WOMAN'S PAGE

NO MORE MUD PIES

ONCE FASHIONABLE GAME DESPISED BY UP-TO-DATE CHILDREN

SAND STORES ARE THE RAGE

Bottles Filled With Highly Colored Sand Now Fetch Babulous Prices in Pins—Other Spring Games.

Time was, in children's land, when the surest harbinger of spring was the festive, if unappetizing, mud pie. With the first robin, the first courageous blade of grass, the first shy crocus, appeared the sticky pastry invariably arranged in neat rows on smooth bits of board, ready for early customers. But the actual selling of the mud pies—their market price was generally two pins each—was always the least part of the fun. It was the patting of them into shape that was a delight; the slipping of one's fingers down into the soft, black ooze that was the sensation worth working for.

In the annals of children's land, however, must be reluctantly chronicled the passing of the mud pie. Like mumblypeg and jackstones, the making of the mud pie has been relegated to the list of unfashionable games, and little Miss Up-To-Date would turn up her small nose in high disdain were the once fascinating game suggested to her by a youthful admirer. She would, perhaps, in its place, propose the keeping of a sand store. For the sand store has supplanted the mud pastry. Like everything else that is modern and fashionable, the keeping of a sand store is an intricate and exciting occupation. It necessitates, first of all, a good-sized box, a packing box will do nicely, if it can be obtained, though the really perfect article is the piano box. A shelf is fitted up in the open side of the box and a quantity of sand procured. Then the interesting work begins. Dyes are begged, borrowed, or, in extreme cases, when parents are both generous and tolerant, purchased. The sand is separated into little piles and dyed in various hues, and then the store is opened for business. One pin buys a spoonful of the colored sand, and there are no bargain days. As soon as a shop is opened, it naturally becomes the ardent desire of every child in the neighborhood to possess herself of a good-sized glass bottle filled with the different colored sands. What the button string was to an earlier generation the bottle of colored sand is to the present generation.

But little Miss St. Paul has other spring amusements besides keeping sand stores. When the snow melts and small dry patches of pavement become visible, skipping stones are hunted up and marbles are collected. The latter game used to be considered strictly a boy's game, but the small girl who cannot shoot marbles as straight as her brother nowadays is not apt to be popular. As the ground becomes dryer, tree tag, stone tag and pullaway will take the place of marbles, skipping ropes and sand stores, and these games will last until the very warm weather, when even the liveliest of children are content with hammocks, pictures and other non-fatiguing amusements.

Of Social Interest.

Miss Alice Perry and Miss Richardson, of Marshall avenue, gave a luncheon yesterday at Miss Perry's home in honor of Miss Helen Griggs. Yellow and white were the colors used on the table. There was a large bunch of daffodils in the center and vines of smilax separated each place at the table. Miss Griggs will be the guest of Miss Catherine Robinson this afternoon at a thimble bee.

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Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Stillwell, of Minneapolis, entertained the Kangaroo club last evening.

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Mrs. T. R. Kane, of Dayton avenue, entertained the Hamilton Whist club yesterday afternoon.

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Mrs. L. J. Hillstrom, of Edgerton street, entertained the teachers of the John Ericsson school yesterday afternoon.

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Mrs. J. E. Ricketts, of Fairmount avenue, will entertain the Twentieth Century club this afternoon.

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Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Smallwood, of St. Albans street, will entertain informally this evening, in honor of Mrs. L. E. Lee, of Cumberland.

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Mrs. V. J. Hawkins, of East Isabel street, will give an informal luncheon this afternoon in honor of Mrs. N. C. Timmons, who is eighty years old today.

CLUBS AND CHARITIES.

The Garfield Woman's Relief corps entertained the Minneapolis Federation of Woman's Relief corps yesterday afternoon in the Garfield post hall. The principal address of the afternoon's programme was delivered by Perry Starkweather, of Minneapolis, the new department commander. His subject was "Woman's Relief Corps Work." Miss Martin, of St. Paul, sang; Mrs. Kendrick played a cornet solo; Miss Belle Mill gave a recitation, and Mrs. M. B. Lewis, of Minneapolis, read a paper on "Parliamentary Law." The committee in charge of the programme was Mrs. Anna Hibbard, Mrs. Kendrick and Mrs. Sarah Milham. After the programme refreshments were served by the following women: Mrs. P. J. Floody, Mrs. Nellie Morse, Mrs. Olivia De Vore, Mrs. Anna Prayfork and Mrs. Thompson.

Mrs. W. H. Perro, of Laurel avenue, entertained the Idle Hour Cinch club yesterday afternoon.

Miss Olive Long read a paper on "Anthony Hope and the Romantic Novelists" yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Thursday club in the Aberdeen.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Central Park M. E. Church served a banquet last night to the members of the Loyal league of that church. William Pitt Murray read a paper on "The First M. E. Church in St. Paul." The ladies in charge of the supper were Mrs. A. P. Cameron, Mrs. C. L. Grant, Mrs. G. H. Hazzard and Mrs Shepard. William Bannon acted as toastmaster.

Miss Anna Rothensen, of East Winifred street, entertained the Epworth League of Clinton Avenue M. E. Church last evening.

Mrs. D. D. White, of the Virginia, entertained the Schubert Birthday club yesterday afternoon.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the First Presbyterian Church will give a silver social this evening at the home of Mrs. John Silver, of Grotto street. The following women will assist Mrs. Silver: Mrs. P. J. Schaub, Mrs. J. S. Mackey, Mrs. S. P. Roussopoulos and Mrs. John H. Shea.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society of Dayton Avenue Church will hold its annual meeting this afternoon in the parlors of the church

An entertainment was given last evening, under the auspices of the Hancock School Alumni association in the Hamline university chapel for the benefit of a piano fund for the Hancock school. Those taking part in the programme were David Perry, Miss Beryl Rice, Miss Alice Todd, the Abt quartette, Miss Rosa Schaettgen, Miss Florence Buck and Miss Stockdale.

The M. L. A. M. Social club will give a card party this evening in Central hall annex.

The Sunday school of the First Baptist church will give its annual social and reception this evening in the parlors of the church.

Mrs. E. F. Collins, of North Exchange street, entertained the Relief Society of St. Paul chapter, O. E. S., yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Duncan Ferguson, of West Winifred street, entertained the Neighborhood Euchre club yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Samuel Brant, of East Seventh street, entertained the Ladies' Co-operative Society of Atlantic Congregational Church yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Simons had charge of the programme.

The women of the First Christian church gave a silver tea yesterday afternoon at the home of Rev. and Mrs. A. D. Harmon, on Nelson avenue.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Central Presbyterian Church will be held this afternoon in the parlors of the church.

The Young People's Society of the Immanuel Baptist Church will give a social this evening at the home of Mrs. Frank J. Erskine, on Tuscarora avenue.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Louis N. Hill, Summit avenue, is entertaining Mrs. Walter Oakes, of Tacoma, Wash., and Mrs. Walter Taylor, of New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Crosby, Lincoln avenue, wil return this week from California.

Miss Julia Elbert, of Detroit, Mich., is the guest of Mrs. Vincent Elbert, of the Virginia.

Miss Wilkinson, the guest of Miss Haisley, Summit avenue, has returned to Albert Lea.

Miss Bigford, of Foley, is visiting in the city.

Miss Bower, Pleasant avenue, will leave next week for New York.

C. W. Zorn left last evening for Burlington, Iowa, for a few weeks' visit with relatives.

Mrs. P. D. Stevens, of Chicago, is visiting her mother, Mrs. L. W. Fish, 248 Louis street.

Jared How has gone East. He will visit Boston and New York, being gone about three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nelson, of the Waldorf, will return the latter part of the month from California.

Miss Pauline Dohlem, who has been the guest of Miss Blanche Penhoel, of Fairview street, has returned to Sauk Center.

New Chorus Choir.

The young people of the First M. E. church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Kruger on last Friday evening, March 7th, and organized a chorus choir with Mrs. Russell Dorr as musical director. The following officers were elected: President, C. O. Krieger; vice president, C. D. Bentley; secretary and treasurer, Charles F. Fox; librarian, T. F. Parker; assistant of musical director, Mrs. C. O. Krieger; executive committee, C. H. Slocum, chairman; J. F. Starkey, Mrs. C. D. Hayes, Mrs. C. O. Krieger, Mrs. R. R. Dorr.

The next rehearsal will be held at the home of C. D. Bentley, 751 Laurel avenue, tomorrow evening at 7:45. Persons desiring to join please present their names to any of the above officers.

Passion Play.

W. A. Gates will give a lecture on the "Passion Play" this evening at Plymouth Congregational church, on Summit avenue and Wabasha street, under the auspices of Mrs. C. M. Power's Sunday school class. The lecture will be illustrated by a large number of stereopticon pictures. Mr. Gates attended the "Passion Play" at Oberammergau last year and himself secured the pictures which he shows. The programme will also include several solos by Alexander Musgrove, and the lecture will be made something of a social event in that the audience are all personally invited, tickets being sent out bearing the name of each guest. A silver collection will be taken at the close of the programme. Those having the arrangements in charge are George Ashton, Willam Fisher and John McLean.

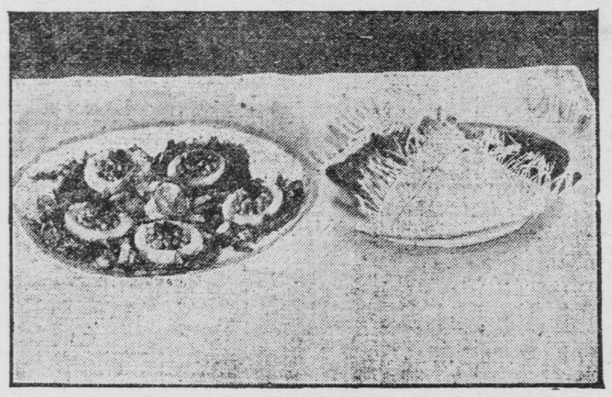
Last of the Bergh Concerts.

Arthur Bergh and his sister, Miss Minnie Bergh, gave the last of their series of violin and piano recitals last night at Mozart hall. The programme was an excellent one, and those who were fortunate enough to hear it enjoyed some masterly interpretations. Mr. Bergh and Miss Bergh played the "Kreutzer Sonata," Beethoven. Miss Bergh's solos were "Nachtstuck," Schumann, and "Das Veilchen," Mozart-Kullak, the Mendelssohn concerto (G Moll), played with string quintette accompaniment, and "Erl Konig," Schubert-Liszt. Mr. Bergh played Bach's "Cincarina," arranged for the violin alone, and a romanze from string quartette by Grieg. The audience was unusually demonstrative and gave both musicians a cordial reception.

Donate Money to Schools.

The recent industrial exhibit held under the auspices of the Woman's Civic league in the Ryan annex during Christmas week, netted the league $150. At yesterday's meeting of the executive council of the league the members voted to donate this sum to the promotion of industrial training in the city schools. The sum represents the net balance from the proceeds of the second week of the industrial exhibit. The proceeds from the first week's exhibit goes to the State Educational association. The secretary of the league was instructed to notify Supt. Leviston that the money would be available and it was decided to ask the followed principals and supervisors to serve on a committee to consult and furnish suggestions as to the best means of using it: Mrs. Hattie Ruddy, principal John Ericsson school; Miss Brooks, supervisor of kindergartens; J. C. Bryant, principal Madison school; Miss Williams, supervisor of drawing; Mrs. Magee, principal Smith school; Miss Phelan, principal training school for teachers.

A DAINTY SALAD.



Select large potatoes and cut in slices one-quarter of an inch thick; cut these into jumble shape. Have some salted boiling water in a pan and drop the potato rings into it so that they will not be piled one on another. Boil until tender, which will take but a few minutes; take up on a cake turner, as the potato will break if lifted with a fork.

Open a can of French peas, turn into a fine strainer and pour cold water through. Cover a salad plate with lettuce leaves and spread on them any cold cooked spring greens. Sprinkle with French dressing. Lay the cooked and cooled potato rings over and fill the centers with peas. Put a teaspoonful of dressing on each ring of peas. The potato will be improved if cooked in strong soup stock.

Be sure to have the seasoning good, and a little onion juice will improve the French dressing, made in the usual way, with one level teaspoon of salt, one-quarter level teaspoon of pepper, six tablespoons of oil and two of vinegar.

Those who criticise high seasoning would do better to say careless seasoning, for it is in flavorings that the genius of the cook is shown. This salad is appropriate at a spring or a green luncheon. —Alice E. Whitaker.

New Flower Girdle.

The flower girdle gives the latest smart touch to a simple evening gown. It is seen at its prettiest made of pink ribbons and roses. At the back it is shaped like a high girdle. Ribbons are used to get this effect. They start from the waist line, and above it from under the arm, and across in the center of the back, one above the other, each more pointed than the one below it, and each fastening with a pink rose. In the front the ribbons are arranged so as to produce the fashionable dip effect, which is further emphasized by a pointed buckle made of featherbone covered with pink satin ribbon, the outline of the buckle defined with tiny pink roses. From this buckle a mass of pink ribbon-ends dangle. They vary in length, and each end is finished with a pink rose.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS.

Canvas effects in so many things and short coats and long coats are to be found in light colors ad materials. One of these three-quarter coats is made of an unbleached scrimlike material made up over a large flowered silk. The flowers show their outlines and colors slightly through the material. There is a wide collar covered with the snow white Irish lace and the big bell sleeves have wide turn-back cuffs, and these are also covered with the Irish lace. Around the edge of the coat and on either side of the front is embroidered in colors in an Oriental effect, pointing with the points in. It is one of the many smart garments made on similar lines.

Very pretty is a robe de nuit of a dark blue linen trimmed with fine white French hand embroidery. There is a small yoke to the gown, which is cut low at the throat, finished with a scallop of embroidery and more of it, a vine effect outlines the yoke on the inside. The yoke is joined to the gown proper by a beading, and lines of embroidery run down either side of the opening front. A pretty feature of this garment is a small patch pocket set on to the left side of the gown. This is finished with a scalloped edge and a vine of embroidery running around the inside makes the whole pocket a mass of embroidery.

A gown of white is trimmed with strips of embroidery and with lace. The embroidery is used in a unique manner, being set in around the armhole, bands of it running out from there into the gown, each band being finished with a point. There is a little frill of lace around the neck, and the opening a tthe front is finished with a loosely looped jabot of wide lace.

Stocks for the golf girl come all in one piece, high and straight, in different solid colors and with ends to make a four-in-hand or an imperial knot. There are crossed clubs, with the balls for the front of the stock and larger clubs and balls for the ends, all in contrasting colors.

Neat nickel boxes about the size of the children's "scholar's companions," are for the traveler who believes in curling her hair with curling irons. There is a place in the back of the box for the irons when not in use, and in the front is the alcohol lamp and a standard to support the irons while they are heating. They cost something like $3, $3.25 or $3.50. That is a good deal of money, but one good outfit is worth half a dozen small ones.

Some of the pattern waists which are much liked are of embroidered linen. The linen is white, of a basket weave, with a mesh similar to that of the hygienic linen underwear, but less solid. It is embroidered in colors, which give it a Russian effect. Pongees are similarly embroidered.

A shoe brush and polisher united costs only 25 cents. Alternating with the bristles are strips of flannel running across the brush.

A glass table bell, which does not pretend to be cut, but which has attractions of its own, has a small figure of a metal dog standing on its hind legs for a handle.

Wine glasses in colors have designs of conventionalized flowers upon the outside of the glass, the flower in a soft red and the stems green. Inside the glass the design shows in gold. The long stems to the glasses are cut.

RULES FOR PING PONG.

The rules for ping pong are as follows:

1. The game is for two players. They shall stand one at each end of the table. The player who first delivers the ball shall be called the server and the other the striker-out.

2. At the end of the first game the striker-out shall become the server and the server shall become the striker-out and so on alternately.

3. The service shall be strictly underhand and delivered from beyond the end of the table.

4. The ball served must drop anywhere on the table top beyond the net, and is then in play. If it drops into the net or off the table it counts to the striker-out. There is no second service, as in lawn tennis.

5. In serving it is a let if the ball touches the net in passing over.

6. If the ball in play strikes any object above or round the table before it bounces on the table top itself (net or post excepted) it counts against the player.

7. The server wins a stroke if the striker-out fails to return the service or returns the service or ball in play off the table.

8. The striker-out wins a stroke if the server serves a fault, or fails to return a ball in play, or returns the ball in play so that it falls off the table.

9. No volleying is allowed, but as long as the ball touches the table top it is in play and can be taken at half-volley.

10. On either player winning his first stroke the score is called fifteen for that player; on either player winning his second stroke the score is called thirty for that player; on either player winning his third stroke the score is called forty for that player, and the fourth stroke won by either player is scored game for that player, except as below.

11. If both players have won three strokes (forty all), the score is called deuce, and the next stroke won by either player is scored advantage to that player. If the same player wins the next stroke he wins the game; if he loses the score is again called deuce, and so on until either player wins the two strokes immediately following the score of deuce, when the game is called for that player.

12. The player who first wins six games is victor.

13. The game may also be scored by points, twenty up. The players, in this case, change the service after every five points scored, like "overs" at cricket.

Spanish Lace Scarfs.

Make haste to get out your Spanish lace scarf. Let it no longer repose in a back corner of your chiffonier drawer, neither in the chest up stairs. Not only is the rich, heavy Spanish lace "in" again, but the scarfs are particularly "it." Some fancy them lined with gay silk or chiffon and worn around the neck with the ends hanging straight nearly to the feet in front. The fashion of wearing over the hair, more or less knotted under the chin, is being revived, too, and for this they may be used as they are or lined with chiffon.

All things considered, though, a clever actress has hit upon the most novel way of utilizing one of these lengths of lace, and at the same time emphasizing her slenderness. This long strip of lace is simply caught on at the shoulders, the top edge of the lace resting on the bare skin, and pulled snugly in at the waist line. Since the edge is straight it digs far in when pulled around at the sides, and then curves out again to follow the hip curve, continuing the length of the splendid train. On a dress of a light color the wearer appears very much more slender than she is.

In the case in question a few black appliques in front (the dress was of cream lace) served to balance the scheme, and three poppy velvet rosettes caught the scarf down one side of the train at the back. Outside wishing to look slenderer, this scheme is stately and fetching, and it is also good on the front of a dress, especially if it hang straight on a princess dress.

MENU FOR SATURDAY.

BREAKFAST.

Shredded and Sugared Pineapple.
Boiled Rice, Cup Moulds.
Sugar and Cream.
Fried Shad Roe. Baked Potatoes.
Hall's Corn Meal Johnny Cake.
Our American Breakfast Coffee.

LUNCH.

Boston Baked Beans.
Boston Brown Bread.
Chili Sauce. Pim Olas.
Glace Sponge Cake. Ceylon India Tea.

DINNER.

Printaniere Soup.
Beef Connelou, Mashed Potatoes.
Cream Onions. Salsify.
String Bean Salad.
Royal Paragon Cheese.
Green Apple Tart.
Nuts. Raisins. Coffee.

Female Booker Washington.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell is to the women what Booker T. Washington is to the men of the colored race. She was graduated from Oberlin college in 1884, and after her graduation spent several years in studying abroad. She has taught in the high school of Washington, D. C., and has served on the school board of that city. She was the first active president of the National Association of Colored Women, and is now its honorary president. She was one of the four delegates elected by the four equal suffrage clubs of Washington to represent men and women, black and white, at the recent national suffrage convention. Mrs. Terrell is so light in color that one might doubt her race unless told of it.

GIBSON SHIRT WAISTS.

While talking with a prominent manufacturer the following information regarding the Gibson waist was elicited:

First, he considers it good only for young and slender women, for it gives the broad-shouldered effect these wearers so much desire, and, as it is at its best in piques, linens and similar materials that take the starch well, it is advantageous to such women in aiding them to conceal the lack of bust development.

Second, he is inclined to be skeptical regarding the immense popularity of this style of waist, saying that out of 1,100 models he is this season showing only twenty-four of the Gibson style. His biggest sales have been made in Chicago.

Further, he added that the Gibson in thin materials lacks much of the style that pertains to it in stiffer goods, and also is not so advantageous to the wearer in helping her to conceal the defects of her figure.

Colors for Street Gowns.

Red is a favorite color, and has been so all winter, for street gowns for girls, and for the spring light gray and all the different shades of blue are to be worn in covert cloth. Green also is on the list. The light gray cheviot gowns made with flaring but plain skirts, the medium length reefer coat, double breasted and fastened with fancy buttons, are an exceedingly plain style of street gown but a very smart one, and when the coat is lined with white satin and the revers are faced with white or pale blue or tan, embroidered at the corners with black and white, it does not look in the least too plain.

The blue that is preferred is a bright sapphire blue, and again the trimming is put only on the revers, collar and cuffs, the only kind allowed on the skirt being bias folds of the same cloth. The close-fitting military jacket is a much-favored style this spring, the fronts covered with circles of black Hercules braid.

Paris Diners de Tetes.

Among the carnival festivities of Paris fancy dress balls and diners de tetes held high favor. The latter are particularly in vogue, and it seems odd that New York hostesses, always eager for novelty and success in entertaining, have not recognized the possibilities of these jolly and farcical little dinners.

In the first place, the guests are not put to the trouble of planning and procuring complete fancy dress costumes, a matter involving an amount of care and expense that often makes the invitation a nuisance rather than a pleasure. Only the heads of the guests are in fancy dress at diner de tetes, but there is a chance for much individual ingenuity even in this narrowed field.

At a recent Paris dinner the guests were attired in regulation modern fashion, but from their throats up they were a motley crew. There were beautiful women with the powdered coiffures, the rouge and the patches of Louis XVI's time, with the various famous headdresses of European peasants of historic epochs, of celebrated beauties.

There were make-ups copied from stage favorites, from notes pictures, make-ups illustrating the characters of popular books, make-ups fashioned on tropical songs.

Beauty and farce were side by side, and the incongruity of the travestied heads with the modern costumes below them made even the beauty mirth provoking, save in a few cases, where some of the modern adaptations of old styles in dress fitted in, to some degree, with the coiffures of olden time.

Shirt Waist Suits.

Foulards made up into what might be called shirt waist suits for utility wear will be a feature of the spring modes. They make smart little dresses for morning and everyday wear. We are making a very stylish little gown at present on this order of dark blue foulard, polka-dotted in white. The dots are of that irregular variety that give so much style to the fabric. The skirt has three ruffles shaped up in the back after the modish manner. The hems o fthe ruffles are finished with French knots in blue and white. The bodice is a Norfolk jacket. The style of this little dress is indisputable. And it will be a most serviceable part of the summer wardrobe.

Monogrammed Hose.

The very latest in hosiery is the monogram stocking. The stocking is preferably black, in lisle thread or silk. In the front, just above the ankle, is a diamond-shaped inset of black net, and upon this the monogram is embroidered, or in whatever color the wearer may choose. The rest of the stocking is perfectly plain.

Cheap Rates to California.

Tickets on sale daily at Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad offices, at rate of $32.90 from St. Paul or Minneapolis to Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, etc. Best and most direct route.

Call 398 Robert street, St. Paul, for tickets and berths.

Out Before His Time.

"There's one of my faults that I'm free to admit," said the convict who always managed to break jail.

"What's that?"

"I have never lived up to my convictions."—Philadelphia Press.

FAIR AMERICAN TO BECOME ALIEN.

Princess Brancaccio, Now Is Lady in Waiting to Queen Helena of Italy.

Now that she has become one of the leaders of society at Rome, the American friends of the princess fear that she will sever her ties with this country altogether. The princess is disposing of her real estate here, which strengthens the apprehension. Princess Brancaccio formerly was Miss Elizabeth Hickson Field, of New York.

Mince Meat Comparison

NONE SUCH MINCE MEAT

(1) Clean. Sold in air-tight, water-proof cardboard cartons. Tempts the appetite.

(2) Economical. 10 cents a package, making 2 large pies. It equals 2½ pounds of "wet" mince meat. Add the water yourself—**don't pay for it.**

(3) Convenient. Being "compressed" it takes up very little room on the shelf, and is put up in exact pie proportions.

(4) Reputation. Our name and 30 years' business standing is a **guarantee.**

SO-CALLED "WET" MINCE MEAT

(1) Unclean. Sold from open pails and sloppy tubs. Think of it!

(2) Expensive. Costs 8 cents to 15 cents a pound—½ the weight is water. At this rate "None Such" **should** cost 20 cents to 40 cents a package instead of only 10 cents.

(3) Clumsy. Has to be dished out in pans—takes up lots of room and you seldom have it on hand when wanted.

(4) Unknown. Do you know who makes "wet" mince meat? Is it guaranteed?

Moral: Always buy "None Such"

Any good grocer will supply you. Don't be deceived or over-persuaded by "wet-goods." We can tell you a dealer that will supply you if yours will not. Write us. Valuable premium list of "1847 Rogers Bros." silverware in packages. Beware of packages imitating "None Such."

MERRELL-SOULE CO., Syracuse, N. Y.

The Globe's Daily Short Story

The Graduate.

By C. W. HARTLEY.

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He was strolling along very contentedly by the side of Miss Page Howard, with her fluffy parasol swinging from his hand. They made the usual West Point trio.

There was every reason why Stanton should be contented that summer afternoon. It was one day within the end of his graduation week, and he had managed to pull through so far in pretty good shape. His family had come up to see him leave the Point, and had brought with them the winsome little piece of the South who was his companion at the moment. It was a perfect day in early June and the path they had taken was the prettiest one the Point affords.

In the midst of so many pleasant things Stanton was perhaps an ungrateful fellow to feel discomforted. But the truth was he had a fierce desire to smoke. He waited until they were well along in the thick of the path, and then he turned to little Miss Howard desperately.

"I say," he asked, "would you care a bit if I smoked a cigarette?"

She turned her chin up and looked at him. Miss Howard's head was exactly the height of the third shiny button below his shoulder. That button was just over his heart.

"I certainly shouldn't mind," she said, smiling, "but can you? Is it allowed?"

"Well, to be candid," he answered, taking off his cap and carefully pulling an Egyptian cigarette out from under the inside band, "it isn't. That's why I have to carry them in such an inconvenient place. But you know," he added, "there are some things a man has to have whether they're allowed or not."

Miss Howard gave a little laugh. "Such weakness!" she said, half contemptuously.

The man blew a big puff out into the still air with a momentary burst of impatience.

"Confound it!" he said. "I girl can't understand what it means to a fellow—that longing to feel tobacco between his lips, to taste the little bite that it leaves on his tongue, and to have the smell of the smoke in his nostrils. I'll admit it's my besetting sin, my one vice. I've done without it here until it seemed as if I'd go mad for it. Got restless, grouchy, fitful, no good for work. Then hang it all! I went and smoked. Being caught and punished as though I'd committed a crime was disgraceful, of course, but I was more resigned to it because I'd had my smoke."

"What did they do to you?" inquired Miss Howard.

"O, guard house and demerits and things," he answered, lightly. "But I've been careful not to exceed the limit that the law allows an offender."

He smiled to himself as he said it. Everybody knows that a record of ninety demerits between January and June is enough to retire to civil life the most promising aspirant to military glory.

"Mr. Stanton," queried the girl, "tell me, please, how many demerits you've won since the first of the year."

Stanton looked down at her with a twinkle in his eye.

"Well," he replied, banteringly, "I counted up this morning, just for fun, and I found a score of exactly eighty-eight."

"Oh!" said the girl with an indignant storm of exclamations. "I have no patience with you! You are to graduate tomorrow. You've been shut up here four years waiting and working for that day. And at the last moment you can risk it all for a foolish bit of self-indulgence like this! A fine soldier, you are! A splendid example of discipline! You don't deserve to belong to the army! I think I'll report you myself!"

Stanton laughed lazily over her sudden wrath. She was so little that it always seemed funny to him to see her enthusiastically angry.

"It's too hot to get excited, Miss Tempestuous," he said. "Of course, I'm delighted over your anxiety for my welfare, but really I'm not running such a risk as you think. If we should meet an officer now, he'd sooner shut his eyes and hold his nose than see my cigarette or smell the smoke. That is," he added reflectively, "most of them would. But if he did see me he'd have to report me, and then—"

"You would deserve it," said the girl hotly. "I—I think I'd be right glad."

"You don't mean that, do you?" asked the cadet.

They turned a corner sharply as he spoke, and Miss Howard gave a cry of surprise. They were face to face with the man whom all the Point knew as "Capt. Bobs."

With a movement that was a flash, Stanton dropped his fateful cigarette to the ground, moving to put his foot on it and trusting to Miss Howard's greeting to distract the officer's attention from him. Poor Stanton! He had tempted chance once too often. The devil was in that stump of a Rameses II. It bounced once on the ground with a crooked jump, and landed smoking exactly on the toe of Capt. Bobs' boot.

Miss Howard saw and caught her breath. Captain Bobs felt it, looked down incautiously, and then knocked it off. It lay smouldering viciously in the middle of the path, and for a moment no one broke the silence. Capt. Bobs looked up.

"Mr. Stanton," he began.

Miss Howard interrupted him quickly with a queer little laugh. "Capt. Bobs," she said, a bit unsteadyily, "I'm mighty sorry you caught me. We didn't think we'd meet anybody right around here, and I wanted to smoke once just for fun. So I lit that cigarette. It isn't much fun," she added, dimpling and looking straight into his eyes. "I don't think I'll do it again, ever. But please, Capt. Bobs, promise me you won't tell anybody you saw me. Will you?"

She asked it very charmingly, and stood waiting his answer.

Capt. Bob's keen eyes searched Stanton's face for a moment and found what they wanted there. Then he glanced back at Miss Howard and noted the tremble on her lip which she was trying to conceal. The captain was as gallant as he was soldierly.

"A lady's request," he said to her, "as well as a lady's word"—he looked again at the Rameses II. and the silent cadet—"is always honored by me."

He bowed and left them standing in the path.

Stanton did not move for some moments after he was gone. Miss Howard waited a while, staring through the trees down at the river below. Then "Mr. Stanton," she said, "aren't we going to finish our walk?"

"Page," the man answered her, suddenly. "Page, I am a coward. I did not realize what was happening. Do you think I'm going to have you bear the blame of that for me?" He kicked the cigarette scornfully over the edge of the path. "No," he said, "we won't finish the walk, if you don't mind. I want to go back and speak to Capt. Bobs."

The girl put out her hand restrainingly.

"You're not going to tell him the truth?" she said.

"Of course I am," answered Stanton, shortly.

"Then you'll have to say to him," said Miss Howard, deliberately, "that I told him a lie. That wouldn't be nice of you."

Stanton hesitated a minute. "Well," he said, "it would be better than going through my entire existence feeling that I was afraid to own up and take the consequences like a man."

She laughed softly. "Silly!" she said. "Capt. Bobs knows all about it. He's not stupid. And you have no right to wreck your career at the beginning of it and break your mother's heart, if you can help it."

"But I shall despise myself so," objected the man, "to think that I hid behind a woman's skirts! And Capt. Bobs will despise me more. And you—you will despise me most of all."

The girl drew a long breath. "I—think—not," she said. "Ah," she broke off teasingly, "I know what it really is. You don't like me well enough to accept one little kind act from me. Is that it?"

"Page," he said, "it will be the whole of my life that I owe to you if I accept your generous little lie."

"The debt can stand," said the girl blushing.

"No," he said, "a life for a life. I will pay you now if you will take me." He held out his hands to her. "Sweetheart," he said impetuously, "say you will marry me and I'll promise on the spot never to smoke again."

Miss Howard answered from his arms with a little smile, showing behind the mist in her eys.

"I'm afraid," she said, "that I never could marry a man who didn't smoke.