

THAT PEACE COMMISSION.

Oh, who would not an Envoy be,
To tarry at the Hague,
And meekly argue motions
In a dovelike way and vague;
To visit quaint old cities,
Those that terminate in "dams,"
And; enfin, accomplish nothing.
Like a set of brainless clams?

THE AMATEUR.

I stood silent. There was no reason why I should obtrude myself. This does not mean that my presence was not noticed. My wife lifted her proud head and quietly asked me to be seated. I smiled placidly as I watched young Wentworth's agitation. He paused, but my wife majestically bade him continue with what he had been saying before I entered so unexpectedly. I pretended to be busy with an afternoon paper while I carefully listened. "I swear that I will keep my word," were the low words I heard Wentworth say, as he seated himself very close to my wife.

"I cannot trust you, I fear," she said, with lowered eyes. Then she swayed, tottered, and at last fell to her knees, holding her face in the hollow of her two hands.

Wentworth rose and came up to her and stood looking—with indifference, I thought. She presented a picture of despair, the proud and beautiful woman, with her quivering form uplifted to meet the shafts of fate. The light of the shaded lamps fell upon this pathetic couple, and I was touched by the sad sight. I rushed madly over to the prostrate woman and commanded Wentworth to stand aside. I sought to raise her from the ground. As I was about to lift her she turned to me and broke into a merry laugh.

"You dear old silly," she cried, "you are too soon, as usual; wait until I give you the cue." And I had rehearsed that scene a dozen times.

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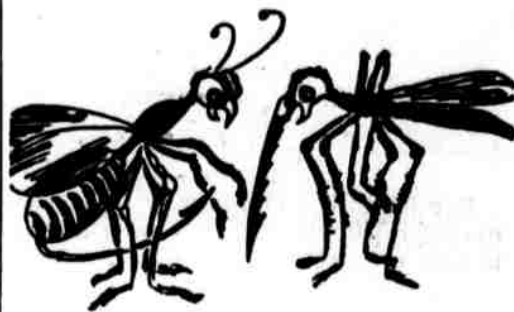
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The girl who married last summer sits at the parlor window now and watches her unmarried girl friends out sleighing.—Somerville Journal.

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