

Is The Price of Beauty Going Down?



The classic features of Inez Ford, who wants \$25,000 from Benny Davis, song writer (inset below), because, she says, he called her "Angel Child" and then jilted her.

FOR what shall it profit a girl to have melting contours and unblemished complexion if she can't get the man she loves to the altar? What is the real value of her hymned and psalmed beauty if it can't be cashed in on the marriage mart?

All answers should be referred to Miss Evan Burrows Fontaine. Likewise to Miss Edith Ransom, Miss Ethel Jay French and Miss Inez Ford. Likewise to half a dozen other beauties who, like those already named, were unable to hold their lovers and are now bringing actions for breach of promise.

All of their lives these young women have regarded beauty as their foremost asset. Men would stop to look at them a second time, women bit their lips in envy of them, and the Sunday supplements carried their pictures for an admiring world to gaze upon. They were and are true helms of Aphrodite's apple. But what has it got them? That's what they would like to know.

A learned Brooklyn jurist, Justice John MacCrute, now comes to the fore with a significant statement. It has been his observation, he said, that the plaintiff in a breach of promise action is seldom a homely woman. And this remark suggests another—an axiom of Arthur Stringer, the short story writer. He said: "The beautiful woman wins a man; the ugly woman keeps him."

The votaries of beauty in women will be loath to accept a conclusion as sweeping as this. But Mr. Stringer has arrived thereat after a close and exhaustive study of women in all their phases.

"It is good to be ugly," is his belief. "If I had a small daughter," he continued, "whose face was long and narrow, suggesting the horse; or short and broad, suggesting the owl; if her eyes were out of plumb and her nose crooked and her mouth inclined to monopolize her face; if her figure inclined to the proportions of a cane or a feather bed, I would give her this sincere advice:

"My daughter, be glad you are ugly, for you will get what you want and keep what you get, and that's life as we all want it to be."

"Woman's life objects are two: she wants what man wants—love and success. Ugliness is an aid to both. Her ugliness causes a woman to be companionable. The ugly woman, man feels, is not too precious for life's everyday uses.

"Ugliness wins a woman success in any of the competitive games of life, for its possession makes her work harder for that success. She loosens her belt, so to speak. She is a worker.

"The ugly woman does not floor a man with a club of attraction as soon as she sees him as the beauty does. Beauty is as instant as a flash of lightning. The ugly woman has to have time, as the sun must have time to glid and warm the earth.

"The ugly women are the prize-winners

of the earth. Who so great as Bernhard, and who so ugly and of so complete fascination?"

Justice MacCrute thinks also that there must be a fascination about ugliness both for men and for women.

"I have seen men with beautiful wives hailed into divorce court for attentions to women who are the most frightful hags, enough to scare small children or curdle cream."

It wasn't a "frightful hag" who took young "Sonny" Whitney away from Evan Burrows Fontaine, if Miss Marie Norton, his present fiancee, may be designated as that person. But it certainly wasn't a lack of beauty on Miss Fontaine's part that caused the alleged breach of promise for which she wants \$1,000,000.

According to her story, she met young Whitney at bal bleu given by Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt in 1919 at the Ritz Carlton. He had previously eyed her longingly from box seats at the Follies and the Nine o'Clock Revue. He expressed a fervent pleasure at meeting her. He apostrophized her beauty in glowing, poetic terms. He was mad about her.

"Sonny" was the "big love of her life." As this friendship ripened she paid visits to the Whitney mansion on Fifth avenue and to their country estates.

About the middle of the year 1920 she started proceedings to annul her marriage to Sidney L. Adair. This action, she said, was taken at Whitney's request. The decree annulling the bonds between Adair and Miss Fontaine was granted in Rockland county, New York, in July, 1920. Her baby was born five months later.

She had expected to marry young Whitney, she said, but when the time came to begin preparations he refused. She attributed this refusal to "family influences," for "Sonny," she said, was "easily led." She went back to her professional dancing. Attempts were made to fix up a settlement between her and the Whitneys, but all negotiations fell through. She has now sued for \$1,000,000.

Even after the filing of the suit she was still willing to marry Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, but she confessed that she had small hope of such an eventuality.

The story of Miss Ethel Jay French of Chicago is in the same key. She sued John Brooks-Ladd, of a well-known Boston family, for \$50,000 and got \$1. She has appealed the verdict. Miss French is an admitted beauty.

"I met Mr. Brooks-Ladd on a golf course," she said. "We played a round together then and later were much on the links. After that he took me to suppers and theaters. He was married then and he said that his wife and he were not suited to each other and that a divorce would be arranged. Later he explained that his wife had agreed to sue for divorce so that he could marry me. I had grown to love him dearly and believed every word he



and the next morning in his apartment he told me:

"Darling, we are man and wife in the eyes of God and heaven, and as soon as possible we will be man and wife in the eyes of the world."

"So we laid plans for our wedding. Then he went into the army. When he came out he told me he couldn't marry me. He went to Boston to live."

Whether rightly or wrongly Mr. Brooks-Ladd evidently didn't think that beauty was everything in a wife. For the reason he gave on the witness stand for not marrying Miss French was that she was not his "social equal."

In the case of Inez Ford she not only, according to her statement, gave her love and her beauty to Benny Davis, the song writer, but her money as well. Miss Ford is a beauty of the cornflower type. She combines delicacy of color with lovely, fluffy hair and regular features.

She declares that she traveled with Davis as his wife and was given to understand that he would marry her. He would compose songs to her, she said, and one of those songs, "Angel Child," with the

Divorced—and the Very Unexpected Results

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told me. Then came a New Year's dance not over. For the very next evening he was observed calling on her, and the next evening, and the next, until quite a bit of scandalous gossip was bruited about. Then it was that the statement was issued that she had merely divorced her husband to place him on trial.

Inspired, perhaps, by the action of Miss Shaw and Mrs. Walling, Flora Louise Nelson of Union Hills, N. J., has instituted a "week-end wife" system. Her husband is Count Edmund Alfonso de Jimenez. The bride lives with her mother and he lives in New York city. But at the week-end he calls just as he did when he courted her. And they have all the fun of wooing.

Strong rumor has it that Katherine Elkins and William F. R. Hitt are going to reward. If that occurs it will set this country and Europe talking. For their courtship was featured by an act that endeared

"The Ugly Woman Holds Her Man," Observes a Divorce Court Justice, and the Rush of Pretty Maids to File Breach of Promise Suits Seems to Show That Good Looks Aren't Always so Much of an Asset, After All



Charming Ethel Jay French of Chicago, suing John Brooks-Ladd for breach of promise, avers that he went to war and forgot all about her.

assistance of the money she lent him, enabled Davis to make a young fortune.

Now Davis, for all of her love and all of her beauty, refuses to marry Inez and so she is suing him for \$25,000.

And Miss Edith Ransom, who declared that John B. Woodward, a New York newspaper man, publicly introduced her as his fiancee, might have been the pretty heroine of a mid-Victorian romance. But Mr. Woodward thought better of his promises, she declared, and tried to "kid her out of it." So she is suing him for \$25,000.

A significant commentary on the love troubles of these beautiful women is the story of Queen Margaret of Tyrol, the ugliest woman in history. Known among her familiars as "Pocketmouth Meg" and having a face that scarcely looked human, she was always considered good company. This hideous woman had to drive lovers away by force.

At 12 she married for the first time and soon was sorry for her bargain. She drove out her Prince John and then took up with Louis Margreave of Brandenburg, who had been hanging about persistently. So far as fidelity went Meg could hardly be cited as a shining example. But that didn't keep men from loving. Nobles would hammer at her gates during the night. She would have to send down her servants to drive them away. And she had her pick of the handsome peasants in her neighborhood. They were proud to serve her as men-at-arms or as lovers.

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Butler Privileged Character in Scotch Home.

"THE butler in a Scotch family," says an American of that extraction, "occupies a privileged and unique position. He sometimes assumes a freedom of speech that seems to American ears to border on impertinence; but to those who know him his frank speech is only one of the many evidences of his interest in the family welfare.

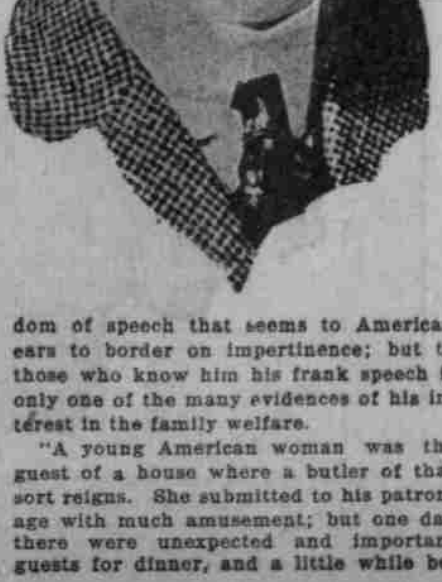
"A young American woman was the guest of a house where a butler of that sort reigned. She submitted to his patronage with much amusement; but one day there were unexpected and important guests for dinner, and a little while before the meal was served the butler way-



Miss Evan Burrows Fontaine, famed beauty and dancer, who makes record claim of \$1,000,000 against Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney (at left), charging paternity of her son.



The very attractive 23-year-old Edith Ransom, who asks \$25,000 of John B. Woodward, New York and Chicago newspaper man (shown below), claiming that he threw her over after introducing her to his friends as his "fiancee."



laid the young American in the hall.

"I'm fearin' there'll no be quite enough soup," he whispered, "so when it's offered ye maun decline it, lass."

"Decline soup, James?" she said, laughing. "why, that would not be polite."

"Well not, precisely," said James, with a benignant smile, "but they'll a' make excuse for ye, thinkin' ye ken nae better."