

"I understood—I beg your pardon if I am mistaken—that you and Miss Hyacinth Lindsay were to be married short—"

"Her aunt told you that?"

"I understood her to say so."

"Then she is mistaken."

"Mistaken? Do you mean that you are not to be married?" cried Harley.

"That is what I mean."

"Excuse me. Until to-night Miss Lindsay refused me because she hoped that someone whom she preferred would return to New Zealand. He has done so, but thinking he did not care for her, she told me to-night that she would marry me."

"To-night?" repeated Lindon hoarsely.

"I think," said Tenant slowly, "that the man does care for her. She was mistaken. Lindon, for God's sake tell me, do you want that girl?"

Harley nodded. "Yes, but Tenant, when I heard of your engagement, I determined not to speak. Marry her and make her happy."

"When she cares for you? She is too dear to me for that, Lindon! No! For God's sake go to her! Tell her she is free, and that I sent you and that you love her!"

Tenant pushed Harley towards the window and rushed towards the door. Lindon hurried down along the balcony towards the pitiful, white figure.

"Hyacinth!"

She stood up and in the moonlight he

could see how white her face was, and that she was trembling.

"Hyacinth! I have not come in vain! I thought that I had come too late. Thank God, I was not!"

"Harley!"

"Tenant has told me, Hyacinth, how you waited, and he has set you free. My poor, crushed flower! Fred's Hyacinth and mine!"

He put his arms about her, and, tired out with that strenuous waiting, she leaned towards him.

"Harley, has my dream come true? I thought that you would never come!"

"My pretty flower! I thought my heart would break when I discovered I had lost you and, Hyacinth, had Tenant been less noble, you were lost for ever!"

Prehistoric Nursing Bottles.

According to recent discoveries it appears that nursing bottles were used even in prehistoric times, says "Science Siftings." This is true at least for the age of polished stone, inasmuch as a French archaeologist, M. Nicaise, when exploring a neolithic funerary deposit, found a small clay nursing bottle, and this was quite intact. This is not the only specimen of the kind which comes from early ages. Among others are the specimens found in the Gaulish burial places of Jonchery and more recently in the Gallo-Roman arena of Paris.

Automatic Cannon.

The latest invention in the art of war is, according to the German newspaper "Vorwaerts," a competent authority on these matters, an automatic quick-firing artillery on the principle of the machine gun. A correspondent of the great Socialist paper says that experiments have actually been in progress for some years with artillery, fed with a bandolier strung with large cartridges, which is actuated by the recoil as in a Maxim. "These guns," he says, "have been introduced in the navy, and have justified themselves as far as the mechanism is concerned, but they could not be kept sufficiently cool owing to the great heat generated by the firing. The experts attempted to meet this defect by cooling the tube with water. In the case of fixed or stationary artillery this problem did not present special difficulties, and has in experiment at least been solved with such success that the rapidity of fire has been increased threefold without appreciable overheating. It proved much more difficult, however, to devise a satisfactory water-cooling system to field artillery, but after many failures a successful method has been found of utilising part of the force of each recoil to send a stream of cold water along the tube of the gun. The whole apparatus adds barely 12 per cent to the combined weight of field gun and carriage. Of course, under ordinary circumstances automatic long-range guns of this type would simply waste ammunition. In emergency, of course, for repelling cavalry and on shipboard a torpedo-boat attack they would be invaluable. Accordingly the guns are so devised as to be used normally as single-loaders of the ordinary type."

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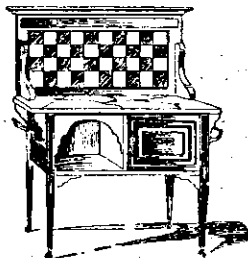
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The Apes Came Back.

An entertaining story of how some captive monkeys escaped from their house, and how they enjoyed their liberty, comes from Tokyo. A few years ago, writes the municipal authorities at Mino-Machi, in the province of Gifu, spent a good deal of money in laying out a public park and adorning it with a magnificent monkey house in which a large number of apes were installed for the amusement and education of the natives. On New Year's Eve during the absence of the night-watchman, who had gone to the celebrations, the monkeys dug a hole through the floor of their house and escaped. The "gaol-delivery" was discovered in due course and a search instituted, but without success. On New Year's Day, however, when guests arrived at the District Commissioner's office to pay their respects to that official, they found the building in the possession of a band of over one hundred monkeys, who, not content with destroying the records and books, had eaten up the fruit and sweetmeats which had been prepared for the Commissioner's friends. The local defences were duly manned, and a storming party succeeded in driving out the invaders, making prisoners of some, but the greater number got off to the woods.

Age by the Menus.

How to tell ladies' ages at dinner parties is taught us by a Parisian diner-out. If the girl you took in leaving dining at dessert, and gets up having made a large meal solely of ices, chocolate creams, preserved ginger, and sugared fruits, with perhaps one cheese straw thrown in, you know for certain she is still under twenty. If you are not sure whether she is a girl or a young married woman, you watch whether, on the contrary, she starts dinner at the outset, and, having gorged on hors d'oeuvres, shrimps, caviare, pickled salmon, and anchovies, eats nothing afterwards. If so, she is undoubtedly between 20 and 30, and married. Should she dine off a wing of a fowl or a slice of the breast she has passed the fateful year of 30, but has not reached the worse date of 35. After 35 she will dine off game, venison, etc., and like it rather well. Finally, if the lady you took in to dinner helps herself to cheese, and, still more significant, appreciates the well flavoured Camembert or the finely matured Stilton, you know exactly where you are. "She is a woman 'without age,'" as the French language politely says.

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