

have some converse, interesting and entertaining to us both. You can scarcely imagine my joy at seeing so lovely a visitor in my poor apartments."

"Sir, you said you would bring the king. A gentleman keeps his word."

"Oh, the king in good time, my pretty one. Charles is but a doleful companion just now, and we are well quit of him. As for a man's word, the fashion seems to be the breaking of it, example set us poor gentlemen in the highest places. For instance, our last discussion related to marriage, but times have changed since that day, and you will not be so cruel as to expect me to carry out the good domestic intentions I then expressed."

"Sir, I am very glad I shall hear no more of them."

"Truly? Then so much the better. I expected tears and reproaches, but am pleased you are not given to complaining. By my honor, I love you the more for it. So, then, I'll steal a kiss from those ripe lips to seal the new compact we are to make, and I warn you that a scream is not likely to be heard from this chamber."

"I do not need your warning. You shall neither hear me scream nor see me weep."

"By St. Denis, I like your spirit. Some scream and some weep, but they all end by clinging."

"Sir, a warning for your warning. Approach not another step nearer me, or my father shall know of this insult, to punish it when he is free."

"When he is free?" echoed De Courcy. "Powers of heaven! Then you have not come to reproach the king, but to plead with him!"

"Why should I reproach him?"

"It would surely be useless enough, but feminine. Why? Because Gregory Brandon, with one good stroke, severed the king's word and Stafford's neck on Tower hill this morning."

The girl's face went white as the kerchief about her throat, and swaying half an instant, she leaned against the table for support.

Something in the brutal method of the announcement convinced her of its truth more surely than if he had spoken with all the solemnity of which he might be capable. Yet she struggled not to believe. He had been edging toward her, cat-like, but she paid no heed to him. Then with a spring he caught her wrists, but she did not move, nor make any effort to free herself. She looked dully at him, as if wondering why he acted so. "You will be pleased to withdraw yourself, sir, and let me go. My heart is broken."

She spoke with forced calmness, but there was a tremor in her tone that cast doubt on her former assertion regarding the tears.

"Your heart is not broken, and if it was I'd mend it for you. Absurd! Why, you knew the man for some a day, and that time is full short for the growth of any large affection."

"I shall never love any as I have loved him."

"Tush! How little you know of yourself. You are a very goddess of love, and I will—"

He was off his guard for a moment. In that moment she whisked herself free of him, and, darting to the other side of the room, whipped down a thin rapier from the wall.

"You will be well advised to put an end to this fooling. I am now in no humor for it, and with you, never. If you have not the gift to see it, I would have you know that I detest you and despise you, and have done so since first I saw you."

"Indeed," cried De Courcy with a laugh as he possessed himself of a similar weapon to that which threatened him, "are you for a duel, then?"

"If you are coward enough to lift blade to a woman."

"I meet kiss with kiss, and steel with steel; always ready for either. Guard yourself, madame."

His pretended antagonism was but a feint to throw her off the guard he advised

her to maintain, for being one of the best swordsmen of his time, he knew by her holding of the blade that she was ignorant of its practice. He brushed her sword aside, dropped his own and sprang in upon her, grasping again her helpless wrists, her arms pinioned thus transversely across her body, her right hand still clinging to the useless hilt, with the blade extending past her shoulder and behind her. His sneering, grinning face so close to hers that his breath fanned her cheek, he pressed her back and back against the wall, the sword bending and bending behind her until the blade snapped off some six inches from the hilt and fell ringing to the floor.

"There, sweetest of Amazons, you are stings now, and naught but the honey is to be gathered."

The very ease with which he had overcome her hoodwinked him to his danger. The proud, dominant blood of the Wentworths flushed her face with an anger that steeled every nerve in her lithe body. As, with a victorious laugh, he released her wrists and slipped his arms around her, she struck him twice with lightning swiftness, first across the brow, then down the face. Nothing could well be more terrible than the weapon she had used, for the jagged iron tore his flesh like the stroke of a tiger's claw. The red cross showed for a brief moment, then was obliterated in a crimson flood.

"Cowardly poltroon, wear the brand of Cain."

He had warned her not to scream, but now his cries filled the room as he staggered back, his hands to his face. Yet grievously wounded as he was, he seemed resolved she should not escape him, and, after the first shock, groped blindly for her. She flung the broken weapon to the further side of the room, and the noise of its fall turned him thither, striking against the table, and then against a chair. She tiptoed cautiously to the door, turned the key and threw it open, before he could recover

himself, for he had lost all sense of direction, and could see nothing. She took the immediate risk of pulling the key from the door, to ward off the greater danger of pursuit, and calmly locked him in. If screams were as ineffectual as he had insisted, he would take little good from his battering of the door for some time to come. Frances now threaded her way through the mazes of passages, meeting no one, for the gloom of death pervaded the palace, at least in the direction she had taken.

She dared not hurry, in spite of the urging of her quickly beating heart, but must proceed leisurely, as if she had a perfect right to be where she was, should any inquisitive servant encounter her. At last, with a deep breath, she emerged upon the great courtyard, and so came to the gate. The officer bowed to her, and she paused for a moment to thank him for his kindness to her in the earlier part of the day.

"It is true—that—Lord Stafford—" She could get no further.

"Yes, my lady, and grieved we all are that it should be so. This morning on Tower Hill. The lords refused to reprove even until Saturday."

Frances bent her head and struggled with herself to repress undue emotion, but, finding that impossible, turned abruptly and walked fast down Whitehall.

"Her bright eyes, bless her," said the officer to a comrade, "are not the only ones dimmed with tears for this morning's work."

Two hours later Frances was on her way to the north. She paused on Highgate hill and looked back on the label she had left, vast and dim in the rising mist of the mild spring evening. "Oh, cruel city; oh, faithless man! The bloodthirst of London may be whetted and not quenched, perjured king of England!"

She bowed her head to her horse's mane and wept helplessly.

(To Be Continued.)

Main Agricultural Feature at St. Louis World's Fair

GROWING on six acres of a gentle southern slope of Tesson hill at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, St. Louis, is the largest geographically correct map ever constructed.

This map is 250 feet long from east to west and extends from north to south 240 feet. The map is the main feature of the large open air exhibit by the bureau of plant industry of the Department of Agriculture and is personally superintended by D. A. Brodie, late superintendent of the Western Washington Experiment station, under the direction of Prof. W. J. Spillman, agronomist of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The bureau of plant industry is made up of eight offices, comprising vegetable physiology and pathology, fiber plant investigation, poisonous and medical plants investigation and every phase of plant life. Each of the eight offices is presided over by a chief, and by vote of the combined offices W. J. Spillman, professor of agronomy, was elected to have complete control of this exhibit authorized by an act of congress. Mr. Brodie was selected to have supervision of the planting and cultivation.

The several acres were fenced off early in April, and the entire tract was richly fertilized. The ground was plowed and harrowed, the soil pulverized, and the entire tract sowed to cow peas. This crop not only enriches the soil, but prevents the growth of weeds and will render the subsequent plowing unnecessary. As the crop to be grown will be required to be planted at intervals up to a short time before the opening of the exposition further plowing would prove impracticable. When an exhibit is ready to be installed the gardeners simply pull up the cow peas covering the space required. The ground is found to be in receptive condition and requires but little work upon it.

The monster map is, of course, the main feature of this comprehensive exhibit, and the crop grown on this small farm will cost the government considerably more than \$1,000 per acre. A belt of blue grass lawn twenty feet wide establishes the boundary and coast lines of this gigantic map. The boundary lines between the states are marked by cinder paths three feet wide. The territory comprising the fourteen states and territories of the Louisiana Purchase is marked by a white gravel walk. The states themselves are to be planted in growing crops of the principal agricultural products of the state. The cinder and gravel walks serve as promenades and are of sufficient width to permit the free passage of visitors. Thus a labyrinth of passageways is created and the visitor may wend his way through the maze and see by actual demonstration just what crops are grown in every part of the United States and how they are raised. The cereals will be the feature of the great northwest, while down in Florida will be seen growing the pineapple and orange and other semi-tropical fruits and crops. Tobacco will be a prominent feature of Kentucky's allotment, while sugar cane and cotton will be found growing in the plots of ground representing other southern states.

Not only will the products of each state be shown on this map by growing crops, but the section of the state on which each commodity is most grown will be shown. In the great northwestern state of Washington the map at St. Louis shows that wheat, corn, potatoes, hay and the wild grasses that thrive in the semi-arid districts are more largely grown in the eastern portion, while in the west hay, clover, vetches, timothy, orchard hay and grasses, hops, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are more grown. Thus on the small plot of ground that represents one great state will be found a score of different crops growing. There will be no actual dividing line between the growing crops, though in the cases of the various grasses, wheat, barley and buckwheat the line is as distinctly drawn by a wave of color as is the line that divides the muddy waters of the Mississippi from those of the comparatively clear Ohio at the junction of the two rivers at Cairo, Ill.

While the arrangement of the exhibits in the form of the monster map will fasten the eye more quickly and will challenge the admiration of every visitor to the fair, the agriculturist and horticulturist will find in the exhibits surrounding the map other exhibits of equal interest and importance.

Pathology of plants is treated in an extensive exhibit in the territory of the map that would be British Columbia did the map extend further than the United States. This exhibit is under the personal direction of Prof. Woods of the Department of Agriculture, and illustrates how the growing of plants of economic value are affected by diseases peculiar to plant life. Experiments will be conducted for the benefit of the agriculturist. Economic plants that are already affected are growing on the tract, and other areas of strong and healthy plants of the same species are inoculated with the spores of the disease and the results are carefully noted. The blight of the pear, the black knot on the plum, potato blight and all of the other diseases of plant life will be shown, and practical experiments showing the methods of treating will be carried on and the results shown.

Plant breeding is given a large section to the east of the pathology exhibit. Here is shown the effect and value of cross fertilization. Varieties of plants are often benefited by crossing. Cherries, for instance, fertilized by their own pollen, show no change in their fruit, but when fertilized by the pollen of other varieties of cherries show a marked change. Sometimes the result is good and sometimes otherwise. A strawberry that yields bountifully but is soft and will not bear shipment is cross-fertilized with a variety of firmer berry, with the probable result after much patient experimenting of securing a large increase in the yield, while the fruit will bear long shipment. From the seed of the fruit grown by cross-fertilization many of the valuable hybrids are obtained.

A unique feature of the government's open air exhibit is the school garden that occupies a large section extending (on the garden map) over the Dominion of Canada from Maine to Minnesota. This exhibit

is under the personal direction of Prof. Wheeler of Michigan, of the United States Department of Agriculture. The liberal space allotted to this exhibit has been cut up into numerous subdivisions, and each of these subdivisions in turn is turned over to the various St. Louis schools. A class of pupils is selected by the principal of the school so honored, and the actual work of planting and cultivating the garden is left to the pupils, under, of course, the general direction of Prof. Wheeler. Liberal prizes are offered for the best cultivated garden and for the best results. The sight of the little tots in their knickerbockers and gingham dresses, their sailor hats and sunbonnets, equipped with hoe and rake, is a sight all too seldom seen.

The immense grass garden grown under the personal direction of Prof. Spillman, who was selected by the Bureau of Plant Industry to have charge of the entire open-air exhibit, is one of surpassing value and interest. This grass garden occupies on the five-acre plot all of the space in the Atlantic ocean from Maine to Florida, and, rounding the peninsular, occupies a large portion of the Gulf of Mexico, off Florida's west coast.

In the northern section of that exhibit are a series of sand dunes, constructed so as properly to exhibit the sand-binding grasses. These grasses send their strong and vigorous roots down through the shifting sands and finally entrench themselves in the solid soil. As the plant becomes more firmly established and sends up its super growth, the roots firmly anchor it, protecting it from the ravages of the wind and hold it in its place. The plant enriches the barren sand on which it was originally planted, and in the course of not a great many years a rich soil takes the place of what was once a barren sandy stretch of no value.

Off the east coast of Georgia is a circular collection of twenty plots of an average size of 10x20 feet planted to the best tested varieties of lawn grasses. These plots are artistically arranged and are separated by gravel walks. The small lawns are marvels of the landscape gardener's art and the turf is so thick and so well kept that it appears as a velvet carpet.

Still further south is the section devoted to the ornamental grasses. Here is shown the pampas grass growing up ten, twelve and fifteen feet high and all the other ornamental grasses, including the ribbon grasses, attaining a height of three and four feet, down to the dainty little sweet vernal grass that seldom reaches a foot in height. In this section, as in all the others, the shorter grass is grown in the plots nearest the huge map centerpiece, while the taller grasses occupy the spaces on the edge of the exhibit. This adds to the artistic and uniform appearance of the display and the view of no section is impaired.

In the section of the Gulf of Mexico, west of Florida, are the sections given over to the cultivated grasses, such as timothy, red top, orchard grasses, English and Italian rye grasses, etc.

The seed production section will be of immense value to the agriculturist. This exhibit occupies that portion of the Gulf of Mexico extending from Florida to the

interior of Mexico. Here the seeds grown in all parts of the world are tested side by side. As an example, seed wheat grown in Washington, the Dakotas, Maine, Florida, and in Europe, Asia and Africa, are planted in adjoining sections. The growth and results are carefully noted and it is thus accurately determined for the region where the experiment is conducted from where the seed should be obtained to get the best results. Other experiments with all the other important agricultural products are similarly made and the results may be noted by the visitor to this City of Knowledge.

Another section west of that devoted to seed production is one equally important and interesting, illustrating the fiber plants, their growth and the best approved methods of handling. Here may be seen growing in the same manner as in their native homes, hemp, flax, cotton and other important plants grown for their fiber. Scarcely less interesting are the appliances for picking and handling the cotton and the retting of the stalk that contains the flax fiber.

West of this, in the deadly parallel column, are displays of the poisonous and medicinal plants. Growing side by side are the poison and its antidote. Prominent in the poisonous section are plants that are injurious to stock, notably the famed loco weed. This plant when eaten by a horse crazes the animal and drives it frantic and sometimes even produces death. Another dangerous plant is the wild parsnip, little less desirable than the loco plant. In this section are shown the best methods for the extermination of the poisonous plants and also the best remedies for the treatment of horses and cattle after they have partaken of the poisonous growths.

In the medical section beautiful beds of poppies are to be seen and the methods of obtaining opium and all of the medicinals and poisons produced from the weird drug are shown. Here, too, is the foxglove, from which is made digitalis, and the deadly nightshade, from which is produced belladonna and numerous other medicinal plants and herbs.

Prof. Carleton of the Department of Agriculture has charge of the immense exhibit of cereals that grow in the space west of the map. Here may be seen the various specimens going to make up wheat, corn, oat, rye and barley families.

Each sectional exhibit outside the map is divided from the section adjoining it by a broad gravel walk, while the beauty of the exhibit is enhanced by a strip of smooth blue grass lawn completely surrounding it.

Reflections of a Bachelor

Good figures are not what they are dressed up to be.

When they are down in the world a man is cowed, a woman defiant.

A hammock is built for two, even when it isn't big enough for one.

The more sisters a man has the more men he feels sorry for as they get married.—New York Press.