

JARVIS MURRAY'S CAMPAIGN.

Some people would have said that Florence Craven's own fault that she had lost faith in men. Perhaps some people would have been right, and perhaps they would not. However, that is not the story. The fact is that she did not believe in men. She did not believe much in men, either, but that also has nothing to do with this story. When Florence was 18 years old she had ideals. Every woman has ideals when she is young, just as children have mumps. The girls usually get over their ideals just as successfully as children do over the mumps, and then they settle down to a substantial basis of fact and find that, after all, the world as it is is a very good place—quite as good as the world of imagination.

And he opened up a campaign that for variety and movement has seldom been equaled in the history of love. It began with some masterly inactivity. The Jarvis Murray did was nothing, and he did it well. He was introduced to Florence, looked at her critically and then walked away. That made Florence angry and filled her with a deep determination to make him notice her—and to her sorrow, of course. "Excellent," said Mrs. Chasby Soden; "I should say that the first skirmish is decidedly in your favor."

That I'd marry him myself, and I hate him. You see, Jarvis' campaign was getting on. A man had got to make a pretty serious impression on a girl when he gets her to hate him. I've always been of the opinion that between a young man and a girl a good, hot, palpitating hatred can give quite three to two. Jarvis had a sparkling notion that she hated him, and he liked it. He wished she would say she hated him. She did, too, the very next day. It came about in a very simple way. They were all down on the beach. Jarvis insisted that she stand with him, and he sat down beside her. Five minutes later he sprang up, apparently oblivious of Florence's existence, to speak to a smirking blonde woman. When she sprang up, Florence, of course, looked at him, and he said in a rather ridiculous way as you can perceive. She was so angry she could hardly speak. She would not allow Jarvis to assist her to rise. He apologized very properly, but not very enthusiastically.

He was simply knightly in his attentions. He not only fathomed her thoughts and executed her commands before she uttered them, but he frequently knew just what she wished when she was not quite sure of it herself. The result was inevitable. There never was a girl who could be comfortable in the presence of a newly-rejected lover, and the peculiar conduct of this one was enough to set a girl mad. Florence was so upset by it that she tried to drive him away. But he would not be driven. He said: "And before night she actually felt ashamed of herself. He divined that, too, and told Mrs. Chasby Soden about it. Again she went off in a corner and patted herself on the back. Jarvis Murray kept it up for a week. He was gentle, kind, tender and manly in his treatment of her. He never said nor did any more flatter things. He endeavored her in his protection. He perpetually fanned her nostrils with the incense of his devotion. But of love he spoke no word and made no sign. At the end of the week he told her he was going the next day. He regretted that he could not remain longer, as it gave him great pleasure to think that his humble efforts had contributed to her enjoyment, and he considered himself that they had not been wasted. Was it not so?"

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