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Starlight

BY THE NOTED AUTHOR
Idah M'Clene Gibson

THEODORE STRATTON'S FAREWELL

"Tell me," I questioned the mirror that was nailed close to the wall of the dressing room in the sleeping car. "Do you think it was because I do not look well enough that Theodore Stratton is sorry for me? Is he sure that I will not be a success in pictures?" Tell me honestly, mirror, have I the good looks which are the first requisites for a woman's success in moving pictures?"

I was putting on my hat preparatory to changing cars in Chicago and I bent my face close to the glass. The car went bumping along from side to side, my body swaying with it, and this made the mirror give back a very vague opinion, but, after some close scrutiny, I saw great ropes of braided, golden hair coiled about an oval face of natural pink and white. I opened my golden, brown eyes wider, for the drooping lids, heavily fringed with dark brown curling lashes, gave my face at times a slumberous aspect. As I opened my eyes I could not help smiling and showing teeth that were white, of good shape and size. There was a dimple in my chin and with a smile I put my finger on the one that would always come and go near the corner of my mouth.

Without any false modesty I then and there decided that I had the first requisite of a moving picture actress—beauty. I have often wondered why it is that people seem to think a girl should be perfectly unconscious of her own good looks. I am sure it is an impossibility. Eyes that see beauty in others are amply able to judge as well the beauty of their own. I do not believe that a beautiful woman lives who does not fully appreciate her own beauty and in this appreciation made the best of it.

Of course if she is clever she will conceal her knowledge, but to be unconscious that one is beautiful or ugly, one must never look in the mirror.

As I gave my hat its final tap I smiled at the face in the mirror and it smiled back at me, saying: "You are a very good looking girl, Virginia Winston."

"But will I photograph well?" I asked the mirror.

That neither the mirror nor I could answer, for I had never had any pictures taken since I was old enough to remember.

I expect I shall have to have some taken, was my next thought, promising myself to ask Mr. Stratton where I could find the best one's in Los Angeles.

The train began to slow down and at last it stopped.

"All out for Chicago!" boomed the porter.

Hastily I started for my berth to pick up my belongings.

"I am glad to see you for a minute my child, for I am leaving you here. The telegram you saw delivered to me this morning calls me back to New York immediately," and Mr. Stratton held out his hand to say goodbye.

I expect my face showed my disappointment, for he said: "Never mind, little girl, I will be coming to the coast pretty soon and then per-

haps if you have not become a great moving picture actress by that time we will see what can be done to make some hard-hearted producer appreciate you."

"This is your grip, Miss," said the porter. "Do you want a taxi?"

"Yes," I said hesitatingly, "perhaps I had better go immediately to the Santa Fe station."

"You have six hours to wait."

I turned to say goodbye to Mr. Stratton and found that he has gone.

"And he didn't care even enough to ask my name," I said to myself sadly. "He was just being polite to me to help him pass what he thought was going to be a long and monotonous journey."

It was my first disillusion. I had taken his interest in me as something personal. I found it was only something selfish. Since then, many times I have had to recount to myself this episode to make myself understand that a man's interest in a woman is always selfish. It may not always be a sex selfishness, but it is a selfishness nevertheless—a selfishness inbred in him since the beginning of creation which makes him think that woman is first, to be a helpmate to man. "God made man first and out of him He created woman; and declared withal that she might be a helpmate for the man."

Consciously or unconsciously, every man subscribes to this definition and carries on all negotiations with woman with this idea first in his mind.

"We have six hours in Chicago, Miss Winston," Mrs. Watkins said as I was going out the door. "My baby's nurse is going to join me here. What do you say about going over to the Congress and having a bath and a nice luncheon and then taking a sightseeing or shopping trip?"

"I should be delighted if you care to be bothered with me, Mrs. Watkins. I was dreading the long, dull wait at the station, but hardly felt equal to going to a hotel alone."

Mrs. Watkins' nurse met us at the station and took the baby immediately. Much to the relief of both mother and tiny son, it seemed to me. Mrs. Watkins ordered a suit of rooms with two baths and when I saw them I was very much worried. They were grander than anything I had ever seen before with their resplendent modern furniture and velvet hangings.

"I expect we will have to pay a dollar a minute for this," I said tentatively.

"The suite is twenty dollars a day," remarked Mrs. Watkins, "but I thought it would be worth ten dollars apiece for us, don't you?"

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BONUS BONDS HELD LEGAL.

OLYMPIA, WASH., Oct. 5.—Every ex-service man in the state who has not received a war bonus is practically assured this compensation if entitled to it under the state act, according to a ruling today by the state supreme court. The court held that bonds for the soldiers' bonus fund might be sold even though the \$11,000,000 appropriated by the legislature had been expended. Such additional bonds may be accepted for permanent school fund investment.

The court held that the provision for additional bond issue was constitutional. The court pointed out that it evidently was the intention of the legislature and the people to reward every service man eligible, and that when the act was passed it was impossible to ascertain the exact appropriation needed. The court ruled that the state finance committee was exercising legislative power in authorizing legislative issues, but merely satisfying claims in the manner provided in the act.

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Leadership Changes In U. S. Senate

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The republican leadership has changed after a "bloodless revolution," according to senators today. Senator Watson of Indiana is now the actual leader, with Senators Lodge, Curtis, Cummins and Penrose playing relatively minor parts. There was no change in the formal organization where Lodge still ostensibly holds the post as leader, with Curtis as the whip. Senator Cummins is president pro tem, and Senator Penrose chairman of the finance committee. Senator Watson is the "power behind the throne," the senators agree.

TRESPASS NOTICE.
All persons are hereby warned not to hunt or otherwise trespass on my ranches at Happy Valley and at Green. Any person violating this notice will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

S. C. MILLER.

METHODISTS IN CONFERENCE.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Oct. 4.—The annual session of the Oregon Methodist Episcopal church opened here today with the examination of under graduates under the supervision of Rev. A. S. Hisey. Sessions throughout the week will be presided over by Bishop William O. Shepard. The week's program includes an address Wednesday afternoon by Dr. H. R. Johnson, of Berkeley, California, sermons Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings by the Rev. Dr.

J. Ralph Magee, pastor of First M. E. church, Seattle; sermon Thursday afternoon by the Rev. Dr. Blaine E. Kirkpatrick, Salem, and an address Friday afternoon by Dr. E. C. Hickman, president of Kimball school of theology, Salem.

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