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C. A. EVERETT
PRESCRIPTION DRUGGIST
Scio, Oregon

A Race For a Wife

He Got His Answer In Lap- land Fashion.

By ELEANOR L. BRITTON

Spitzburger was a great traveler. He had visited every country on the globe, and I verily believe that if aviation had come up in his day he would have sailed up beyond the clouds to find others. When I made his acquaintance he had settled down in a place he called by a jaw-breaking name signifying "dwelling" that he had picked up among the Eskimos or some other benighted people.

Spitzburger was a widower, with one child, a daughter. She was twenty years old and for half her life had traveled during half of each year—the summer season—with her father. Heredity and travel had made her as odd as he. Rather she was unique. She was of medium height, lithe, wiry—indeed, a feminine athlete of the featherweight type. Her hair was black and straight as an Indian's; her eyes large black ones, with lashes of the Spanish type. I wondered if her mother had not been some dusky semicivilized creature her father had picked up on the underside of the world. But he told me his wife had been an American creole.

The reason for my making the Spitzburgers' acquaintance was this: I was taking a postgraduate course at the time, studying the customs of different races of men, the causes and effects which shape them and their relationship. Desiring some information as to the people of Tibet, a land forbidden to foreigners and therefore little known, I was recommended to Spitzburger as one who had penetrated to the interior of that country. I went to see him, and my visit led to my studying with him.

How long I remained there doesn't matter, but it was sufficient for my enthrallment by that "little savage," as I called his daughter, Irene.

The only thing to indicate that Irene and I were drifting together as lovers was that we took long walks together. I made an excuse for this that in her company I could both exercise and study. This was true. I could get from her certain information of the domestic habits of the people she had visited that I could not get from her father. One day while we were on one of these walks I said to her:

"Your father tells me that in Lapland to marry a girl without her parents' consent is punished as

Something Good.

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It is a melancholy fact that not even this great country has been able to provide a sufficient number of sinecures for all the lame ducks.

a crime. Please tell me how a man in that country does his courting."

"He goes to her parents and asks for her. If he is refused there is no hope for him. If they approve of his suit they tell the girl of it. She may or may not have seen the lover, but the process is the same in either case. Her parents give a feast at which they, the girl, her suitor and mutual friends are present. The two principals are placed opposite each other at table, where they can observe and talk with each other all they like.

"After the feast all go to an open space suitable for running a race. A course is marked off—a quarter of a mile usually—and the girl is given a handicap of a third of the distance. The handicap is intended to enable her to win the race easily if she wishes, and if she wins that indicates her refusal of the offer. But if, on the contrary, she purposely lags and her suitor catches her, that indicates that she accepts him for her husband."

It was a month after this that, having got all out of Spitzburger in the line of my studies that I desired, I went to him and asked him for his daughter.

"I will inform her of the honor you do her," he said.

I waited a day for a reply, and as I received none the suspense threw me into an awful fret. At the end of the second day, the situation being the same, I was almost demented. On the morning of the third, determined to have the matter out with Irene, I asked her to go for a walk with me, the last we would take together before my departure. She assented and went up to her room for her wraps. She was some time getting them, and when she came down what was my surprise to see that she had put on a skirt reaching but little below the knees, and instead of a hat she had wrapped a veil about her head.

I didn't dream for awhile what this meant, but when she led me along a path and across a stile to a space used in season for pasture I suspected at once that she proposed to satisfy a whim by giving me an answer to my proposal after the Lapland custom. I was too hungry for it to object to the terms and was quite ready to run for my answer. Indeed, so impatient was I that I opened the subject myself.

"A good place for a race," I remarked. "I will race you to that oak tree yonder. What handicap do you want?"

"I wish no handicap," she said. "I think I can beat you on equal terms. I will go over to that stump, which is about the same distance from the tree as we are here. The race would be little fun. Let us make it the best two in three. You give the signal."

"Agreed," I said, and she went off to the stump.

"One, two, three—go!" I cried.

Severe Cold Quickly Cured.

"On December first I had a very severe cold or attack of the grip as it may be, and was nearly down sick in bed," writes O. J. Metcalf, Weatherby, Mo. "I bought two bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and it was only a few days until I was completely restored to health. I firmly believe that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is one of the very best medicines and will know what to do when I have another cold." Obtainable everywhere.

She ran like a deer, but, spurred by love, I kept an equal pace with her. I won that race.

The second race was very different. Irene permitted me at first to gain a few yards on her, but before we had traversed two-thirds of the distance she forged ahead and reached the tree full ten feet ahead of me.

I knew now that she could beat me if she wished. Nevertheless I deemed it my proper part to do the best I could in the third and deciding race. Burning to know my fate, I wished to start at once. But she declined to go until she got her breath. While we waited I endeavored to see something encouraging in her eyes—something to indicate that these races were the answer I was expecting. But there was nothing in her expression to indicate that we were running for any purpose except pastime. She studiously ignored every other consideration.

Finally, when my patience was nearly exhausted, she signified a willingness to start. I gave the signal, and for the first half the distance she seemed determined to win. Surely she could have put forth greater effort. I saw her glance aside to see where I was, and she dashed on, seemingly bound to reach the goal before me. But when within ten yards of it, my distance being twenty, she tripped and fell. I ran on to the tree, touched it and then back to her. Raising her, I said impatiently:

"I suppose we must try this one over."

"No," she said; "I couldn't run again."

I still held her in my arms, and, taking this for the answer I craved, I wound them about her, covering her face with kisses.

Supposing that my love had been injured by her fall, I proposed to carry her home, but she stepped out quite readily.

"How about that tripping?" I asked.

She looked at the ground, but made no reply, and I knew she had tripped on purpose.

When we returned to the house Spitzburger looked at us both curiously. I knew at once that he was aware that his daughter had given me my answer and that she had given it in accordance with the Lapland custom. He first scanned her face, but receiving no satisfaction there bent his gaze upon mine.

He did not require a long examination of my features to know that I had been made very happy, and the cause was evident. I took Irene by the hand, and leading her to her father, told him the story. When I came to the part where Irene stumbled and fell he burst into a laugh, saying that she could run for hours without a stumble or a misstep.

A Matter of Thrift.

Two Scottish women were arguing as to which was the thrifter.

First Woman—Do you see that purse? Well, that's my first one, an' it's as good as the day I got it. Ye cannot beat that, noo, can you?

Second Woman—Michty me! What a poor boast! Ye ken Dugal, my husband?

"Oh, aye. What about him?"

"Weel, he's my first man, an' noo you've got yer third. So dinna preach thrift to me again."

Little Left.

"What's the matter here?" asked the caller, noticing the barren appearance of the house. "Sent your goods away to be stored?"

"No," replied the hostess; "not at all. My daughter was married last week and she has merely taken away the things that she thought belonged to her."—Detroit Free Press.

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South..... 5:31 p.m.

Corvallis & Eastern
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Albany..... 12:25 p.m.
"..... 9:22 a.m.
Mill City..... 12:05 p.m.
"..... 4:21 p.m.
(Daily except Sunday.)

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