

## Thought She Ought to Know

By EDITH V. ROSS

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Young Mrs. Hardenburgh was a creature of impulse. She was not only swayed by impulse, but would take the most important steps without realizing what she was doing. Decisions that another would only make after long deliberation she would make on the instant.

Nevertheless Mrs. Hardenburgh was a dear little woman, kind hearted, lovable and popular with all who knew her. The only trait that interfered with her getting on with all the world was that if told anything to one's disadvantage she would not stop to question the truth of the information, but proceed at once to strike the culprit's name off her list.

Now, there are persons in the world who think nothing of making trouble between other persons, even to the members of families. A woman one day gave Mrs. Hardenburgh information about her husband's doings which if true would have marked him as a very dishonorable and contemptible person. The informer had got the news from another, who had got it from some one else. Her ground for telling Mrs. Hardenburgh of it was that she thought she ought to know it. It did not occur to the tale-bearer that it might not be true, and if it were true it was just the thing of all others the guilty man's wife should not know. Nevertheless the above named reason is the universal excuse of those persons who carry such information.

Mrs. Hardenburgh was thrown into hysterics by the story and, instead of giving her husband an opportunity to defend himself of the charge, ran away to her mother as fast as she could go. Being an only child, her mother was used to humoring her and on this occasion gave her unbounded sympathy. Whether the good lady doubted the truth of the story and intended later to pave the way to a reconciliation does not appear. For the time being she comforted her child as best she could. When the latter had recovered her equanimity her mother suggested that she send her husband the reasons for her flight. The young wife did so, sprinkling her note with such words as "perfidious," "disgraceful," "iniquitous," and the like.

When Hardenburgh returned home in the evening and found the letter, instead of running right around to his wife to explain matters he sat down to think. It was certainly not pleasing that he had married a wife who, when a firebrand was thrown into the family, instead of picking it up and tossing it back at the thrower had proceeded to set the house afire with it. If he were going to live with his wife it was certainly necessary that he eliminate this trait in her, and if he could not eliminate it it was perhaps better that they should remain apart.

He had for some time meditated going to a distant city to settle a long standing matter of business, but had put the trip off from time to time on account of having just been married. Within an hour after his return to his home he had announced to the servants that he was going away and started for the railway station.

The young wife meanwhile was passing through the transition common to all persons who act hastily. When she had been somewhat calmed her mother ventured to suggest that the charge might not be true. To this the daughter responded that the informer had no object in giving false information and had done it only since she thought the wife ought to know it. Nevertheless Mrs. Hardenburgh began to be worried. She noted the hour that her husband usually returned home and gave him time to come to her. After several hours had elapsed and Mr. Har-

denburgh did not appear she could not conceal her trepidation. She gave her mother as a reason for it that she feared something might have happened to him.

When 10 o'clock came and there was no news from the culprit husband the butler was sent to the house to reconnoiter. He returned reporting that Mr. Hardenburgh had gone away.

The result of this information which Mrs. Hardenburgh's friend "thought she ought to know" opened with the most frightful night the young wife ever spent. From her previous condemnation of her husband she swung to the other extreme, and it rushed upon her with overpowering force that the really good man who had married her could not possibly have been guilty of any such conduct as had been imputed to him. After a sleepless night she went home, hoping to learn something of her husband's movements. She was disappointed. The servants only knew that he had gone away the night before. The disconsolate wife went to her husband's office, but elicited no information there.

And now Mrs. Hardenburgh began to think of making inquiries of the informer as to where she got the information. The dear woman who had so great an interest in her friend's affairs said that she had "heard it as coming from"—And Mrs. Hardenburgh's investigations never got any further than "as coming from."

After two weeks' absence Mr. Hardenburgh returned to find his wife waiting for him, a very penitent woman, not likely to make the same mistake again.

Strange to say, the young wife after all did not appreciate having heard what she ought to know and does not speak to the informer.

### TOLD IN PANTOMIME.

The Worth of a Chinese Royal Gift to Li Hung Chang.

The late empress dowager of China was something of a humorist. The author of "Behind the Scenes in Peking" tells a story of how Li Hung Chang, after concluding the treaty of Shimonoseki, was presented by the empress with a cloth of gold bag containing some heavy article. The treasure turned out to be a large vase, and Li, who was an enthusiastic collector of Chinese ceramics, at once sent for his secretary, Mr. Pethick, to come and examine the new acquisition.

Some time was spent in a careful examination to determine the dynasty during which this treasure was produced, but the date of this special paste was lost, with its other technical classifications. After a long time Mr. Pethick lifted it gingerly, placed it on a table, put himself in front of it, drawing a wrap round his shoulders, and slowly, very slowly, held his hands up to it, turning them in the attitude of warming at a fire.

Chinese need few words. Li understood and was heartbroken. The pantomime indicated to him that the supposed priceless vase was only a clever reproduction made in Paris, and the secretary, warming his hands before it, meant it was so fresh from the pottery furnace that he could still notice the warmth.

### Why Spiders Fight.

When two spiders fight there is generally a good reason for the attack and the vigorous defense that follows. It is not generally known that after a certain time spiders become incapable of spinning a web from lack of material. The glutinous excretion from which the slender threads are spun is limited; therefore spiders cannot keep on constructing new snares when the old ones are destroyed. But they can avail themselves of the web producing powers of their younger neighbors, and this they do without scruple. As soon as a spider's web, constructed material has become exhausted and its last web destroyed it sets out in search of another home, and unless it should chance to find one that is better than a home already occupied, it will not hesitate to take the retreat of a neighbor.

## Wescott Car Has Young Track Pilot



Harry Knight, who will be at the wheel of a Westcott special racing car entered in the 500-mile International Sweepstakes race over the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Memorial Day, May 30, next. Knight is known as one of the youngest speedway drivers and has been successful, although in the game but a short time. His notable victories of 1910 were the winning of second place in the free-for-all event on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and others. Knight is a hard but careful driver, and his car a very consistent runner. He is expected to be one of the finishers with the money in the 500-mile race.

## SEE FOREIGN INVASION

AUTO MAKERS HEAR OF RACING MONSTERS COMING.

Germans Send Over Master Speed Creations for Competition in 500-Mile Race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Teuton motor makers are offering America a sensation for the 1911 automobile racing season by sending across the Atlantic a speed monster from the Daimler Mercedes factory, which has time annihilation reduced to a minimum. This great steel steed carries beneath its hood a motor with 583 cubic inches piston displacement and is the largest Mercedes car ever imported into America.

Spencer Wishart, of Port Chester, N. Y., a young racing pilot who has won many big events in this same make of car, has purchased the new creation and his entry in the 500-mile International Sweepstakes race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to be run on Memorial Day, May 30, was the first announcement of the dimensions of the metal mount which he will drive this year. The cylinders have a 5.1-inch bore and the pistons a 7.1-inch stroke, showing that the German makers still believe in the speed and endurance possibilities of the long-stroke motor.

The car is light in weight, for it weighs but 2,400 pounds, which is almost down to the minimum for the race, the limit being 2,300 pounds, while the piston displacement of the Speedway classic is placed at 600 cubic inches. Wishart will take the big car to the Indianapolis track about the first of May to begin his tuning for the long event. The speed requirement of 75 miles per hour does not worry the young driver, for his car has shown better than 110 miles per hour in the German tests.

The car was ordered by the owner and driver when he was in Germany late last year, and several months have been spent in the making. The careful German mechanics build racing cars more slowly than those of any other nation, but when the cars are completed they are certain to run—and run well.

This is the first foreign car to be entered in the long grind, but the Speedway management has been advised that a half dozen of the best cars manned by foreign drivers will be in line for the start before the close of the entries. Among those who are now planning to come over after the \$25,000 purse are Hemery in a Benz, Nazarro and Wagner in Fiats, Lancia and a team mate in Lancia cars, Rigal in a Bayard-Clement, the three-car team of the Lion-Peugeot Company, while the Metallurgique Company of Belgium will probably send over a car for an American driver to take through the event.

Herbert Lytle, the dean of American pilots, is after a Napier, while "Wild Bob" Burman is undecided between a Buick "100" and a Mercedes. If the Cossack of the motor car decides on the Mercedes the Germans will have another monster ready for the event.

### BRUCE-BROWN ENTERS RACE.

David Bruce-Brown has formally entered his 90 horsepower Fiat stripped chassis in the 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Decoration Day. The entry of the winner of the 415-mile International Road race for the Automobile Club of America's Grand Prize gold cup at Savannah on November 12, 1910, assures keen competition for the ten cash prizes—aggregating \$25,000—that have been offered for the long event.

The 500-mile race at Indianapolis will be Mr. Bruce-Brown's first appearance in competition on a specially built motordrome course.

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