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One Road to Contentment.

By RUTH CAMERON.



"An ill favored thing, sir, but mine own." — As You Like It.

What a glamorous possession does a cast over the humblest object! A neighbour of mine who has long planned to build a home which was to contain many unusually attractive features has finally bought a house which she was able to get at a great bargain.

It is not at all the sort of thing she planned, and when I saw it I thought how disappointed she must be. I expressed my sympathy with her disappointment to a mutual friend who had visited her in her new home and she promptly retorted:—

"But she isn't the least bit disappointed. She's the kind of person who takes what she can get and likes it because it's hers."

A Practical Way to be Happy. And when I also visited her I found it true.

Liking a thing because it's yours is a very practical way to be happy. Or if you cannot actually obtain happiness by it (as this woman certainly could) you can at least accomplish the next best thing—you can convince others that you are happy.

A very pretty talented girl of whom better things were expected, married a distinctly commonplace man. At least that was what everyone thought at the time.

Throwing Them Off the Scent.

Now they no longer know what to think. For his wife never misses an opportunity to tell people how clever he is. Eventually she will probably succeed in convincing people that she did make a brilliant match after all.

To praise and admire anybody on whom the lustre of one's patronage falls is another form of this determined self-satisfaction. I know a woman who, because of her reduced means, was obliged to patronize a cheap tailor. Instead of keeping silent about this fact, or appearing to regret it, she at once began to praise him to the skies. She was always saying how smooth his lines were, how beautifully he finished things and what surprisingly good taste he had. The result was both amusing and pathetic in that she made him so popular that he went up on his prices and she could no longer afford to patronize him. She is now equally enthusiastic about another tailor who has the distinction of her patronage.

After all, such satisfaction even if it springs from no noble source is better than the dissatisfaction of the type of person who is never satisfied with anything.

If you can get what you like, then learn to like what you can get is a very practical philosophy. And even if you only pretend to like what you can get is a very practical philosophy. And even if you only pretend to like it at first, this pretense is apt to react on your real feelings and make you more content than you would otherwise be.

Ruth Cameron

How One Man Won His V. C.

Lieutenant John Henry Stephen Dimmer, of the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, has been gazetted V. C.

The following details of the action in which he won the honor are given: The 2nd Battalion took up a position in the trenches at Klein Zillebeke on October 21. For almost three weeks there was an exchange of rifle and machine gun fire, with little advantage to either side. Matters lived up on November 8, when the attack of the Prussian Guard was first expected. When Lieut. Dimmer went to inspect the position he was saluted by three rifle shots, which passed through his cap.

On the 9th the Prussian Guard attacked in great force, but they were eventually driven back. The day following saw a renewal of the attack and one of the two machine guns under Lieut. Dimmer's charge, that on the left, was put out of action. Rifle fire, of course, was continuous.

Later that day the other gun was forced to retire, though this was again brought up into the firing line by the lieutenant under cover of darkness, valuable assistance being given by Corp. Cordingley. For this Corp. Cordingley was mentioned in despatches and recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal, but unfortunately he received his death wound at the hands of the Prussian Guard.

On November 12 all was quiet until 1 p.m., a most unusual time, when the Prussian Guard commenced their final attack. Lieut. Dimmer was ordered to beat them back, and he brought his gun into action, with three men assisting. There was a heavy mist, however, and the cartridge belts becoming wet jammed in the feed. Although exposed to a galling fire, Lieut. Dimmer at once attempted with a spanner to make the necessary adjustment, when he received a bullet in the jaw, which—in his own words—"he did not mind; it only made him wild."

Shrapnel burst everywhere along the trench and the rifle fire became fiercer. The three men at the gun were picked off one by one, but the lieutenant remained at his post, and a shrapnel bullet hit him in the right eye, almost blinding him. Another shell exploded a few minutes afterwards and killed the left eye with streams of blood.

The enemy's attack appeared to slacken, and Lieut. Dimmer staggered to the machine gun again, though both his eyes were almost blinded with blood from his wounds. Observ-

ing the Kaiser's Guards turning to retreat, he thought he would give them a little something to go on with, and banged away for all he was worth."

He was still alone at the gun, emptying belt after belt of cartridges. Then another shrapnel shell burst, and the V. C. hero was hit in the left shoulder. It did not stop him firing, however, but eventually a bullet from a rifle in the same shoulder laid him out quite unconscious.

The heroic lieutenant, wounded and bleeding in five places, had fired 900 cartridges and so saved the position. After a time he recovered consciousness, men of his regiment bandaged him, and by their aid he was able to hobble along to make his report.

Who Beat the Prussian Guard?

Sir John French's army order thanking the First Army Corps and its assistants from the Second Army Corps for their splendid resistance to the German attack, including that of the fifteen fresh battalions of the German Guards Corps, would throw further light on the composition of the force that defeated the German Guards if it were possible to publish the regiments of these divisions.

That, however, is not yet possible, but from various sources one can name several regiments that played a part in that all-important victory.

Lord Lincolnshire, speaking at Slough, said that the thin khaki line that stopped and smashed the Prussian Guard was made up of "a certain portion of the Brigade of Guards, the Black Watch, and the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry." From letters now received from soldiers at the front the Guardsmen can be identified as the Irish Guards.

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Interviews show that the King's Liverpool Rifles (which contains many Welshmen) also had a valiant share, together with the Northamptonshire and the Inniskillen Fusiliers are said to have heavily punished the Germans as they retreated.

It is thus clear that the German corps d'elite were up against a comprehensive representation of an Irish Regiment, largely Roman Catholic, an Irish Orange Protestant regiment, Scottish Highlanders, a Home Counties, a midland, and a northern English regiment. The honors are thus divided through the United Kingdom.

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Sunny Smiles.



The sunny smile is an asset, and has a hundred uses; but it won't help you in your biz, if coupled with excuses. I ordered a few bales of hay from Binx, the local dealer; he said he'd send them right away, with horses and four-wheeler. A broken promise makes me sick, and sore and aggravated; and "right away" means pretty quick, where I was educated. I waited for those seven bales, and still I was denied them; the horses chewed their manger rails, and ate the ropes that tied them. I called on Binx, that man of gulle, and turned loose some orations; and he produced his sunny smile, and fifty explanations. "Your smiles a winning one, indeed," I said, "you blamed old pirate, but that won't give my horses feed when those poor beasts desire it. Hereafter I will buy my hay from Theodore J. Thomas; he doesn't smile in your glad way, but he can keep a promise." I said these things and many more, and criticised his doings; and then I wrecked his fodder store, and gloated over the ruins. What's the use of sellin' tin banks or tiles—if big success you pray for, don't bank too much on sunny smiles—the goods are what men pay for.

Fads and Fashions.

A great many of the new hats suggest the headgear of European soldiers.

Belts and girdles will be worn at the natural waistline, also above and below it.

Dotted Swiss is said to be promised for spring, and so is embroidered organdy.

It is quite likely the polonaise will come into fashion as the spring comes on.

The present tendency for spring is towards short coats and flaring, rippling skirts.

Broche crepe de chine is excellent for half-season blouses, especially in dark blues.

Loosely draped veils, bordered with ribbon, fur or chenille dots, are a new feature.

Fur neckbands, finished with a pleating of silk, velvet or ribbon, are frequently seen.

Shoetops are made of black and dark gray cloth, sprinkled with gold or silver polka dots.

With plain sporty shirtwaists colored stone buttons and Egyptian jewelry should be worn.

The lace blouses worn with a separate skirt will make a costume appropriate for many occasions.

The embroidered turnover points, lace trimmed or embroidered, are coming into fashion in neckwear.

Some of the new wraps stand out in fold after fold about the hips. They are extremely smart and roomy.

One of the best evening costumes a woman can have is the black net, over white satin and taffeta foundations.

It is said that the new hats will be straight up the back. In other words, shapes will be up and away from the neck.

The artificial flower, adding a vivid touch of color to the evening gown, has to some extent taken the place of jewelry.

The fashionable flare skirt has had its influence on the veil; the flare veil is worn with a small hat having the tiniest of brims.

"Dutch dresses" are very attractive for young girls. Frequently they have the broad straps over the shoulders, the high broad belt and full gathered skirt.

An old blouse with a V-shaped opening can have the opening filled in with one of the new chemisettes having a rolled collar, and its entire aspect will be changed.

There is a growing tendency toward combining fabrics for children's dresses. This will give the economical mother an opportunity for making over old materials.

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Austro-German Loss Put at 3,500,000 Men.

Correspondent Estimates Appalling German Total of 3,000,000 from Latest Lists.

Copenhagen, Dec. 26. (Dispatch to The London Daily Mail)—Prussian casualty lists, numbered 101 to 108, have been received here. They contain the names of 35,883 killed, wounded, and missing officers and men, bringing the total Prussian losses up to 753,202.

To these are to be added 80 Saxon lists, 82 Wurttemberg, 125 Bavarian, and 13 navy lists. The Bavarian losses are so heavy that it may be calculated that nearly half their army is out of action.

The Prussian losses up to date, including those not yet published, may be set down as about 250,000 dead, 400,000 missing, and 850,000 wounded, and bringing the total up to about one and a half million. With the Saxon, Wurttemberg, Bavarian and navy losses, the German losses altogether must be about 2,000,000.

About 25,000 officers have been killed and 25,000 officers wounded, but only 4,000 officers are missing.

According to information from Vienna the Austro-Hungarian casualties are calculated at about one and a half million officers and men killed, wounded and missing.

If these totals of casualties of the German and Austrian armies, as estimated in this dispatch, are approximately correct, the Teutonic Allies have lost a very heavy proportion of their active forces for a time, at least. It should be remembered, however, that a large percentage of the men wounded in the present war return again to the colors. Berlin has stated that 70 per cent. of the German wounded are able to return to the front within a month.

In a recent issue of the Nineteenth Century Yves Guyot, the French economist, compiled some figures as to the men withdrawn from employment to engage in the war. Germany's total he put at 4,350,000, which, in the light of recent events, seems an underestimate, and that of Austria-Hungary he figured as 3,500,000. Assuming the grand total, 7,850,000, to be somewhere near correct, there have been over 40 per cent. killed, wounded or missing since the armies took the field, if the 3,500,000 casualty total is accepted.

It is a rather singular coincidence that, early in the present month, Hilaire Belloc, the English military expert, figured that the German casualties were already 1,750,000 and those of the Austrians 1,500,000. The total of 3,250,000 is thus within 250,000 of an estimate made three weeks later.

A Bernhardtist.

(New York Evening Post.)

In turning over to the Burgomaster of Hamburg, on the 4th of November, five cannon captured from the English for permanent exhibition in the public square in front of the city hall, the commanding general of Hamburg, von Roehl, made an address with a good deal of Bernhardt in it. Standing under the monument to the Emperor William the First, and speaking he said, "exactly in the spirit of his grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm the Second," he called upon his listeners solemnly to vow as follows: "We shall not sooner sheath our sharp and just sword until the last of our enemies recognizes that only one people has the right to play a leading part in the political world, and that people is the German people." But, he added in the true military spirit, that the German people must remember that he could only do this by maintaining its character as a warlike people, "by believing in ideals and knowing how to pray to our Lord God above." It would be pretty hard to find a better example of the militaristic-epitaphic stuff talked by military men the world over.

CAPTIVE WHO STRUCK GERMAN.

Copenhagen, Dec. 31.—A priv message from Berlin says that a German Supreme War Tribunal has sentenced a British prisoner named Lonsdale to death for assaulting a German officer at the Dohertys concentration camp.

Lonsdale, in the first instance, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, but the military authorities' appeal for a sentence of capital punishment has been successful.

It is admitted that Lonsdale did not hurt the officer, and that a prison guard beat him off.

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