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ASHES OF ROSES.

'Mid roses and rustle and laughter,  
Tea, greetings and gossip as well,  
The two of them met, a year after—  
That neither would care to tell.  
Yet who could have said it mattered,  
Although with the eyes to see?—  
For they gossiped  
and laughed and chattered  
Of the marriages soon to be,  
Of the fact of his lessening chances,  
And the strangers come to town,  
The dinners and plays and dances,  
And the death of poor Nell Brown.

And he—oh, he spoke of his journey,  
And how Gibson had made a hit  
With his "Married," and Susie Gurney  
Was the model who sat for it.  
And they talked of Le Gallienne's novel,  
And she argued  
that Browning was wrong,  
With his rot about love and a hovel,  
And hunger and babies and song!  
And they chatted and sipped  
and debated,  
Till a man who was gaunt and gray  
Came and said that the carriage waited,  
And hurried his wife away.

And so in the crowd they parted,  
And the world went on the same;  
And neither was broken-hearted,  
Yet unto them both there came  
A thought that they dared not cherish,  
A riddle they left unread:  
"How so much of them both could perish,  
Yet neither, indeed, be dead!"

—The Smart Set.

Motifs.

Among the ruins of her life a woman  
wept. "Here," she said, "I built my  
happiness, and for that which made it,  
gave the jewels of my soul. A joy worth  
so much, I thought, must last; but here  
I mourn, for it lies fallen in the dust,  
shattered by the weight of what it  
cost."

On the walls of an old temple was  
found this picture: A king forging  
from his crown a chain, and nearby a  
slave making of his chain a crown. And  
underneath was written: "Life is what  
man makes of it, no matter of what it  
is made."

They sought a place to bury their  
hatchet and chose the heart of a friend  
who stopped the fight.

Surrounded by the pleasures of a  
pampered life, a woman sighed. "I  
have all the gifts a world can give," she  
said, "and would give them all for the  
wish to keep them.—April Century.

A Prize Thought.

A teacher of music in one of the pub-  
lic schools of the south desired to im-  
press the pupils with the meaning of the  
signs "f" and "ff" in a song they were  
about to sing. After explaining that  
"f" meant forte, he said: "Now, child-  
ren, if 'f' means forte, what does 'ff'  
mean?"  
Silence reigned for a moment, and  
then he was astonished to hear a bright  
little fellow shout:  
"Eighty!"—Lippencott for April.

Miss Summit—My doctor says I  
ought to sit still as long as I can and  
not exert myself.  
Miss Palisade—Well, that won't be so  
hard. You can still go to dances.—The  
Bazar.

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THE CERTAINTY.

The Doctor's Wife (*opening her eyes*)  
What! Going out  
again? It must  
be after one o'clock.  
The Doctor: (*struggling into his vest*)  
Yes, just.

The Doctor's wife:  
How dreadful! Wear your heavy coat.  
And, dear, please, will you mail my note,  
There, on the mantel?  
The Doctor: Yes; all right.  
The Doctor's Wife:  
And hurry, hurry back, for, oh,  
When you're away, like this, at night,  
I never sleep!

The Doctor: You don't?  
The Doctor's Wife: Why, no!  
What wife could calmly rest?  
The Doctor: Ah, true!  
The Doctor's Wife:  
So come straight home.  
The Doctor: That's what I'll do:  
I won't stay out to view the sky.  
But try to doze, dear, meanwhile.  
The Doctor's Wife (*reproachfully*): I?  
(*Opening her eyes after a silence*)  
Do hurry and get off, for then  
You'll be the sooner back again.  
It is so lonely watching here!  
The Doctor (*taking off his necktie*):  
I've just been gone three hours,  
my dear!

—By Madeline S. Bridges,  
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