

Camels Back Breaks And Mrs. Nina Putnam Weeps

Brilliant Writer on Foibles of Women Chagrined to Find Herself Enmeshed in Scandal Net and Can't Understand Wife of Her "Literary Adviser"

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, Jan. 9.—New York's literary colony has been thrown into a ferment by the plight in which Mrs. Nina Wilcox Putnam has found herself these last few days and her friends are rallying to her support.

Mrs. Putnam says she is sure of the loyalty of her friends but as she tossed back and forth in bed at her hotel today she still was crying:

"My public, my public! What will they think? What will they say?"

All actors, movie stars and distinguished authors today have their "public." They live for their public. Mrs. Putnam is no exception to the rule. She complains that the obscure Mrs. Elizabeth Basset has attempted to crucify her with her public. Mrs. Basset has no public. Therefore she can have no idea of the pangs and bitterness she has brought into the life of the author.

Mrs. Putnam, like many another author, has considered herself aloof from the ordinary affairs and conventions of life. She has occupied a unique position. It has been her privilege to sit back in her studio and hold up the mirror of life to others. She has written brilliantly and humorously of the frailties and foibles of women. She has struck at the structure of society. As a writer she has tingled the human tringle with many a leer and jest. That she should be caught up and enmeshed in a web of scandal as romantic and as real as any of her dreams of fiction, causes her to cry out and rebel against the strange pranks of fate.

Mrs. Putnam, with all her vivid imagination, cannot fathom why Mrs. Basset should have turned the tongue of scandal upon her. She says Mrs. Basset was entirely agreeable when Mrs. Putnam took Mr. Basset into her employment. Mr. Basset has been a clam digger, Mrs. Basset has been a clam digger's wife. Mr. Basset then had risen above the mud and marshes and had become a house painter. Mrs. Basset thereupon had the new dignity of being a house painter's wife. This surely was a step up the social scale. It was about this time that the authoress needed some one to drive her car. The doctor had said she must drive no more. Basset was a neighbor without a steady job. Why not employ him? Alas, Mrs. Putnam says she did—and then her trouble began. True, she had had troubles before. She had been twice married and divorced—proceedings against her second husband were pending. Mrs. Putnam says she does not believe in divorce; she believes in the sanctity of the home. Divorce should be resorted to only when all other means have failed.

However, Basset was given the job and he handled the car so well the novelist decided to take a trip to Canada. Mrs. Basset was left behind. She was no longer the wife of a house painter. Her husband was driving a great novelist on a tour of Canada, and she should have been satisfied.

But it seems she was not. Mrs. Putnam had attired the ex-clam digger in immaculate flannel trousers and blue serge coat. This was the beginning of the end. Mrs. Basset had no new clothes. There had been no usufruct to her from the new employment. The green-eyed Monster began to gnaw at her heart.

There was a return from Canada, but it was followed by gossip of the plans for a winter in Florida. The camel's back was weakening fast. Still Mrs. Basset was silent. She said nothing as the novelist and the old time clam digger whirled away for Palm Beach. The clam digger's status had changed, however. He was ambitious and Mrs. Putnam fed the fires of his desire to rise in the world. It was not nice to think of "Elleworth" as a chauffeur. So he was made "literary adviser," to the distinguished writer. There was another egg in the camel's back up in Madison Connecticut.

Then came the last straw. A picture came up from Palm Beach. It showed Mr. Basset in a beautiful new English golfing outfit. Mrs. Basset, bending over the dishes and the beds saw it. There was an explosion. She says she has stood all she can. There must be a divorce and Mrs. Putnam is to be sued for alienation.

Still Mrs. Basset, while attracting public interest, has no public.

Even a wise man and his money are soon parted by a coal man.

Neck



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lon, Balboa, Honolulu, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Manila, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Port Said, Alexandria, Genoa and Marseilles.

A national delegation of trade envoys, representing the leading commercial centers of the United States, will make the initial voyage on the President Harrison. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is managing this feature, which is prompted by the opportunity to advance the interests of the American merchant marines.

Other liners in the around-the-world service are the President Hayes, President Garfield, President Polk, President Monroe and President Van Buren. The vessels are of identical dimensions—522 feet in length, with 62 feet of beam and a displacement tonnage of 21,000—and have been equipped similarly.

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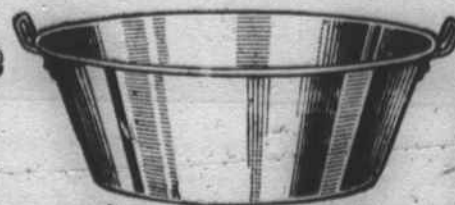
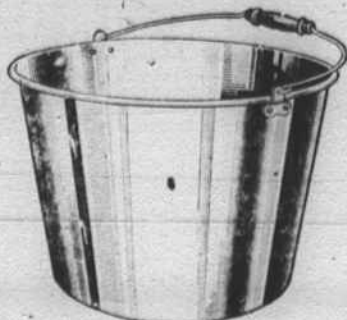
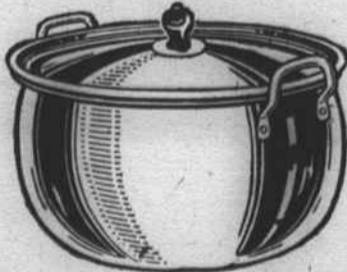
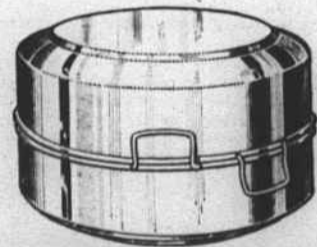
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