sitting posture is a thousand times more attractive to some people than when they stand, while a beauty in profile is homeliness itself when a front view is presented?"
"I knew a young lady employed in the postoffice department by sight for several years. I have seen her sitting at her desk, bending over her work month in and month out. Her profile was a study, and with all my critical tendency, I never saw where an improvement could be made. She was the quintessence of beauty and passing her door and seeing her sitting there was one of the things that made the journey pleasant. I met her one day and asked him if he knew her. He answered that he did, but when I hinted that she was one of the most beautiful young ladies I had ever seen, he only wanted to know where I had been keeping myself. I spoke to several people who had occasion to see my goddess of beauty, now and then in transit, and they all agreed that from not one could I get any sympathy in my admiration. Every one said they could not imagine where I could find anything beautiful to admire in that young lady."

"I began to think that I had been the subject of an optical delusion, and when I made my next pilgrimage by her office-door I found her sitting at her desk, her profile that defied criticism standing out boldly, the ear perfect, and such a tasteful arrangement of hair that would have made Venus herself envious. It could be no mistake. I said to myself that the people about the postoffice department were chumps, and nothing else. One day as I walked down the street at about 4 o'clock I noticed a young lady, short of stature and homely of face, fifteen feet from me, coming in the opposite direction. There was nothing about her that should attract my attention, except that she wore rather a sour expression of countenance and walked in an ungainly manner. As she came alongside me I happened to glance at her, and I tell you I was startled. There was that faultless profile that had been the subject of my admiration for so many months. I looked back, the profile had passed, and my delusion had gone.

I have had many similar experiences. A homely profile has developed into a beautiful face. A beauty when first seen about with a tennis racket in her hand sobers down in appearance when quietly seated. A face lovely in animation might become unattractive when at rest, and vice versa. So, you see, that beauty is not one of the exact sciences after all."

"Have you imparted this wisdom to your wife?"
"My wife! Don't mention that again. She thinks I go about thinking very hard about the special I am to send off during the evening."

Siamese Boys in the United States.
The king of Siam is about to send five Siamese boys to the United States to be educated in his own country. The boys are to be placed in charge of an American missionary and will probably be sent to school in Pennsylvania. It is the king's custom to educate the sons of the noblemen and the princes of his domain in the various countries and when they return to Siam appoint them to high government positions.

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