

MAGAZINE

GUARDIAN



THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS

THE TONE OF NEIL'S LETTERS MORE LOVING.

CHAPTER V.

Neil sent the books and the picture. He answered my letter almost at once, which made me very happy that I had not allowed my pride to make me wait as long as he did before writing.

The books I not only read, but studied. When he wrote of them I was thus able to discuss them intelligently with him. They were mostly light reading, but by well-known authors. The picture I placed on my bureau. I begged mother to buy me a frame for it. She bought me a very pretty one, better than she could afford, yet it seemed but a poor setting for Neil's handsome face.

We now wrote regularly. As the fall ran into winter, and the wind again whistled through the stalks of the shrubs and the naked tree branches, I longed more for these expressions of friendship from Neil. Altho I neglected none of my duties, helped mother, joined in all the little affairs at the church and at the homes of my young friends, my heart was not in any of them. Neil was constantly in my thoughts.

At Christmas he sent me a set of O. Henry. He was a great admirer of that writer, and had said in one of his letters that he wanted me also to become familiar with his work. I was surprised and delighted, but when in addition I received a wonderful box of American beauty roses I was so happy I cried.

"Looks pretty serious to me," father said, as I arranged the flowers. I recall now what a time I had finding holders for them. I couldn't bear to cut the stems, as mother suggested, so I placed them in the big water pitchers we used in the bedrooms. The only receptacles in the house deep enough to hold them. One, a beautiful half-opened bud, I carried up stairs and pressed it between the leaves of my bible. That I would keep always.

As winter waned and the spring winds blew softly and warmly over my cheeks, Neil's letters grew a little more affectionate. Now he often said something about other girls, comparing them to me, always in my favor. Once he said:

"There is no one like you, Bab. No one a fellow feels is so brave, so true, so good. The more I see of these New York girls the more I think of you, dear, and your girlish ways. Keep all your ideas, Bab. The world is pretty hard and soiled at times. We all need something to cling to."

He often how wrote somewhat in this vein. Then at times he would ask me to excuse a short letter, saying that the market had gone all to pieces, and he was terribly busy. I had no slightest idea what he meant. That he was busy, was all I grasped. Or he would tell me the market was scooting upward, but no one could catch it.

I asked father what he meant, but he hadn't any more idea than I had. He answered:

"It is sort of banking business, I guess."

But as a rule Neil wrote nice, long satisfactory letters. And in reply I also told him of everything I thought would interest him. I too, allowed myself a little more freedom as time went on, and several times I had signed them "with love" as I had longed to do at first.

Then one day in early spring when the leaves and buds were pushing themselves into a warm sunlit world I almost fainted from sheer joy. Neil was coming!

I went about the house singing in my heart the refrain: "Neil is coming! Neil is coming!" It seemed to me that the soft winds whispered it; that the birds caroled it. Nothing else could possibly engage even their attention, save the one wonderful fact that Neil "my Neil" I called him blushing was coming.

It was the last of May when he arrived. The village never had been prettier, the flowers and shrubs never bloomed more bravely. I had never sewing for weeks so that I too might appear bravely attired. I don't know that I have mentioned my one accomplishment; but I was a wizard with a needle, so mother and the girls said. And I put all my ingenuity to work so that I might look attractive to Neil. The materials I had to work with were the simplest, but they were all that I was accustomed to wear, and I had not even wished for anything better.

NEIL TELLS BARRARA OF HIS LOVE.

CHAPTER VI.

I have been thus particular to tell of my simple home life, so that it may perhaps win me, if not forgive me for what came after, at least some sort of understanding of my foolishness, my mistakes. For I was also to blame for what happened.

I wanted desperately to go to the station to meet Neil, that lovely May day when he was to arrive, but he had said nothing of my doing so in his letter, so I remained at home, anxiously watching from the window, shaded by the curtains.

My heart almost literally leaped into my mouth when I saw him swing up the street, carrying his big suitcase as if it weighed no more than a feather. Neil was very strong; he had gone in for athletics in college, and had been very proud of his record. He turned into his aunt's gate, and my heart went back where it belonged again. But in less than fifteen minutes he was with me.

"How do you do, Bab?" was what he said, but the way he held both my hands, the glad look in his eyes, made it adequate. Mother was with us, or I thought he perhaps might have kissed me.

He was to remain less than a week. I almost cried when he told me. But I was so happy that he was with me, that I determined to try and forget how soon he would leave me again.

"You see I had to come, Bab," he said later in the evening when we took a long walk, just the same as we did the summer before.

"You had to come," I repeated, wondering.

"Yes, I had to see if you were still here."

"Why, you knew I was, Haven't I written you regularly?"

"Yes, but somehow I wanted to look at you, Bab, to see if I had idealized you too much; or if you were far ahead of all I thought you."

"Well?" I laughed nervously as I asked the question.

"Miles ahead, Bab. I don't believe there is another girl in the world just like you. You are very pretty, too, Bab. Did you know that? Of course you did, you have a mirror. And Bab! you look very sweet in that pale blue dress; it is like a faint moonbeam, in this half light."

We talked a lot more nonsense, at least Neil did. I mostly listened. Then when he left me for the night he leaned over and kissed me once again on my cheek. Just a quick brushing of his lips across my face.

"You're a dear, Bab!" he said, and then I was alone.

But somehow I knew that Neil was beginning to love me. I felt no shame over that kiss as I had over the other. He had said loving things to me before he kissed me. I thrilled all over with the knowledge, and before I went to bed I kneeled down and thanked God for Neil.

The days passed so swiftly that the day he was to leave, found me all unprepared to lose him. He had been entirely lovelike all the time. I think mother saw how things were going, for she made no demand upon me, and I had been constantly with Neil. He was to take a train about ten o'clock that connected with his train at the junction. We took a walk after dinner, but neither of us talked much. Without either of us realizing it, our steps turned to the wood at the end of the village, and we sat down on the log where Neil had given me his first kiss. There he told me how dear I was to him, and asked me to be his wife. When I said "yes" he took me in his arm, and told me of his love, how he had thought he would forget me, but had been unable to. How superior I was to all other girls, and all the other things which lovers say.

Then after a time when the first sweet emotion of our love had passed, he said:

"Come, dearest. We must go and tell your father and mother. I fear they will hate to give you to me, because I have to take you so far from them."

Father and mother weren't nearly as surprised as I thought they would be. They acted beautifully, and when Neil said he would like to be married in September, they gave their consent. Then until time for his train, we were alone again. I wept a few times, but they were happy tears, and he wiped them away with his kisses. Then father and I went to the station with him. I was not to see him

MODERN HIVES REST.

Movable Frames Increase Profits of Bee Owners

Hundreds of thousands of bee colonies, representing about one-third of the number kept in Canada and the republic across the line, are housed in log "gums" and in box hives, and produce for their owners an insignificant amount of honey compared with what they might do if they were transferred to movable frame hives and handled by improved methods. If all the beekeepers used the modern type of movable frame hive they would add many millions of pounds of honey to the nation's supply. Much of the honey produced by colonies in box hives is wasted by crude methods of securing the crop, and these colonies are reduced in earning value by uncontrolled swarming, and by the annual loss of bees which die in winter because of lack of protection and sufficient food stores.

While bees may be transferred at any season when they are active, the best time is during the season of fruitbloom when the combs contain



Bee Hives Placed in a Good Location.

little honey, and when the bees will gather nectar rather than rob honey from a hive which is being transferred. Another good time for transferring is immediately after the first swarm of the year when the number of bees in the hive is greatly reduced, and when there is no danger of losing or injuring the queen. She goes with the swarm, leaving queen cells in the hive. Transferring when robbers are active requires that the work be done inside a screened or bee-tight building.

There are five methods of transferring. One consists in cutting the combs from the box hive and placing them in a new movable frame hive, and transferring the bees by shaking or drumming them from the old hive. Another way is to drum the bees out and move them to new hives which have been previously provided with full sheets of comb-foundation. The third method consists in catching the swarm as it issues from the old hive and immediately putting it in the new hive placed on the old stand. In the fourth method the new hive containing comb-foundation is placed on the old one, and an opening for the bees provided between the two. The fifth method requires a little special equipment, and takes advantage of the fact that in some localities the bees are almost sure to swarm. Place the new hive near the old one and provide it with a queen-trap near the entrance in such a way that when the bees swarm the queen will be caught, and the worker bees automatically will enter the new hive.

The Sudbury District.

The Sudbury Co-operative Creamery Company during last season paid a cream premium to shareholders who are patrons of 1/2 per cent butterfat. In several cases the bonus amounted to 20 per cent on the amount of shares subscribed. The season's make of 101,875 lbs. of butter was an increase of 14,000 lbs. of butter over the previous year. This increase proves that the farmers of the district realize the benefit to be derived from an institution owned and controlled entirely by themselves.

Mr. Frank Horns, of London, Chief Dairy Inspector and Sanitary Inspector for Western Ontario, who was present at the annual meeting of the company, in the course of his address pointed out the many causes affecting the varying percentage of butterfat in hand-separated cream; also the necessity of weeding out the unprofitable dairy. He expressed the opinion that the creamery business was the coming branch of the dairy industry in Northern Ontario.

Mr. D. J. Robicheau, Agricultural Representative for Sudbury District, gave a few statistics of the progress of the dairy industry in Sudbury district during the past two years. The value of the dairy products in 1916 was \$99,805, as compared with \$276,463 for the year 1918, making an increased production of \$176,658 in the last two years. Mr. Robicheau also pointed out that rapid progress was being made in the improvement of the live stock of the district by the importation of pure-bred sires, and that still more rapid progress could be made by better methods of feeding.

Smart Scarfs.

There is a great vogue for woolen scarfs and mufflers, and the shop windows are gay with their bright colors. There are many different kinds from which to choose; some are perfectly plain, of beautifully soft sheep or camel's wool; some are woven with a large check pattern, while others are plain with just the ends decorated with a design of checks or stripes.

Monkey Fringe on Hats.

Monkey fur, which better than any other fur adapts itself to a fringe-like use, is effectively employed on hats of velvet and of gold and silver tissue. It is used sometimes in a fringe-like band about the edge. In combination, perhaps, with a little gold or silver rayon, it is very interesting.

Twenty Thousand New Members.

Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association made an addition of 20,000 to its membership as a result of a campaign put on last fall.

SAVING THE TENDER PLANTS

Geraniums and Others That Provide Pretty Flowers Should Be Carefully Potted Till Spring.

Geraniums, heliotropes, coleus and many other tender plants are likely to be scarce next spring. Florists have been obliged to get along with half the fuel used last year. Many have closed their greenhouses and plants next year may be scarce. All these can be taken up, potted and stored in the house or cellar until next spring.

The plants can be potted in tin cans, first knocking a hole or two in the bottom for drainage. Boxes can be used, packing the plants rather closely in good garden soil.

Most budding plants will survive the winter if the soil in which they are growing is kept moist and the plants kept in a temperature safely above freezing. Next year they can be set out, soon filling the bare spots that otherwise will look bad all summer.

CORDUROY KIMONOS ARE NEW

Warm Japanese Style of Garment Promises to Be in High Favor During Winter Season.

Some new kimonos shown in some of the shops are a strange combination of style and fabric. They are Japanese kimonos made of corduroy. That in itself seems an anomaly. But when you come to think of it, wouldn't they be delightfully comfortable? Think of wrapping one of them around you some cold winter morning when the thermometer lower than comfort calls for. That is probably what their makers thought of. And so, although kimonos of blue and rose corduroy embroidered with silk chrysanthemums seem a bit of a strange combination and contrast, still they are a delightful concession to the cold that is coming. They cost twenty-odd dollars.

CHARMING AND SIMPLE GOWN



Here we find an attractive little gown with its simplicity only excelled by its smartness. It is composed of reindeer brown duvetyne with a narrow girdle and a wide band of beaver at the bottom the only trimming.

Distinguishing Mark.

Things which match or carry out a general color scheme at once distinguish the unusual from the ordinary. It is the fact that care and decorative sense have been used that gives this markedly different atmosphere. Expensive furnishings are not always necessary. For instance, at larger stores are found some very good looking pieces of upholstery and plush for the polished table top. The tapestry is figured and combined with plush of very good soft shades, and the squares or long scarfs are gaudy edged. By the yard comes a material for drapery which looks like a slightly uneven silk rep, but is probably of cotton.

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TYPES OF BLOUSES

Two Models, One With a Peplum and One Without.

Darker Satins Are Practical for Everyday Wear—Beads and Fine Tucks Are Used.

Since suits are predicted as being a trifle smarter than coats, it follows that blouses must also have a showing. An ordinary blouse is one of the most trying articles of apparel to try to make look well, but once having accomplished the feat it must be admitted that the result is charming.

There are at present two types of blouses—that is, two in particular—one the blouse with a peplum and one without. It is a mere matter of choice as to which one prefers—choice and becomingness, of course. The sheer blouses of crepes and light colors naturally would hardly look well with the lower half hung over a skirt of darker and rougher material.

For a practical and smart blouse the darker satins made with a peplum below the waist look particularly well and give a tailored finish. This is a good blouse for everyday wear and may be embroidered or touched, and to change of with the flesh colored georgettes is so very different that it is like having two dresses to one coat.

A very good tricotette model has a scarf collar of the material. To enclose it an inset vestee is striped in Indian colorings, and the ends of the wrap-around collar are treated in the same manner. On waists of georgette and silk crepe beads and fine tucks continue to be used.

Manufacturers of waists are becoming very dictatorial and with an efficiency which carries with it all the faults of the system suggested by that overworked word are threatening to standardize almost everything pertaining to blouses.

THINGS SEEN IN THE SHOPS

Soft White Kid Gloves With Wee Gauntlets—Imitation Duvetyne—Black Gown a Necessity.

The dark blue velours are being made into some very attractive little gowns, such as tricotine and gabardine adapted themselves to last year and spring. The round, unadorned neck is in great favor.

In spite of the fullness of so many of the sleeves, the long, flowing variety that is used so much in satin and net, there are gowns that squeeze snugly at the shoulders and wrists, but they are very smart.

For the lady of small, very small hands the new soft white kid gloves with just a wee gauntlet are just the thing. She wears them as daintily as a black kitten sports her two white paws.

One of the new one-pieces is of taupe velours, with peg-top skirt narrowing perfunctorily at the hem, with a row of buttons of the material marching from the middle of each side downward.

The imitation duvetyne is not bad at all—Not—at—all. If you can't afford the pestily attractive real stuff, try the "phony." It looks quite fit, especially in the dark electric blue. No wardrobe is complete without one black gown. A smart thing in crepe mottel is done on loose lines, with rolling collar, tiny white vestee, square neck, tight sleeves, broad, soft belt and two loose panels edged with beads of apricot, mint, green and black.

ATTRACTIVE COAT OF NUTRIA



This charming and very chic coat of fur is not only good looking but is warm. Nutria is most popular this season and the coat has smart and very interesting lines.

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

How to Clean Old Jewelry—Reviving Black Velvet—To Obtain Better Flavor to Fish.

To clean old jewelry, make a lather of warm soapsuds and add to it half a teaspoonful of sal volatile; brush the jewelry in this, afterward polishing with an old silk handkerchief or piece of washleather.

To revive black velvet, hold the article pile side up over the steam of nearly boiling water to which a little ammonia has been added. Brush and iron on the wrong side.

To make a good shaving soap, save all scraps of good toilet soap and put them into a little jar, just cover with water and place in the oven till melted.

When frying fish, sprinkle a little salt in the fat; this gives the fish a much better flavor.

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER

Baking Custard—To Give Blankets Nice Color—Nailing Blinds on Rollers—Improves Meat Flavor.

When making a baked custard, if the milk is warmed before adding the eggs no water will settle in the bottom of the baking dish.

After washing blankets in the usual way, leave them overnight in a bath of cold water; this clears them and keeps them a nice color.

When nailing blinds on to rollers, slip the roller into the hem, then lay a narrow piece of tape along before putting in the nails. This will effectually prevent the blind from being torn.

To prevent milk from scorching, cover the bottom of the saucepan with water, and let it get scalding hot before putting in the milk to boil.

A little vinegar added to the water in which bacon or ham is boiled improves the flavor of the meat.

CREATION FOR EVENING WEAR



This most charming and effective evening gown is of shaded blue and silver tissue with an overdress of black tulle heavily beaded with iridescent beads. Especially noteworthy are the panels, which are heavily weighted with large bead tassels.

Care in Small Things.

It may be stretching it a bit to say that the woman is hopeless who wears an expensive frock and carries a cheap or a shabby pocketbook. But it nevertheless is true that the success of an outfit does greatly depend on just so small a thing as a pocketbook or handbag, if you prefer. These little things are, after all, the telltale signs of the woman who studies harmony not only in her dressing but in her life as well. For carelessness in one way leads to carelessness or thoughtlessness in other directions. There is a marked tendency toward smaller handbags. This may be due to the fact that the materials from which the new bags are made are in most cases very expensive and elaborate. Were these bags made large, they would have the appearance of "overdoing it" and that would not at present, do at all.

It's Quality Now.

As simplicity is the keynote of fashion just now, it has developed naturally, if somewhat quickly, that women are paying very much more attention to the quality of merchandise. The finer cloths in all ready-to-wear apparel are appreciated most. Perhaps they buy fewer garments, but there is no doubting that the better ones are selling first.

New Metal Ribbons.

Some of the ribbons are so wide that one isn't quite certain whether they haven't by accident strayed from the dress silk counters. Many of these wider ones are metal embroidered, on grounds in which greens and blues and blues and violets blend in bewildering beautiful effects.

NOVELTY IN CAPES

Garment Is Cut in Two Parts and Has Barrel Effect.

Another New Idea Slips Over the Head Through Oblong Opening at the Neck.

There is novelty even in capes, although one thought that inspiration in this garment must have dried out through overusage. There is a new cape made of brick-red velours trimmed with Hudson seal. It is cut in two parts, and banded in the middle



Double cape of brick-red velours lined with self-toned silk. Collar, wide band at middle and muff are of sealskin. The undersleeves are also of this fur.

to give the barrel effect. It is double-breasted; is fastened with sealskin buttons, and has an immense collar that does sentry duty in guarding the neck. The undersleeves are made of sealskin. They protect the arms, which emerge from long slashes cut in the cape at the waistline. There is another cape which has no visible opening. It is merely an immense circular piece of sealskin, which slips on over the head through an oblong opening at the neck and even this aperture is speedily covered by an immense collar of kolinsky.

SHOULD PREPARE FOR WINTER

Heavy Woolen Stockings, Waterproof Hat and Coat Rank Among the Desirable Articles.

If you have any old wool that could be used for knitting socks—you can provide some by ripping out an old sweater—make yourself a pair of heavy stockings for this winter. Make them the same as you would soldiers' socks only with full length legs and smaller feet. They may serve you in good stead this winter when duty or patriotism calls you outdoors on stormy or cold days. The new coats are going to be short and we must manage to keep our ankles comfortable by warmer skirts or hose.

Get a rainy day waterproof hat. You'll be out in all sorts of weather if you are one of those who have heeded the country's call and have gone into some patriotic work. A waterproof hat will save your other hat or hats.

If you can't afford a waterproof coat invest in one of the less expensive waterproof capes. Not the oilskin sort—for those are very expensive—but the kind made of rubber and woven goods.

USE FOR THE WOOL SCRAPS

Convert Small Particles Left From Knitting Into Afghans for Con- valescing Soldiers.

No better use for the scraps of wool left from knitting has been devised than the making of afghans for convalescing soldiers. These gay quilts are warm and cheerful, and when the colors are carefully blended are artistic as well. Instead of using up the wool ends for squares a new pattern has been devised whereby even smaller bits can be utilized in a most attractive way. The larger ends are crocheted or knit into straps about three inches wide and ten inches long, the ends being mitred off into points. These are joined with a line of black, and to fill in the spaces between the points small diamond-shaped pieces are knit from the smaller ends of wool, and are also joined to larger pieces with black.

This is only one of the many pleasing designs which can be made from the leftovers. Study any oilcloth pattern or tiling if you want to make a quilt that is out of the ordinary.

Monkey Fur is Faddish.

Monkey fur is a faddish trimming for the winter frock and its ragged effect on costumes of chiffon or Georgette crepe is considered particularly chic. A new frock for informal dinner wear is tucked black chiffon over a slip of silver cloth. The knee-length tunic and the flowing bell sleeves are bordered with black monkey fur, but the round neckline is absolutely plain and untrimmed. A long string of pearl beads relieves the black track.