

THE GUARDIAN SHORT STORY

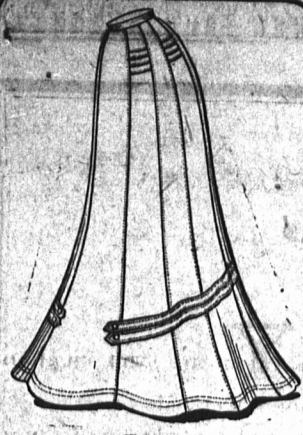
When Phyllis Took Me Seriously By Hubert McBean Johnston Copyright, 1904, by Hubert McBean Johnston

you some time?" queried Phyllis in an awful tone. "I would have a new climax for the next one," said I. I flatter myself I said it indifferently.



To be a successful wife, to retain the love and admiration of her husband should be a woman's constant study. If she would be all that she may, she must guard well against the signs of ill health.

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WORTH'S LIVERY STABLES, PRINCE STREET, Charlottetown, P. E. I. First class single and double teams.

"Phyllis," I asked, "will you marry me?" "Seven," said Phyllis. I looked at her in astonishment.

"Seven?" I questioned. "Seven what?" "Why, the score, you silly," she responded demurely.

"But I would very much rather," Phyllis was stating into the fire. I didn't know just what she meant.

"Well," I answered indifferently, "just as you please. Count them if you like. All I meant was that none of them mattered so much as this time."

"Positively your last chance, ladies and gentlemen!" she cried gayly. I assented in my most dignified manner.

"Why do you keep on proposing to me like this?" she asked me. I shrugged my shoulders.

"If you must have it," I replied flippantly. "I suppose it's my little form of diversion—my hobby, if you will. We all have our hobbies more or less, you know."

"Phyllis frowned. I like that frown immensely. Then she looked at me quickly when I was not expecting it."

"You appear to be enjoying yourself," she complained. "Me?" I queried in mock innocence.

"Oh, I protest! Really I'm not!" Phyllis frowned again. "Well, then, you ought to be."

"I know," I agreed; "I ought to be. Seven times ought to be productive of more than it has shown so far. I wonder," I concluded dreamily to myself—"I wonder if eight will do it."

"You haven't been answered for seven yet," said Phyllis. "No," said I, "nor for any of the other six either."

"Now, there was Darcy Graham," said Phyllis incontinently. "He asked me to marry him nineteen times and swore eternal devotion each time whether I would have him or no."

"And then we met and married Kitty Macpherson," said I almost to myself. "No," corrected Phyllis. "Kitty married him."

"I had expected Phyllis to be affected. Instead she burst out laughing. That's the trouble with Phyllis. She never will take me seriously."

"You're a goose," she complimented me. "Aw, thanks," I murmured. "So good of you."

Phyllis regarded me gravely. Now, it's an odd thing, but whenever Phyllis looks at a fellow just like that he feels sort of funny all over, you know.

"That's the trouble with Phyllis. If her sense of humor were not so highly developed, I'm quite sure I should have had her ages ago. She never will take me seriously."

"But I would very much rather," Phyllis was stating into the fire. I didn't know just what she meant. I never was much good at guessing.

"Well," I answered indifferently, "just as you please. Count them if you like. All I meant was that none of them mattered so much as this time."

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