

"He is undoubtedly a very magnanimous man," declared Mr. Belinski.

They all paid Mr. Wilson the tribute of a moment's silence.

"What are you going to say?" asked Mr. Porritt at last.

Cluny slowly fetched the big diary, with pencil attached. Under the eyes of the two men she wrote, crossed out, chewed her pencil and wrote again; and at the end of ten minutes silently drew back to let them read:

"DEAR MR. WILSON, PLEASE DO NOT TROUBLE TO MEET THAT TRAIN STOP I AM VERY SORRY TO BE A DISAPPOINTMENT TO YOU BUT BETTER NOW THAN LATER ON STOP I SHALL NEVER FORGET YOU STOP POSTAL ORDER FOLLOWS ALL THE BEST FROM UNCLE ARNOLD MR. BELINSKI AND CLUNY BROWN."

**TURNABOUT**

I got into a first-class carriage at Ascot, in which was an elderly, irritable gentleman, who occupied one seat and placed his luggage upon another. Just before we started, a youth came running up and tried to jump in.

"This compartment is full," said the old gentleman; "that seat is taken by a friend of mine who has put his bag there."

The youth plumped down with the remark, "All right, I'll stay till he comes," and took the bag on his knees.

In vain the old person looked daggers. The "friend" did not appear, and the train presently moved off. As we glided down the platform, the interloper flung the bag through the window, with the quiet remark:

"Your friend has missed his train, evidently; we mustn't let him lose his luggage into the bargain!"

I shall never forget, to my dying day, the expression on the old gentleman's countenance.

—E. J. HARDY.  
What Men Like in Women. (G. W. Dillingham.)



*"Who said food rationing would help my figure?"*

It's plain to see that starchy wartime meals  
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To help you lose in weight, gain in fitness,  
Ry-Krisp has a simple, sensible reducing plan.

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If no one was quite satisfied with this production, no one could suggest any improvements—or none that Cluny would admit. She was not perfectly satisfied herself, but at least the message had one great merit, that of length; it was going to cost a lot more than Mr. Wilson had allowed for, thus showing they weren't mean. She took it out to the boy, and it was a solemn moment when they heard the gate close behind him and his footsteps diminish down the road.

"That's that," said Cluny Brown. "Cheer up, Uncle Arn; we're not dead yet."

She caught Belinski's eye, and wordlessly indicated that he had better take himself off. He bade his future uncle-in-law good night, adding that he would come round in the morning (to which Mr. Porritt replied that he would be out on a job) and Cluny took her lover into the narrow hall, where for the first time he kissed her. They had been sure of each other already, but it was with a sweeter assurance still that Cluny returned to the kitchen and after a moment's hesitation sat down in her old place, opposite her uncle, across the Porritt hearth.

It felt queer to be back; not quite real. She had been away only four months, but