



There is a world of romance in the picture of a young girl reading her sweetheart's love-letters. In a multitude of cases, if her future could also be pictured, the picture would contain a world of pathos. To the healthy, robust woman, marriage means happiness, the supreme joy of motherhood and the promise of a long, healthy life of helpfulness with the man of her choice. To the woman who suffers from disease or weakness of the delicate and important organs concerned in wifehood and motherhood, wedlock means suffering and maternity death. Dr. R. V. Pierce is an eminent and skillful specialist, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. During that time, with the assistance of a staff of able physicians, he has prescribed for thousands of women. The institute of which he is the head is one of the greatest in the world. He is a regularly graduated physician and has practiced right in one place for thirty years. The esteem in which he is held by his neighbors is shown by the fact that they chose him for their representative in the National Congress. The regard in which he is held by those whom he has treated is shown by the thousands of letters presented in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, telling of the benefits derived from his treatment. Dr. Pierce is the discoverer of a wonderful medicine for women, known as Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It cures all weakness and disease of the feminine organs. It always inflammation, heals ulceration and soothes pain. It tones the nerves. Taken during the interesting period, it banishes the usual discomforts and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. Thousands of women have testified to its marvelous merits. An honest druggist would not advise a substitute. The profit side of life is health. The balance is written in the rich, red, pure blood of health. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation and make the blood rich and pure. They never gripe. By druggists.

are of different nations and religions, yet surely we are not strangers," he said, embracing me again. "Had I seen thee now for the first time I would have driven this lance through thee. But henceforth it will be turned against him who seeks thy hurt. Tabal, the son of Achmet, swears it." And he took the oath in the most solemn manner known to his race. That done, he played the surgeon to me. "Thou art lucky," exclaimed Tabal, with professional pride, when I was stripped. "By my faith, the man who gave thee this hurt knew not his business, or thou mightest cast away thy leg forever. Methinks if I had my weapon upon him as he had his upon thee he would now be food for the kites and hyenas."

He was clumsy, Tabal, I said. "Clumsy," repeated Tabal, scornfully. "Nay, it does not half express his want of skill. Having got his lance upon thee, he should have killed thee as dead as a roasted kid. I hold the fellow in contempt." "Because, my good friend, he did not make an end of one whom thou hast sworn to cherish and protect?" "Nay, nay," answered Tabal, quickly, seeing whither his soldierly zeal had led him. "I meant not that. Praise be to heaven thou art alive. I meant that he knew not how to drive his spear. See," and he made a thrust with his own to show how the thing ought to be done. "Methinks that is the way to put an enemy into the dust. But thou art protected of God," he added, reverently, "and it maketh me glad to be with thee. Verily I am thy servant to do as it pleaseth thee to bid me. And praise be to God and the holy prophet that we are not now having our bones gnawed by wild beasts. Saw you ever such a slaughter

own—and when the ceremonious address of Fatima was over we squatted on the sand and ate a few. We dared not venture to eat many, for the store was small, and it was extremely doubtful when it could be replenished. To make up for the shortness of rations, we had a double pull at the water skins, and the cooling draft was sweeter than the choicest vintage of France. It was again very hot. Indeed after the rain the heat seemed intenser than ever. The pungent streams were trickling into our eyes and mouths, and coursing down our backs and arms and legs as if we were patent self-moisteners that worked the better the greater the draft. Self-moisteners were with a vengeance, but the moisture could not possibly last long. I looked at the thin, brown visage of Tabal, feeling that he must soon be converted to pemmican, and I, too, was swiftly undergoing the same process of desiccation. A little while and there would not be a drop of liquid in our bodies. The rate at which we were dissolving to hard fibre made it desirable to get out of the glare of the sun as quickly as might be. Tabal agreed with me that our best hope lay in the hills to the west, and we accordingly made in their direction. If nothing better, their rocks and chasms would at least afford us shelter from the pitiless sun. (To be Continued.)

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The next minute Tabal and I were hugging and embracing.

as that was? Truly I think the man on the black horse is none other than Satan himself. For a moment I wavered whether or not I should enlighten him. Then I said, very quietly, "The man on the black horse is as much Satan as thou art, my good Tabal. Listen, and I will tell thee a tale," and I told him of my search for Donald Gordon and the meeting in the battle. He listened with wide eyes and gaping mouth, thinking, I suspect, that suffering had turned my brain.

"Thou art telling me one of the tales of the magicians," he said, with something of awe in his voice and manner. "This passeth all belief." "This as true as the Koran, Tabal," I answered. "Look you here, before thou art many weeks older thou shalt be as a brother to this dread warrior on the black horse."

"Nay, Heaven forbid," exclaimed Tabal, fervently. "I would not forgo my chances of paradise for all the favours Satan can bestow." His horror was so comical that I burst out laughing. Ordinarily I might have answered with my life for such an insult, such an outrage on his most sacred feelings. But happily Tabal was in a mood to forgive much because he loved much.

"I will put cool water on thy hurt," he said, as tenderly as if he were treating an ailing and fractious child, "and on thy head, too, for the sun hath made it hot. Then when thou art refreshed we will talk of our adventures since the flight and the simoon parted us."

He had his way, and indeed it was exceedingly refreshing to be bathed, for I was still more than a trifle feverish. But more soothing and invigorating than the water were the brotherly gentleness and compassion of Tabal, who seemed to make himself responsible for my safety and comfort.

When we came to recount our experiences since parting I learned that he had passed the night like myself, alone. Like me, he had thought himself doomed, had been saved by the rain, and was looking for human succour when I spied him. We went through our perils again as old soldiers re-fight their battles, and embraced at the conclusion in pure exuberance of joy at being together once more.

Not the least happy circumstance of our meeting was that I got back my little Fatima and the precious blue bag with Duncan's pipes. To Tabal the bag was an object of such intense curiosity that I had to produce the pipes and give him a hint. It scarcely ravished him, and it frightened the horses, so the pipes were put away that I might take formal possession of my mare. Before parting with her, however, Tabal must needs make as fine a speech to her as ever gallant of the old school made to his mistress, dwelling with rapturous phrase on her beauty, her fleetness, her docility, her intelligence, and her dauntless spirit in time of trouble, to all of which I heartily said "Amen."

Fortunately Tabal had some dates—they were really what were left of my

Y. M. C. A.

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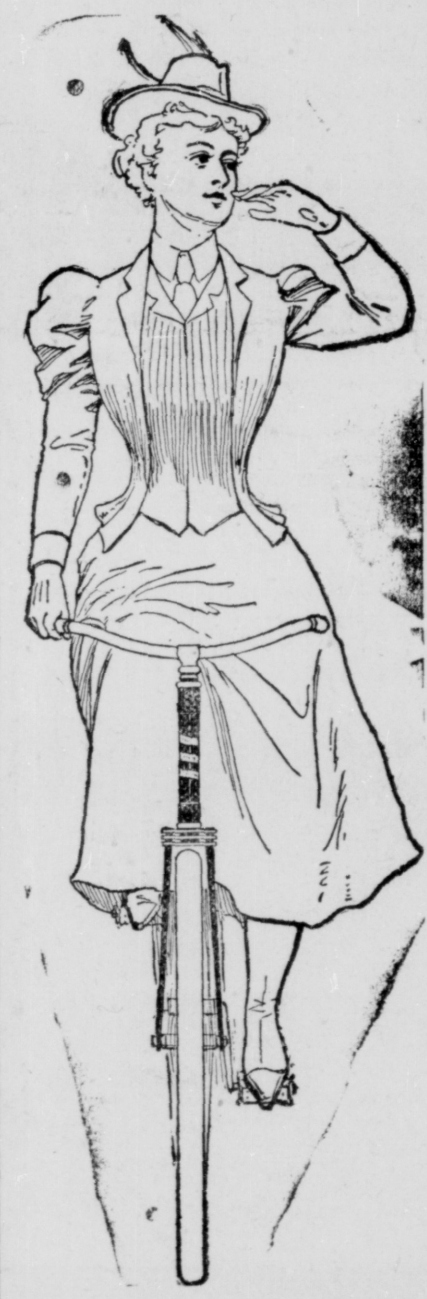
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