The Bee's Home Magazine Page

From the Stage to the Army

The Famous Russian Dancers, Mme. Alexandra Balachowa, Who Is to Be a Red Cross Nurse, and M. Michaeal Mordkin, Who Is a Reservist, Leaving London for Russa.

M. Michael Mordkin and Mme. Balachowa, who only a short time ago were giving their "Dance Bacchanale" in London, both recently left there for Russia to serve their country in the war. M. Mordkin has gone as a reservist and Mme. Balachowa to act as a Red Cross nurse. M. Mordkin is reported to have remarked laughingly to some friends before he started that he had taught a number of Russians and Britons and other people to dance, and now he was going to have an opportunity of teaching the enemies of his native land to dance.

English Actresses as Golfers

These Stage Favorites Across the Water are Fond of This Kind of a Tee Party.

Miss Jean Aylwin. Miss Ellaline Terriss. Miss Evelyn d'Alroy.

The English woman is as devoted to out-door sports as her energetic American sister—and golfing is one of her favorite pastimes.

Miss Marie Blanche.

Love and Loyalty

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

"Love me with absolute love, faith is in fulness or naught."—Browning.

S. H. writes me as follows:

"I am twenty-four years old and am secretly engaged to a girl four years my junior. We have been friends for three years. As I work four nights a week, I cannot be with her or know where she is then. When I first met her she had the reputation of occasinally fibbing. I know she loves me, and our love seems to be at its supremest moment. Yet she deceived me grossly last night. She wants to marry, but I can't think of living with a girl I cannot trust, though I love her better than anything in life. I love her too much to marry her and be forced to leave her. What shall I do?"

"What shall you do?" Trust the girl you love.

Faith can work miracles. If your trust of the girl you love were absolute and unquestioning the chances are absolutely ten to one that she would struggle with her baser nature in order to reward your faith with faith.

If, instead of remembering unpleasant gossip you once heard of the girl you now love, you would remember only that she is the woman you love, you would keep your mind a saner, healthier thing. She would feel the force of your confidence and it would help her in any struggle she might be making to be worthy of it.

The honor system in many schools and colleges is based on the simple principle of human nature. Examinations are given, and no teachers are left in charge. The pupils would be free to cheat if they had the desire, but their minds are influenced by the fact that it is being taken for granted that they will play fair. There is no unholy excitement in cheating teachers who leave you free to do it if that is the sort of boy you are.

In the school of life and love the same idea applies. An atmosphere of suspicion may make a weak character reason. "I have the name—now why not the game, too?" An atmosphere of distrust makes an uncertain woman distrust herself. She breathes lack of faith—she is reminded that fair play is not a simple thing to be taken for granted just as breathing is.

Say to the girl you love, frankly and sincerely: "Dear, I am not quite strong enough to forget some of the unfair things that were once insinuated to me about you. I do belive, though, that now you will play fair. I trust you absolutely for the present. I know you wouldn't break my heart by failing me, and my faith now. But I want you to help me in a grave matter—I need your help, and you are the only one who can help me. I want you to play so absolutely fair that I will be ashamed of ever having heard it insinuated that you were not on the level. Will you help me forget—so that we can start our married life without any handicap of haunting memories? And remember, dear, I trust you."

And to yourself, keep saying every time you think of the girl you love, "I trust you."

So you will make your own trust grow—and if the girl is not totally unworthy of your consideration she will prove worthy of that trust.

Confidence and a feeling of responsibility have a strong effect on character. It grows to meet the responsibility and expands to be worthy of the confidence.

Don't base your married life on a half love without faith. Cultivate faith—think it into being in your own heart and hers. And the miracle of a perfect love and faith will work a miracle in the heart of the girl you love if it is at all fertile soil.

The new experience of being trusted will become so precious to her that she will cherish it and the honest loyalty that makes her worthy of to faith you are giving her. It will come to seem to her a distardly thing to deceive the man who loves and trusts her in the strength of an affection that makes her strong too.

The most wonderful "faith cure" in all the world is the strength of character that through its own unswerving loyalty and honesty transmutes a weaker love into a feeling that strives to be worthy of what is expected of it.

Try faith—it will make your own love perfect and it will encourage your sweetheart's struggling soul to be the fine, pure thing you are thinking it to be.

Cervantes

By REV. THOMAS B. GREGORY.

The genius whose inimitable humor girdled the globe with the honest laughter that has made humanity shake its sides for more than three centuries was himself a man of many sorrows and much tribulation.

With just a fair education, Cervantes began his career as a poet. He knew that he could rhyme, and he was of the opinion that he could write real poetry.

But developments convinced him that he was mistaken, and with characteristic resolution he cut the Muses and offered himself at the altar of Mars.

For five or six years Cervantes was a "soldier bold," following the wars in various lands. In the famous battle of Lepanto, wherein Don John so effectively smashed up the great Turkish armada, Cervantes bore a gallant part, covering himself with "glory"—and receiving the wound which practically ended his military career.

After 1571, the year of Lepanto, Cervantes led seroving life, by land and sea, and during one of his adventures was captured by a pack of Algerine pirates, by whom he was held in bondage for several years.

The price of his ransom being finally raised by friends, Cervantes was released, and at the age of 36 found himself once more in Spain.

His left arm had been shattered at Lepanto, but his right was as sound as ever, and with that good right hand he would write, not poetry, this time, but prose. The result was "Galatea"—and "Galatea" fell flat.

He had tried poetry, he had tried the novel, failing in both instances; and now he would try writing for the stage. Thirty odd plays were reeled off, of which only two or three succeeded in awakening any particular interest.

It looked like failure all along the line—total, hopeless failure.

Then came a period of twenty years' duration—twenty years of grim, dogged, unremitting struggle for life, in which Cervantes turned his hand to whatever he could find to do. For a while he was commissary of the fleets, a political job that lasted but a little while, and paid but poorly even while it did last.

The cries of his domestic necessities overcame his pride, and he begged the king for some position that would provide bread and shelter for his wife and child, but begged in vain.

In 1588, when about 50 years old, Cervantes attracted the attention and sympathy of a kind-hearted old prior, who gave him the job of collecting the tithes due him in the district of Argamadilla. In attempting to make his collections he was set upon by the enraged villagers, beaten and cast into prison.

It looked as though the sun had now gone down forever and that the night had come that was to know no morning, and yet it was in La Mancha prison that the tide in Cervantes' fortune was to turn.

In that prison he thought out the plan of "Don Quixote," a work that was to make him famous the world over and the ages through.

It appears from the records that the license for the publication of "Don Quixote" was granted to Cervantes on the 26th of September, 1604—a date that has but two or three peers in the whole history of the human intellect.

Ask the real scholars to name the "Big Four" in the republic of letters, the unapproachable quartet in the field of literary creation, and you may be reasonably sure that they will answer: "Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Cervantes."

A great book is the highest work of man, and of great books the greatest are the Homeric poems, the dramas of Shakespeare, the "Divine Comedy" of Dante, and Cervantes' "Don Quixote." Of this illustrated quartet of literary masterpieces the "Don Quixote" is perhaps the greatest. Thousands who know next to nothing of Homer, Dante or Shakespeare have by turns laughed and felt sorrowful over the story of the immortal Spaniard.

And what is the secret of the popularity of Don Quixote? Why is it the great book not only of Spain but of the world? The answer is, because its chief characters, about whom the whole story revolves, are absolutely true to human nature—to human nature as it is in all lands and all ages.

As long as dinner remains a prime necessity, and as long as we feel that, notwithstanding the importance of dinner, that is that which far outranks it in importance—even the ideal with its dreams and visions of honor, truth and right—Cervantes' book will hold its power over us.

In the noble fancies of the old don, and in the practical, commonsense make-up of Sancho Panza, we will continue to find ourselves, our strange human life, with its pathos and its bathos, its "bursts of great heart" and its "backsliding;" the side of it which holds us down to the animal necessities of the passing day, and that other side of it which lifts us up to "God, freedom and immortality."

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX

Your Parents Are Right.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young lady of seventeen and am in love with a young man of nineteen. He asks me to with him to a town ninety miles away to visit his relations. Do you think it is proper to go? My parents object, but would it be right for me to go if he should send for me later?

I feel as though I ought to go because my parents are so mean. VERONICA H.

Don't call your parents mean. They are very wise not to permit a young girl to go away with a boy on a visit to his relations. Please, please my dear girl, obey them. You would be severely criticized if you made this trip and your parents wish to guard your reputation.

Aren't You Conceited?

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am 18 and deeply in love with a fellow three years my senior, as I know he cares for me. Just about a year ago he went away to another city and never told me anything about it. Where I am employed there works a fellow ten years my senior, and it seems to me he cares for me. Do you think it would be right for me to love him, or to wait until the first comes back. The first fellow isn't Catholic. My girl friends say that the second fellow is too old for me. GRACE W.

You have no right to think a man cares for you until he tells you so. So I would advise you to attend to your work and not permit yourself to love either man until he asks you to. Save your love for a man who wants it and will appreciate it, Grace.

Ignore Him.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I went to a dance the other evening. One of the boys winked at me. I did not wink back. Since then he has treated me coolly. Was I in the wrong?

Is it right to let a boy kiss you? How should a girl of 15 or 16 wear her hair and what length should a girl of the same age wear her dresses? LITTLE RED SLIPPERS.

The boy very likely meant no harm, but you certainly did no wrong in declining to wink at him. Ignore him entirely and he will get over his coolness; if he doesn't you have lost very little. A girl of 15 or 16 should wear her hair in a braid and her dresses should be ankle length.

Distant Relatives.

Dear Miss Fairfax: If A and A are cousins, and B and B are their children, what relation is B to B, also what relation is A to B?

What parlor games are suitable for a church gathering in a home. TROUBLED.

First cousins are second cousins once removed to the children of each other, and the children of cousins are second cousins twice removed. Many games are appropriate for home church gatherings; among the most popular are guessing games. Another good game, and one that is usually the source of much amusement, is the rhyming game. One person writes a line and the next adds another, the purpose being to make up a verse of poetry. The result of this is usually highly entertaining.