

Jessie Millward

Miss Jessie Millward, whose winsome personality and dramatic ability have made her a favorite on both sides of the Atlantic, is an English girl. She was born in London, and first made her fame there in Shakespearean roles. She played "Juliet" in Sir Henry Irving's company in England seven years ago. Then she came to this country and made a hit with the leading parts in "Lord and Lady Algy" and "His Excellency, the Governor." Last year she was Henry Miller's leading lady in "The Taming of Helen," and this season she has been playing in "A Clean Slate."

Happiness, supreme happiness! There is no such thing. For ten years I pursued the will-o'-the-wisp, and then the knowledge came to me that that for which I so eagerly, expectantly sought—as every woman eagerly, expectantly seeks it through all the bright days of girlhood—did not exist. And the realization did not come as a crushing blow, as it might come to some women. I felt it rather as a relief. For in place of the brilliant, glancing thing that had danced tantalizingly in my path-



turned with reluctant feet. I shall never forget the sensation that went to my heart as my hand touched the gate and it swung open.

The garden was fragrant with flowers, and through the shimmering foliage the sunshine glimmered, while down the box-bordered path the door of the cottage stood ajar in welcome. All the sad sorrow and the turbulent trouble of life rolled away in one great wave. The gate clicked as it closed, and all the tiresome, struggling world was shut out. Words cannot describe the feeling that surged over me. It was a sensation of perfect, absolute peace, without alloy of any remotest suggestion of pain.

That was, I know now, the happiest day of my life. I say it in retrospect; I should never have said it in prospect could I have looked ahead that far when I stood in my careless, glorious 'teens.