

CROSSED. [To a girl at a distance.] I count on you to play it, and I was waiting with such impatience for them to bring it out. Paris was beginning to forget me in the long period I had been inactive, and I hoped this creation would carry a second youth upon me...

TWO COMEDIANS. That evening Bloncourt, the son, was to make his first appearance on the stage in "Chatterton." The piece, which, though not forgotten, had dropped out of sight and for some years had filled a narrower sphere in the quiet appreciation of home reading, now excited on its first night, almost the interest that a great novelty might. Those who were familiar with it without having seen it played were curious to assist at its interpretation—a process in which certain beauties of a work, especially the most subtle points, disappear, are smothered, volatilized, in one way, say, at the heat of the footlights, while others almost unexpectedly intrude into view...

THE MAGNETIC GIRL. An Explanation of How Her Tricks May Easily Be Duplicated. While in Chicago I saw the announcement of an electric girl who included in her repertoire a new trick, or at least one that I had not yet seen. A stick about four feet long and as thick as a broomstick was produced, and I and another gentleman were requested to hold it in a vertical position before us while grasping it firmly in both hands. The girl, standing in front of and facing us, placed the palm of her open hand against the lower portion of the stick, resting it on the side nearest to us and farthest from herself. After rubbing her hand up and down for a few moments in order to make better electric contact, she would have come her, stick and all, to the floor. But there she stood, with but one open hand bearing against the side of the stick, and both us could not by our united efforts force the stick past that wonderful hand. Surely there seemed something uncanny about this. But it is very simply explained.

WHY WOMEN MAKE POOR DETECTIVES. A Secret Service Man Says the Opposite Sex Make Bad Spies. "Women are not good detectives," said an experienced secret service man on being asked his opinion. "To begin with, there are many places to which a woman cannot go without exciting suspicion, and this defeats her object at the outset, but beyond this woman is unfitted by nature for detective work. In the first place, she jumps at a conclusion and acts on it in opposition to all human probabilities, possibilities and reason. As a rule, a woman does not reason. She looks on a thing as she wants it to be or thinks it ought to be, and will follow that theory. She is led by prejudices, favors or sympathies, regardless of facts. As a detective she is sometimes a success in entrapping a man, but her work generally ends in a blunder which betrays her. She is persevering only when moved by passion. She does not look at a case dispassionately. She at once decides that he or she is guilty or innocent and works on that theory. A woman enjoys the mystery, and she is so elated at her position as detective that she is unable to conceal her identity or the secret investigations of a case. Women are even failures in running down criminals of their own sex. A woman criminal will mislead a woman detective by working on her vanity, credulity or sympathy, and, worst of all, if the detective be attractive and the man criminal handsome—well, a man is better off detective work, and a woman will sell out a case, and cheaply at that, relying upon her sex to escape punishment if detected."

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THE MAID OF MEXICO. To her all things unveil seem. Through her black eyes her bright soul peeps. And sees the world as in a dream. For with wide open eyes she sleeps. And what is Mexico today? A nation ever in a dose, Where slumber holds eternal sway Whether or no the Phœnix close Leo Fauchald in Overland.

A VENDEAN HEROINE. It was a pretty little windmill, with its big round tower capped by a weather vane, its long arms or blades which rattled in the west wind like the sails of a boat in stays, and its little round window looking over the hills of Anjou like the telescopes of an astronomer—such was the windmill of Bernardeau, and when it was working all the windmills around the neighborhood looked like white sea gulls pursued by a bird of prey. It was situated on the slope of the Guignac at the end of a little crooked pathway hardly wide enough for the mill donkey, and in which one might search in vain for traces of human footprints, because it was so dark under its vault of shrouding, so muddy and ragged that the woman of the mill always took to the vines when on her way to Anconis on foot.

There was something singularly graceful and proud in her bearing and a glance of withering contempt in her eyes as she advanced toward the wall. Her splendid black hair was now floating in disorder upon her shoulders. She gathered it modestly around her breast, so as to hide her torn corsets. Then she stood against the wall. "Do you want to live?" "This piece of feminine boldness made the officer hesitate. "How old are you?" he asked. "Twenty-five." "Your name?" "I am a mouliniere da Bernardeau." "I am I rather die than receive mercy from you."

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