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EDITOR AND SOLE PROPRIETOR
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On account of our early hour of going to press it is specially requested that any notices or advertisements intended for publication on the following day be delivered at our offices not later than 4.30 p. m.

The Montevideo Times

MONTEVIDEO, FEBRUARY 14, 1908.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

MONTEVIDEO.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1908.

Saints Valentine, Apollonius and Moses.—Battle of St. Vincent, 1797.—45 days past, 321 to the end of the year.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The Custom House Receipts for the month of January, 1908, were as follows:—

Importation,	\$ 929,365.82
Exportation,	102,391.26
Departments, estimate	55,360.40
Total	\$ 1,087,117.48

This compares with the same month in previous years as follows:—1907—\$1,085,371; 1906—\$1,071,140; 1905—\$942,287; 1904—\$551,570; 1903—\$893,355; 1902—\$918,350; 1901—\$871,429; 1900—\$826,302; 1899—\$912,861; 1898—\$828,944; 1897—\$761,315; 1896—\$1,070,172.

The increase of \$1745 over the Receipts for the corresponding month last year is not large, but it is sufficient to establish a fresh «record» for the month. This increase, we may note, was entirely due to the importation, as the revenue from exportation was the lowest on the list of thirteen years, and in fact only half of what it reached in 1896, 1899, and 1901. This takes some of the «glit off the gingerbread» for slack exportation soon makes itself felt in scarcity of money, but otherwise the figures show that, despite the general complaints of dull trade, the year has not opened badly.

POLITICAL NOTES.

According to our contemporaries, three Government measures standing over from the last session will be given preference as soon as the Chambers settle down to business. These are, University Reform, creation of the Municipal Intendencias, and the State Monopoly in Alcohol. There are points in all three which may, indeed, should—give rise to considerable debate, but it is not yet known in what order they will be taken. As regards the last-named, we may recall that the Committee Report and re-drafted Bill have never yet been published—in fact nothing further is known of the matter than the original Bill presented some three or four years ago, which most people have forgotten by this time. This is hardly the proper way to deal with a matter that is of very general public importance, and in fact embodies an important political principle; namely, the launching of the State into industrial and commercial enterprise, to the exclusion of individuals. As, however, in this country public opinion has practically nothing to do with the decisions of the Government and the Chambers, and is rarely allowed to influence them, we suppose it may pass, though in less automatically governed countries it would give rise to strong protest, and the Chambers themselves would be the first to hesitate to discuss a measure of such importance before public and press opinion had had any opportunity of expressing itself or even of knowing the real extent of the measure.

Once more an attempt is on foot to promote reconciliation within the divided ranks of the nationalist party, the prime mover being Sr. Abdon Arósteguy, an influential member of the party who has arrived for the purpose from Buenos Aires. It is not yet possible to speak of the result.

Society Silliness.

By J. C. X. McKenna in the Daily News.

To be extremely silly is the latest fashion in a certain section of London society. It seems an extraordinary ambition, but society is nothing if not extraordinary. The present phase is a protest against the general «stodginess» with which, I am given to understand, society has become permeated.

I had no idea that an organized campaign such as this was in progress until one recent afternoon, when I was taking tea at a big West-End mansion. It was some time before I observed that anything unusual was occurring, because the hostess had thoughtfully provided a lot of very excellent singers, and the large drawing-roomful of people was apparently being well entertained. During the intervals I noticed that the guests formed themselves into little groups, and were apparently hugely delighted with their own conversation.

One group was evidently under the control of a masculine preacher of the cult. He was a young man with very fair hair and very flat hair. Every now and again he burst into laughter, and I must confess that I have never heard such an extraordinary noise in my life as that young man made when he laughed. It was like the shrill cackle of a hen with bubbles breaking through it, and it rose to a high pitch when you expected it to subside and fell when you thought it was going to go up. It always ended on a high, shrill note, which was suddenly cut off like an engine whistle, and it created an effect of bewilderment and astonishment too difficult to explain. After every burst the little group surrounding him peered into shrieks of congratulatory laughter, and the hostess beamed across the room, as if to thank him for rescuing her party from the dull depths of utter boredom.

Later I found myself next to an extremely pretty young lady, who was one of the leaders of the new craze. She sat herself on a sofa next to me and covered the intervening space with dolls of all descriptions, including woolly monkeys and velvet bears. I should say the young lady was about 20 or 21, but her conversation and behaviour would lead one to believe that she was hardly half that age.

All the dolls had names, and their positions had to be arranged according to their imaginary likes and dislikes. For instance, the velvet bear wasn't allowed to sit next to a baby doll named Asturias till he had had his tea, because he was dangerous whilst he was hungry. Mrs. Eddy—a lady doll—had an attack of neuralgia. Another lady doll—I've forgotten its name—couldn't be allowed to sit at the edge of the sofa because looking down from a height made her giddy. Another more grown-up doll had to have a handkerchief spread for it to sit on, because it couldn't bear the feel of the velvet with which the sofa was upholstered.

Another young lady, also a priestess of the new craze, had created a «pose» for herself in which she pretended to be a cat. For instance, she lapped her tea out of a saucer, which, although it sounds a vulgar thing to do, she succeeded in doing rather prettily. Her conversation was all from the point of view of a cat. She wouldn't eat bread with butter on it, for fear the butter would get on her fingers, and when she wanted to show her affection for anybody she brushed up against them and purred. Her conversation was limited to a series of «meows», into which she managed to get quite a lot of different meanings. She tied her hair with the same movements a cat uses to wash its face, and when it was time for her to go she gave one loud «meow», which embraced the whole room, and tripped off to her carriage, running along the edge of the pavement all the way.

I must confess that I was thoroughly entertained. The proceedings may sound more like what one would expect in a mad-house than in an English drawing-room, but they were all carried on with such a merry air of light-heartedness that one couldn't help enjoying the fun, and almost regretted the serious disposition which prevented one from joining in.

I fear, however, that this new craze will fail in its endeavour to combat the growing seriousness of modern society. We are as a nation apt to become too serious; but the new doctrine of «silliness» seems a little too extreme at the moment.

My «Lady» Nicotine.

American Ladies Allowed to Smoke in Restaurants.

The new woman is as aggressive in America as her suffragette cousin in England. The question of the franchise, however, is overshadowed in the land of the Stars and Stripes, at present, by the greater problem, «Should women be allowed to smoke in restaurants?» Hitherto smoking by ladies has been sternly prohibited, but, commencing with the celebration of New Year's Eve, several of the leading proprietors in New York have relaxed the unwritten law, and henceforth that law probably will become virtually a dead letter. The proprietors argue that Americans «must advance with the times» and so many ladies in the first ranks of American society, they allege, now puff cigarettes furiously behind their fans, that it is better for honest restaurateurs to declare publicly that the ban upon ladies' smoking has been removed now and for all time, «It will surprise English

folk to learn», says the New York correspondent of the «Telegraph», that the proprietors here fortify their action by the announcement that «London and Paris have led the way.» They give one the impression, indeed, that there is hardly an important café in London or Paris where ladies do not smoke cigarettes, and Americans, usually prone to follow the example of fashionable Europeans, find infinite consolation in that thought. In the pulpit and the Press there will undoubtedly be a great outcry, but it is the opinion of many people in New York that within a few months there will not be a single important restaurant or café in New York where the old regulations against ladies smoking will be maintained. And for this departure, forsooth, the alleged examples in London and Paris are held mainly responsible. The proprietor of the Café Martin, which holds a place in the American metropolis very similar to the Trocadero in London, says his «holiday gift» to his lady patrons is permission to smoke now and hereafter in the public restaurant as well as in private dining rooms. M. Martin declares that New York is ripe for the change. «It is not so much a question», he adds naively «of what the American lady smokes, but of who smokes, and only in cafes and restaurants beyond reproach will the ban be officially removed.» M. Martin adds that he will withdraw the permission if he finds he has made a mistake, but the question then arises whether such a course will be possible. Undoubtedly many American ladies enjoy a cigarette. Smoking with them, however, is not nearly so widespread as it is in European society.

«Sight and Seeing.»

Sir Hubert von Herkoma, R. A., professor of painting at the Royal Academy, delivered his second lecture, to which he gave the title of «Sight and Seeing.» His subject, he said, was so vast that he could not expect to get beyond the school-boy stage. He was afraid they might find the lecture morbid and depressing, but he considered that the many morbid and depressing moments in this life should be properly examined. To attempt to efface them by senseless gaiety was useless. The reaction was sure to come. They were pretty well acquainted with the eye, although a modern scientist had declared his utter contempt for it as a piece of mechanism. Many elements came in, and attempted to efface the evidence of the eye—a sense of proportion, a love of approbation, a sense of accuracy or inaccuracy. Broadly speaking, all the senses were untrustworthy. It must have struck them how very fine the borderline was between the unsolicited image of the healthy brain and the unsolicited image of the diseased brain. The difference was that the sane knew they were illusions, the insane did not. A story was told of a painter who had a marvellous gift for executing portraits. He required but one sitting. That lasted half-an-hour, during which the subject sat in the chair while the painter gazed at him, making occasional sketches on the canvas. Then, when he resumed the work on another occasion, he had a perfect mental image of the subject before him, and he sometimes disputed with a sister as to whether he had been with him the day before. Madness supervened, and he spent 30 years in an asylum. His own picture of Wagner, continued the speaker, was painted without a single sitting. He had been allowed to be with Wagner constantly, but had never been able to get him to sit, until finally, in a state of highly strung nervous irritability, he said it would do it without a sitting. Wagner, when he saw it, was astonished. «How did you do it?» he said. «You used witchcraft.» Genius that could not control itself came pretty near to the insane side of the border line. What was insanity but want of control? An immense amount of rubbish had been written on the subject of genius, and many said that it meant madness. Huxley had come nearer to the mark when he said it meant a capacity of any kind above the ordinary mental level. And yet the extraordinary calculating boy from America, who at the age of six could solve the most abstruse sums and give the correct answer instantly, could not be called a genius. It was rather a deformity, and he thought they would all decline genius if it meant an abnormality in one respect and practical idiocy in every other. Sir Hubert instanced Joan of Arc as a woman with an almost superhuman brain capacity, and regretted that there was not a contemporary portrait of her extant. In conclusion, he said that the gift of being able to conjure up images at will was the gift which ruled the world. It was the gift of the artist and the writer; it was air to the mind and brought peace.

Alleged Humor.

Flowers of Speech.

He: «Anybody takin' you down to feed?»

She: «No.»

He: «Shall we toddle down together?»

She: «Right O!»

He: «Well, we'd better barge along at once.» [They barge].—Punch.

The Brown Sponge.

A letter in Punch reads: «As a keen lover in animals, I wish to enter a vigorous protest against the almost universal custom of placing our harmless *Porifera domestica* (the common bath sponge) out on the window-sills during the present very severe weather.»

Family Jars.

«What is the most aggravating thing in married life?» asked Dorothy.

«Sometimes», said the bachelor friends, «it's the husband, and sometimes it's the wife.»

A Pessimistic Fowl.

Cockerel (leaning against the barn-door): «What's the use, anyway? Nothing but as egg yesterday and a feather-duster to-morrow.»—From *Lys*.

SUNDRIES.

—WEATHER.—Very much the same as before. A change is anticipated for Sunday or Monday.

—ARCHITECT.—In our notice of yesterday referring to the building purchased by the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company we omitted to say that the plans for extension were prepared by the well-known English resident architect Mr. John Adams, who has successfully designed and constructed the Victoria Hall, the «Standards» Palace, and many other fine buildings that are all a credit and an ornament to the city.

—POLITEAMA THEATRE.—The program for this evening consists of «Los Vividores», «La Pen del Oles», «El Señorito», and «La Zarzina».

—CASINO.—Leroy continues to be the chief attraction here. New arrivals are the three Fidardi's, comic acrobats, who give a clever and amusing turn.

—THE «SALADEROS».—After a temporary partial resumption of work, it has again been decided to proclaim a general «lock-out» and stoppage of work in all the city «saladeros», as the most efficacious means of combating the strike of the workmen in certain of these establishments. What with the strike and other factors, the season is proving a bad one for the «saladeros»—and therefore for cattle breeders—as shown by the fact that the slaughtering to date (Wednesday, 12th) only number 112,316 head, against 183,956 on the same date in 1907, and 176,315 in 1906.

—CARNIVAL.—It is stated that the Executive will contribute \$10,000 towards the expenses incurred by the organizing Carnival Committee, which are expected to reach about \$20,000. The «Marquis de Cabriolas» who traditionally announces the opening of Carnival, will make his appearance this year as a gaucho riding in a six-horse postal diligence of the ayle of the year 1846, escorted by 60 mounted halberdiers, bearing lances. This will be historical, but not remarkably picturesque, and at any rate is an improvement on the moiré-eaten opera-chorus costumes of previous years. His entrance will take place on the Sunday afternoon, and will be immediately followed by «acoras» in which the allegorical cars and other fantastic objects will appear. Promin-

ent among these will be a mighty «loathly worm» sixty feet in length. It has been proposed—and we applaud the idea—to issue permits to «comparas» solely on condition that they consent to appear in the «coras» obeying the order indicated by the police. The children's fancy dress ball, which should prove one of the prettiest features of Carnival, will take place in the Urquiza Theatre on the Monday afternoon. There is some doubt whether the central Committee will be able to grant the usual subventions to the local and suburban Committees for the erection of platforms for «comparas», but this will not be entirely a disadvantage, for it may help to reconcentrate the Carnival.

—A NEW PROFESSION.—From the Buenos Aires Herald:—Quite a novel profession is that of professional guarantor, but, judging by results, it appears to be sufficiently lucrative. The *modus operandi* is simplicity itself. The guarantor approaches dock laborers, seamen, news-vendors, etc., and recommends them to a cheap «fonda», where they may obtain meals *en pension* at a fixed price payable at the end of the month, and offers to guarantee the account for a mild commission of some 25 or 30 per cent of the total. The guarantor is known to the proprietor of the eating-house, and all customers introduced by him are served on credit. Of course the risks taken are great, but testimony to the effect that human nature is not as bad as cynics paint it, is found in the fact that a large majority of the accounts are duly paid. When a bad debt is contracted, the guarantor pays it, but receives a very substantial rebate by prior arrangement with the proprietor. In some cases, proprietor and guarantor work together, arranging that the latter is to receive a large percentage on accounts which are paid, and be responsible for a share in any losses occurring through his recommendation.

—AMERICAN.—The kindergarten children are going through the alphabet. «Who can tell what comes after G?» asks the teacher. Silence reigns. Again the question: «Doesn't anyone know what comes after G?» Then Carleton raises his hand. «I do», he says. «Whiz. Gee whiz.»

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LONDON NOTES.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16.

London Brassery has been appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in the place of the Prince of Wales, resigned.

Speaking at Lancaster last night, Mr. Asquith was subjected to some interruption by female suffragists. He observed that in the immediate future protection on the one side and free trade on the other would occupy the political foreground. Not one of those patched up compromises between people whose opinions were irreconcilable could survive the rough-and-tumble of free discussion. In a short time there would be no place for free traders in the Tory party. The Tory cry that the rise in the prices of bread and coal was due to the Liberal Government was the most mendacious and unscrupulous falsehood that had ever done duty in his time. Dealing with other domestic questions, Mr. Asquith said that the next Education Bill would be a short, simple, and drastic measure. Any Licensing Bill must deal with mere drinking clubs, and any system of old-age pensions must be based on the principle of every class contributing.

At yesterday's sitting of the Commission appointed to inquire into the circumstances connected with the disappearance of the State jewels from the office of the Ulster King of Arms in Dublin Castle, the chairman said that, having heard much evidence which seemed to them, in the absence of explanation or answer, to affect seriously Sir Arthur Vicars in his conduct as custodian of the lost jewels, they thought it right to offer him another opportunity of giving evidence in the presence of his own counsel, in public or private as he himself should determine. Sir Arthur had definitely declined, and they must therefore close the inquiry without hearing his own statement of the facts, or his explanation of the facts deposited by other witnesses. The chairman added that the offer to take Sir Arthur's evidence in public was made before the receipt of the first letter from his solicitors in which he refused to appear before the Commission. The inquiry was resumed in private.

It is stated that, in the event of the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament indicating no intention on the part of the Government to put the Board of Trade on a line with those other departments which are presided over by a Secretary of State, an amendment to the Address, calling attention to the question, will be moved from the

Friday, February 14, 1908.

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Ministerial benches, and there is every reason to believe that it will receive strong support from the Front Opposition Bench.

The annual report of the Labor Party shows for the first time a membership of more than a million.

Franz Von Veltheim was committed for trial from the Guildhall Court yesterday, charged with sending a threatening letter to Mr. Solomon Barnato Joel.

London's newest society—the Schools Musical and Dramatic Association—has been formed to cultivate a taste for art among the masses of the people.

The third Test Match was continued at Adelaide yesterday. The weather was again very hot. The second innings of the Australians closed for 506, including 160 by Hill and 113 by Hartigan. The Englishmen, at the close, had lost half their wickets for 139.

The drawn matches in the first round of the competition for the Association Cup were replayed yesterday. They were won by Carlisle United, West Bromwich Albion, Grimsby Town, Manchester City, and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

COMMERCIAL

Stock Exchange

Montevideo, Feb. 13, 1908.

Business without importance. Prices at former level but not too firm. Sales as follows.

Brazilian Loan, \$1800 at 91 tmw.
Mortgage Bonds, E, \$47,000 at 89 and 89.20 tmw, 89 for 18th.

Mortgage Bank, 1500 shares at 46.50 end of month, 47.10 and 47 end of March.

Conversion Loan, \$16,971 at 91.60 and 91.60 tmw.

Consolidated Debt, \$71,910 at 69.10 and 69 tmw, 69.30 and 69.20 end of month, 69.60 end of March. No London quotation.

Exchange

Bank Com'l

L'don 90 d/s 52 1/16-18 52 3/8-5 1/16
Paris 90 d/s 5.43-44 5.46-5.47
Antwerp 90 d/s 5.45 5.49-5.50
Germany 90 d/s 4.44-45 4.47-5
N. York 0.98-985 —
Italy 5.38-395 —
Spain 6.13-14 —
Brasil 16.150 16.350
B. Aires 1/4 pr. 1/4 pr.

Business Notes

—The Custom House paid into the London Bank yesterday \$11134 on account of the Consolidated Debt and Railway guarantee services, \$1360 on account of the 5% Loan service and \$ 5938 on account of the 5% Conversion Loan.

—Antwerp, 13. Wool, class B, 5.225 francs for March, 4.975 for June, 4.875 for Sept.

Buenos Aires, Feb. 13.

Certificados Banco Español, cash, 51.00.
Catalanes, cash, 8.05.
Do. end of March, 8.20.
Nuevo Banco Italiano, cash, 123.00.
Cia. de Fomento, cash, 165.00.
Matto Grosso Lavaderos de oro, de cash, 3.50.
Banco Francés, cash, 118.00.
Certificado Banco Francés 47.00.
Las Bayas, cash, 0.70.
Muelles, cash, 19.60.
Credito Argentino, 86.50.
Pavimentación, 73.50.
Consolidada, 2nd Series, 85.70.
Cedulas Nacionales K, 80.40.
Do. H, 92.10.
The "Helios" and "Rio de la Plata", sails.

MARITIME

Arrivals and Sailings

Montevideo, Feb. 12, 1908.

—Str. Antisana from Callao.
—Str. Hellenes from B. Aires.
—Str. P. de Moras for Corumbá, 21 p.m.

—Str. Ethelinda for Colastiné.
—Str. Pendower for Rosario.

Feb. 13.

—Str. Venus from B. Aires, 217 p.m.
—Str. Colombia from B. Aires, 147 p.m.

—Str. Jupiter from B. Aires.
—Str. Cycle from Cardiff.

—Str. Verdi from New York.
—Str. Carmelo from Villa Pilar.

—Str. Guajira from B. Aires.
—Str. Santa Cruz for Hamburg.

—Strs. Venus and Colombia for B. Aires.

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MAIL STEAMERS

LEAVING TO-DAY

—The river str. FOLO will leave TO-DAY for Buenos Aires and Asuncion. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 5.45 p. m.

—The P. S. N. Co's ORITA will leave TO-DAY for Santos, Rio Janeiro and intermediates to Liverpool. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 10 a. m.

—The Brazilian str. MIRANDA will leave TO-DAY for Rio Grande. Correspondence at G.P.O. till 3 p.m.

OTHER DATES.

—The R. M. S. DANUBE will leave Feb. 15 for Santos, Rio Janeiro and intermediates to Southampton. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 11 p. m. on the 14th.

—The French str. MAGELLAN will leave Feb. 15 for Santos, Rio Janeiro, Dakar, Lisbon and Bordeaux. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 11 a. m.

—The French str. PROVENÇE will leave Feb. 16 for Santos, Rio Janeiro, Bahia, Dakar, Las Palmas and Marseilles. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 9 a.m.

—The Argentine str. CRUZ DE MALTA will leave Feb. 18 for Rio Grande. Correspondence at G. P. O. till 9 a.m.

Note.—In addition to the hours mentioned above, letters for all these steamers will be received, without extra charge, in the Adunsa Kiosk until the P. O. agents leave to go on board the steamers.

Steamers to arrive

FEV	NAME	FLAG	FROM
14	Attiki	Greek	Genoa
14	Valhalla	English	Maryport
14	Petropolis	German	Hamburg
14	Edfu	German	Valparaiso
14	Toscana	Italian	Genoa
14	Orita	English	Valparaiso
14	Hortensius	English	New York
15	Amazon	English	Southampton
15	Yang Tse	French	Bordeaux
15	France	French	Marseilles
15	R. Claude	French	Genoa
15	Umbria	Italian	Havre
15	Q. Eleonor	English	New York
20	Hestione	English	Liverpool
20	Rhakotis	German	Valparaiso
21	Amazon	French	Bordeaux
21	K. P. August	German	Hamburg
21	Indiana	Italian	Genoa
21	Thames	English	Southampton
22	Espagne	French	Marseilles
23	Oriauna	English	Liverpool
23	Leon XIII	Spanish	Barcelona
24	Argentina	Italian	Genoa
25	Entre Rios	German	Hamburg
25	R. Amazonas	Italian	Genoa
25	Olivant	German	Bremen
25	Anatolia	English	Liverpool
27	Farmum	Dutch	Dunkirk
28	Britannia	English	Southampton
28	Bologna	Italian	Genoa
28	Gottungen	German	Bremen
28	Darmstadt	German	Bremen
29	Oasis	German	Valparaiso

Steamers to leave.

FEV	NAME	FLAG	FOR
14	El Argentino	English	London
14	T. di Savola	Italian	Genoa
14	Edfu	German	Hamburg
15	Pernambuco	German	Hamburg
15	Magellan	French	Bordeaux
15	Danube	English	Southampton
15	Orita	English	Liverpool
15	Hermione	English	New York
16	Arabistan	English	Liverpool
16	Provence	French	Marseilles
17	Cordova	Italian	Genoa
19	J. Gallart	Nacional	Barcelona
19	Formosa	French	Marseilles
20	Brasil	Italian	Genoa
20	Minas	Italian	Genoa
20	Rhakotis	German	Hamburg
21	Bellgrano	English	Liverpool
22	Amazon	English	Southampton
23	Campania	Italian	Genoa
23	Toscana	Italian	Genoa
23	Cap Arcona	German	Hamburg
23	Oriauna	English	Valparaiso
24	Zaanland	Dutch	Amsterdam
24	Hermione	English	Liverpool
26	Yang Tse	French	Bordeaux
27	Umbria	Italian	Genoa
28	France	French	Marseilles
29	Amazon	English	Liverpool
29	Thames	English	Southampton
29	Espagne	French	Marseilles
29	Oasis	German	Hamburg
29	Hyanthes	English	New York
29	Hyperia	English	New York

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SHORT STORY

HIS PROMISE.

(Continued.)

In silence Donald and Alma passed through the swing-gate at the end of the path, crossed a white dusty road, climbed a stile, and found themselves in enclosed park-lands. They sauntered idly over the soft turf, Donald cutting somewhat savagely at the low-hanging branches of the trees, which here, where they were neither stripped by axe nor nibbled by cattle, grew naturally, their lower branches, bowed down by their own weight, sweeping the ground, thus forming leafy tents.

“This is my last day!” Donald repeated, as they turned out of the park into a narrow winding lane.

“You go away to-morrow?” Alma reiterated, decapitating everything within reach of a long twig she had aimlessly torn from a tree and as aimlessly carried for the last half-hour.

Both she and Donald had known during their silent walk what thought was uppermost in the other's mind; both had carefully avoided broaching a subject likely to provoke utterance of that thought. Donald's repeated reference to his departure bordered on the dangerous; the flustered tone in which Alma's lame reply was uttered crossed the line—and they had both been careful all day. They had talked sensibly, looked at each other steadily, laughed heartily at each other's forced jokes—in short, they had told each other repeatedly, in the cosmopolitan language of manner, that nothing especial was to happen that day—it was to be as any other of the pleasant days they had spent within the last three weeks—weeks during which they had learned to understand each other and understanding meant appreciation, respect, and—ah, what else could it mean?

They could flatter themselves that until now they had behaved both sensibly and courageously. The most trying time was to come. But, after all, what was it they feared and postponed? Donald had to ask a stereotyped question, Alma to give him a prearranged answer. It would take but a few minutes.

“Beastly bad road!” Donald said, irritably kicking a large stone into the leafy ditch on his left.

“What a hot day!” Alma said, switching off the dainty upraised head of an anemone. “No!” she added sharply as Donald stopped and resolutely faced her. “Don't do it now! Do it to-morrow at the very last minute!”

Donald swung round on his heel and marched along in moody silence.

“Oh, do talk about something!” Alma said impatiently.

“Beastly bad road!”

“You said that before.”

“Hot day!”

“I said that before.”

“You seem rather cross!”

“Can't you tell me something I don't know?”

“Many things, I fancy!”

“Now you imply that I am ignorant! You are more than cross—you are rude. I will leave you to vent your ill-humour on the poor, inoffensive little ferns and flowers that have done you no harm but happen to be available for the purpose. That is the sort of thing men always do. I am going to see Nellie Stainer. I want to speak with her privately.”

Alma scrambled over a gate with undignified haste and, setting her cross little face in the direction of two tall chimneys visible above a gloomy fir copse on her left, trudged on determinedly. Donald restrained by the word “privately,” leaned on the gate and watched her until she was out of sight. Then he hurried back to the house, had a cob saddled, and galloped about the country until physical exhaustion succeeded mental warfare and he returned in time to sit down to dinner, which he ate with such evident appreciation that Alma, who, woman-like, considered the indulgence of the senses an insult to the sentiments, hardened her heart against him. The consequence was the resolution she had spluttered into her pocket-handkerchief but an hour before went where they would find no lack of companions.

She had meant to be so sweet and kind on Donald's last evening—just the gentle, soft-speaking, womanly girl she imagined to be his ideal. She had determined that he should retain a pleasing memory of the girl who was too plain to be married at any price. He had come to Atherton Manor hoping to be able to comply with his uncle's wishes and marry old Gwen's heiress, but the gilt coating of that heiress had not been

thick enough to level ugly excrescences and fill up perceptible depressions, and he had decided, rather than marry her, not only to face poverty but run the risk of inflicting it on those dear to himself. But Alma had forgotten that she had intentionally provoked the disdain Donald had unsuccessfully disguised during the first week of their acquaintance. She sat in the solitude of her own pretty boudoir and mixed up facts, conjectures, hopes, and disappointments, concocting out of the incongruous ingredients a very unpalatable pill to swallow—namely, the fact Donald had been ordered to marry her and had found it impossible to obey the mandate.

(To be concluded in our next.)

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		1a. clase	2a. clase	3a. clase C. solamente
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Colon	6.55			
Piedras	7.06			
Canelones	7.37			
Santa Lucia	8.10	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.00	
San José	9.13			
Mal Abrigo	10.02			
Arroyo Grande	10.47	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	
Juan Jackson	11.07			
La Lata	11.25			
Santa Catalina	11.42			
Drabble	12.00			
Palmitas	12.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 1.70	
Bizecho	1.14			
Mercedes	1.40			

El tren expreso de regreso saldrá de Mercedes el Martes 18 Febrero a las 7 a. m. y llegará a Central a las 2 p. m. más o menos, parando en las mismas estaciones de la ida.
 Los boletos en número limitado se pondrán en venta desde el jueves 13 y serán válidos: los de la serie “A” para ida y regreso en el expreso y volver hasta el Sábado 22 Febrero por trenes ordinarios, 6 el expreso del 18.
 Habrá servicio de restaurant para comodidad de los señores pasajeros.
AVISO IMPORTANTE.—Se previene a los señores pasajeros que las personas que se encuentren en este tren sin su correspondiente boleto especial serán obligadas a pagar el boleto sencillo a tarifa ordinaria.

Montevideo, Febrero 4 de 1908.—C. W. Bayne, Administrador General.