

LITTLE MAKE-BELIEVE OR A CHILD OF THE SLUMS.

BY B. L. FARJEON.

CHAPTER II.

Mr. Cleaver opened his eyes wide, and then, with a broad grin, gently laid the forefinger of his right hand on the right side of his purple nose.
'Polly,' he shouted, 'here's Mr. Dexter wants to know how you are?'
'Oh, I'm all right,' said Polly, making her appearance at the door, and looking down upon the two men.
'And how do you find yourself, Mr. Dexter?'
In his confusion Thomas Dexter replied: 'I'm as well as can be expected, Polly.'

chief, 'you've got the price of a pinn about yer. The proper thing to do is to wet the match.'
'I've no objection,' said infatuated Thomas Dexter.
'Come along, then,' said Mr. Cleaver, seizing Thomas Dexter and hurrying him downstairs; 'we'll drink Polly's health.'
'Stop a minute,' cried Polly; 'I'll jine yer. If anybody ought to be in this it's me.'

CHAPTER III.

A Little Pretender.
As much as is necessary to be known of Thomas Dexter's early history here disclosed, Little Make-Believe aims attention.
Come, then, into the light, flower of the gutter, and show yourself to uncustomed eyes. Those that are in the habit of seeing you take so little notice of you that the doubt may well arise whether, as a study, you are in any way interesting. You are so familiar a figure that, like the rising of the sun, but small regard is paid to you.

Sometimes she had no matches to sell. Then she went about pretending. But, as you already know, she did that at other times, as well.
She had a father, who was such a favorite with publicans and policemen that they very rarely let him out of their sight.
They played with him as they would have played at trap, bat and ball. From publican to policeman, when the publican was done with him, and from policeman to publican, when the policeman was done with him, was as regularly to be depended on as the changing of day into night and night into day.
Which suggests a comparison between Little Make-Believe's father and the earth, the observable difference being that when Little Make-Believe's father turned round on his axis it was with a more eccentric motion than we attribute to the earth. Generally in his movements, and especially when the publican passed him on to the policeman, mathematical niceties were conspicuous by their absence. When the policeman passed him back to the publican he exhibited a more improved method, which, as a rule, lasted no longer than an hour.



The recent discovery that alloys not containing iron can be made as magnetic as iron has suggested the new theory that magnetism depends upon the grouping of the molecules.
German papers report that a new anaesthetic juice has been discovered in Japan, the product of a plant growing in that empire. This anaesthetic has been called scopolamine, and is said to be superior in its effects to all other articles of this kind. It is administered hypodermically and produces a deep sleep lasting from eight to nine hours. It is claimed that it does not produce the slightest ill-after-effects.
In the novel method of electric welding of a Berlin firm, the heat applied is evolved by an electric arc formed between the working piece and a carbon electrode at the place where the weld is to be made. A relatively small electric generator is used with a storage battery connected up in a parallel, and the carbon, fixed in the holder, is readily shifted as desired. The great heat melts both the working piece and the metal to be welded insuring an intimate juncture.

STYLE IN WRITING

One's Taste For Good English Not Spoiled by Reading Newspapers.
President Woodrow Wilson, like the Presidents of Harvard and Yale, has discovered that a large proportion of college graduates are incapable of expressing their thoughts in their own or any other language.
Incidentally, he points out the absurdity of a certain criticism which is based on a failure to understand that language is but a means to an end. 'It is the fashion among a certain class to sneer at what they are pleased to call 'newspaper English.' These gentlemen should look at home before committing themselves, and remedy their own shortcomings and their laboriously correct style of writing. I think the English used in newspaper articles is remarkably good. It is generally terse and clear and right to the point, and tells in a simple way exactly what the writer wants to say. It is most surprising to me to understand how the reporters, writing as they do so hurriedly and under such great pressure, are able to write so well. None need be afraid of spoiling their taste for good English by reading newspapers. The articles are almost always delightfully free from stiltedness and trite conventionalities, which is more than can be said of the average collegian's effusions.'



In White Flannels.
A gown of white flannel was made with a side-pleated skirt and a plain blouse waist. The neck of this gown was cut square with rounded corners and had a guimpe and collar of pale blue cloth trimmed with white silk braid. The braid outlined the collar top and bottom, and was put on in a slight lattice effect with little brass buttons.
For a Girl of Fifteen.
A group of pretty dresses designed for a girl of fifteen, who goes to boarding school, included a shirt waist dress of dark blue and green checked suiting. The skirt had a shaped hip yoke which extended in a plain front panel to the hem. Under the yoke the material was laid in small pleats, three in a group all around. The waist had a yoke emplacement with three straps which extended to the belt.
Shoe Fashions.
Shoes, wear-resisting, are important, and fine kid shoes or boots are too easily knocked to pieces or ruined for the beach, mountain or country wear. For the piazza, shoes may be as dainty as desired; but it is best to dress the feet so that one may start at the moment's notice on an impromptu tramp or stroll. The cheapest and best gloves for common use are the white chambray skin that may be washed with soap and water. Laundry facilities are usually unsatisfactory, and this should bear upon the wardrobe problem. A full supply of little odds and ends in the way of accessories for brightening effects is of greater importance than the number of gowns. If one is skilled with the needle, these can be provided at greatly reduced cost.—The Commoner.
Bridesmaid's Luncheon.
A water lily luncheon was given by a recent bride to her wedding attendants. The decorations were entirely in water lilies, ferns and vines. In the dining-room the sideboard and mantelpiece were banked with lilies. The table was covered with the most spotless white and showy linen, and reaching from the chandelier to the four corners of the table were vines of feathery green. The center piece was a flat, circular mirror edged with water lilies, with a tiny pot of maiden-hair fern in the center. The china service was pure white, dotted here and there with fine maiden-hair ferns.
The Old World Sets the Styles.
'Explain to me if you can,' says the student of the eternal feminine, 'why the American woman has not yet made a dent on the Old World in the matter of fashions for clothes. American supremacy is an old story, but if the American woman isn't supreme, who or what is? Indeed, what she has done in the way of marrying American celebrities and imitating American ways in Europe is a part of our recorded supremacy, but in clothes she is not in it. Whenever the last touch of fineness is to be given to any of her garments it is described as being of Paris or London make. We have heard to be sure, that the shirt waist is an American idea and that it is making its way abroad, but when it comes back here it is labeled 'lingerie' and as 'created' in the Old World. As for the bride's trousseau, though we have as many brides here as anywhere, their clothes must all bear the foreign label. The Old World still sets the styles in woman's dress.'—Philadelphia Record.
Faults of the Domestic Husband.
The foolishness of wives is shown in their warfare against the club, be it good or bad, and their indiscriminate taxation of the domestic man. The latter is not apt to be an alluring person, for oscillating between downtown and home, his circle of interests is necessarily narrow, and he inevitably takes up with more or less petty matters, and becomes a domestic martinet or a tame cat. All the big civic interests that engage the energies of public-spirited men in their leisure from business he ignores, as he does association with men identified with other worthy interests. The petty gossip of the home and the evening paper constitute the typical domestic man's mental sustenance in his moments of relaxation and apart from merely having him within reach it is hard to understand what pleasure the wife can take in this variety of husband, for he apparently feels under no obligation to make himself agreeable. It is not he who makes the meal cheerful by setting the conversational pace in the direction of amusing stories or interesting information, his usual contribution being fussy comment on some trivial domestic incident. More often he eats in silence and departs in the shortest time possible for the most desirable chair in the living room, there to remain for the remainder of his evening. Such a man, however good a provider he may be for his family, is a social vegetable merely, in whom no woman is justified in taking pride at this day when the need in public affairs is for citizens who bear their share of the burden peculiar to our nation and times.—Vogue.
Specialty in Dress.
'Women who care about dress should make a specialty of some detail of their wardrobe, perfecting it to a degree that will always claim particular attention,' insists a woman who has a reputation for charming costumes.
'My specialty is my belts. People have got into the way of expecting pretty belts of me. I am consulted by other women on the subject. Many women copy my belts as nearly as they dare. Men compliment me upon them.
'I do not know just what started my special interest in belts, but I've an idea that it was a quaint Japanese one that some one brought me from abroad. It was an effective thing with pale toned embroidery, full of gold and an old gold buckle of marvelous workmanship. Everybody noticed it when I wore it. When I didn't wear it I missed the attention that it drew, and so I tried to make other belts as attractive as possible.
'Women who have but limited allowances to spend on their clothes would do well to go in for a specialty. It covers a multitude of deficiencies of wardrobe. A girl I know who has gone in persistently for perfection in shoes and stockings has in a year won a reputation for a charming wardrobe that makes her the envy of many of her friends who have far finer general wardrobes than she.
'Another girl I know has made a specialty of scarfs and shawls.
'One of the cleverest specialties for the woman with little to spend on her clothes is the following out of some favorite color scheme.
'I decided what was absolutely the most becoming color to me,' explained a girl who had adopted the fad. 'I chose the golden browns because they match my eyes and go so well with my reddish hair. For four whole years of the hardest kind of financial experiences I have held my own as one of the best dressed women in my set, and the reputation is simply due to my fad for brown.
'With few gowns I have won for myself an enviable distinction which I never could have enjoyed had I gone in for many colors. No one just in my set would think of carrying out the brown scheme as I do—women have too much spirit to be found copying. A number, though, have followed the idea in other colors.
'In summer,' she continues, 'I not only make a hobby of white for the same economic reason, but I also make a fad of having linen gowns and shirtwaists made alike. The result of my scheme is that I make three white linen suits render service that usually calls for half a dozen or more. I can wear mine again and again, and just because I have the reputation of having my wash gowns made alike no attention is called to the scanty number of them in my wardrobe.
'It is most amusing to me to see people who can afford anything to follow my plan, simply because I have a way of my own of lending it the charm of distinction.'—Indianapolis News.



The latest idea is to make the lines definitely define the figure.
All the indications point to a revival of the fashions of the Directory and the Empire.
Syrise scarfs of net, heavily spangled with gold and silver, are beautiful and costly.
The newest Empire coats are not quite as loose and flowing as they have been in the past.
Light-weight broadcloths will be used for the construction of garments of almost every description.
Velveteens are now really handsome fabrics, while the higher-priced dress velvets are wonderfully beautiful.
The Directorate coat, with its high waist, full skirt, capes and lapels, will be a close rival of the Empire.
The long, sweeping skirts are left plain, depending for their effects on the cut and the beauty of the fabrics.
The velvet coat will probably have a great vogue, and no more beautiful or appropriate material was ever made for coats than velvet.
Soft, pliable broadcloth is to be used for outside coats more, almost to the exclusion of other fabrics, according to Paris fashion writers.
Plain cloths will be a big feature in the business on dress goods for the coming season. Here color will be a great factor in quick distribution.
The fad is having a great vogue lately. No prettier fashion was ever devised, and one is always glad when the turn of the wheel brings it around again.
The chemise, the most conspicuous adjunct of dress this year, is only a reminiscence of the kerchief that used to be folded in the low neck of the period.

A LEARNED PASTOR.

Keen Wit of a Welshman Won a Good Beth For Him.
A congregation in Connecticut had lost their pastor, and were desirous of filling his place. But their last minister had been self-taught, and the aristocracy—to wit, the deacons, etc.—stipulated that the new minister should have a classical education.
In order to be sure of their man, the deacons agreed to let applicants preach a sermon on trial. The living was good, consequently, trial sermons were the order of the day. But as the deacons said, they knew an educated man from a duffer, so the living remained vacant. At last a Welshman heard of the vacancy, but he was less learned than the one who had left; still, he determined to try.
The day was arranged, the appointed minute arrived, and the candidate mounted into the pulpit. He got well on in his sermon, when he suddenly recollected that he was expected to show his learning.
'My friends,' he said, 'I will now quote you a passage in Greek.'
With a solemn look he repeated a verse in his native tongue. The effect was marvelous: approving nods and smiles were exchanged among the deacons.
Thus encouraged, he followed up his advantage by saying:
'Perhaps you would also like to hear it in Latin?'
He then repeated another passage in Welsh; this was even more successful than before. The preacher cast his eye over the flock, and saw that he was regarded with looks of increasing respect.
Unfortunately, there was also a Welshman in the congregation; he was sitting at the back, almost choked in his efforts to stifle his laughter. The minister's eye fell on him, and took in the whole situation at a glance. Preserving his countenance, he continued:
'I will also repeat it in Hebrew.'
He then sang out, in his broadest Welsh: 'My dear fellow, stop laughing; they will find it out.'
The other understood, stifled his laughter, and afterward dined with his successful countryman.

In Fit Array.

Talk as one will on the vanity of clothes, the consciousness of being well dressed has something of moral force in it. 'Brush your hair and things won't look so bad,' was the wise counsel given by a friend to a woman whose husband had lost his money.
The little child in Mr. E. J. Hardy's 'Manners Maketh Man' hit on this great truth when she replied to her mother who was reproving her.
'Oh Katie, why can't you be a good little girl? See Julia, now; how nice she is. Why can't you be as good as she?'
'Perhaps I could, mamma,' answered Katie, 'if my dress had little pink bows all over it.'

Royal Women Gamblers.

Marie Antoinette was a slave to cards. On one occasion she played for thirty-six hours at a sitting, with but an intermission of a couple of hours.
'The play at the Queen's table at Fontainebleau,' wrote the Emperor Joseph II., 'was like that in a common gambling house; people of all kinds were there, and mingled without decorum; great scandal was caused by the fact that several of the ladies cheated.'

First Statue to Alexandria.

The first public statue of Queen Alexandria has just been commissioned. Mr. George E. Wade, the well-known sculptor, has been chosen to do the work. The destination of the statue is Hongkong, which has already given commissions for the statues of King Edward and the Prince of Wales. The new statue is being erected out of a fund raised in connection with the Hongkong coronation celebration. The Queen will be represented in her coronation robes. The statue will be of bronze, and life size, and the pedestal will be either of granite or marble. The King to whom the proposal was submitted through the Governor of Hongkong, readily gave his permission. His Majesty also approved the suggestion that the statue should be made by Mr. Wade.—London Express.

Robin Kills an Adder.

In a vigorous battle between a robin and an adder fourteen inches long, the bird killed the snake. The fight took place in the garden of George S. Jones, in Leominster, Mass., and was seen by John A. Hannin and others, who were attracted to the scene by the calls of the birds which had collected in the trees to urge on their plucky mate.
The robin had a nest of little ones in an apple tree near the garden. When the snake wriggled across the field toward the tree the bird swooped down and attacked it vigorously with its claws and bill, aiming its attacks at the head. Not, however, on the first round, as it gradually came to after the robin had left it and began to move. The bird discovered the motion and flew again at the snake, not leaving it until it was dead.—Boston Globe.

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