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## SIDETALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

### DANGEROUS BUSINESS.



That it is one of the most precarious of pastimes was brought to my mind the other day when a little bride came to me in tears with a story of an undesired rebuke from a pair of ungrateful friends.

"They did all their courting on our porch," she said. "Why, Tom and I have sat inside or gone out walking evenings, when we didn't want to at all, just to let them have that porch to themselves. She has kept me at the telephone interminably," she went on, with rising indignation, "prattling about her Dicky-boy; and now that they have announced their engagement, and I asked her why they didn't plan to be married in June and use our little lakeside camp for their honeymoon, she told me that they weren't discussing their plans with anyone and that when they wanted my advice they would ask for it."

I was sorry for the weebeegone little woman, and it was the thought that, by telling her experience as a warning, I might save someone from a similar hurt that prompted me to write on this subject.

### He Regrets His Confidences.

For I am sure that wherever in the world lovers have loved and woman—romantic woman—has sympathized and tried to play the role of Cupid's understudy, this sort of thing has happened.

In the first flush of a newly found love, the recipient wants a confidant. He wants someone to whom he can picture a thousand and one charms of this wonderful girl whom he has discovered. He wants a responsive audience—and that's all! So long as you are willing to listen, and assent, and say nothing, all will go well. But love is a sensitive plant. If you touch it with too eager a finger it will curl away from you, leaving you rebuked and resentful. The memory of those

rapturous confessions react unhappily on your confiding friend. He feels that he has been most indiscreet and absurdly sentimental and he cannot forgive you for having permitted him to make a fool of himself.

### Advice to Risky.

But there is another and more serious side to this match-making game. Sometimes the match-maker is a friend whose judgment is trusted and acted upon. I have in mind the case of a girl who has married a "rough diamond." I doubt if she ever really loved him. The man's personal magnetism was attractive to her, but here is a prim, demure nature, and his frequent gaucheries make her wince visibly. But her closest friend, a match-making matron, urged her into the marriage.

"You don't want to be an old maid," she said, "and this may be your last chance. You'll be more unhappy without him than with him, and just think of your lonely old age if you don't marry."

And, although it is a digression, let me refute that last prod of the match-making matron.

### Don't You Believe Her!

A single old age is by no means of necessity, a lonely or a loveless one. Indeed, the chances against it are far better than in the case of an ill-advised marriage. The unmarried woman has limitless opportunity for service that will bring her unmeasured returns in love. I could name you a dozen spinsters who are the adored aunts—adopted or real—of more than one family, who have not days enough to divide among the homes that crave their visits, and whose cozy bachelor quarters are a haven of rest to many a grateful, over-tired mother whom the spinster friend invites to be her guest.

"Abundance of men would never have been in love if they had never been entertained with any discourse of love," says La Rochefoucauld.

Spare yourself the terrible responsibility of having fostered an unhappy marriage by your match-making "discourses of love."

And remember, matches that are "made in Heaven" will develop nicely without your help.

### THE GREAT EVENT.



If Dempsey conquers Mr. Gibbons, and knocks his classic face to ribbons, we'll feel encouraged and elated—we'll know our culture's vindicated. We've long excelled in building flippers, in laying rails and damming rivers; in things mechanical we flourish, and the inventive arts we flourish, but in the higher arts—arts and graces—we've never held the foremost places. But all the time we've felt within us the future would new laurels win us. Now two exponents of our learning with high and noble zeal are burning to show the world we have ambition to rise above the old tradition, which is that all our aims are sordid, no higher thoughts to us accorded. If Gibbons knocks J. Dempsey silly, in far Montana, cold and hilly, the news will flash to distant places, to foreign lands, and save our faces. "At last," in Munich they'll be saying, "the Yankees from clay gods are straying; the higher arts are now demanding a tribute from their understanding. From packing beef and canning peaches they turn to Art's unsullied reaches." In Rome the news will cause a flutter; I seem to hear the Romans mutter, "Americans have long been busy improving bus and boat and lizzie; and in their zeal, no brusque and brutal, they passed up Art as being futile. But watch their smoke, now they have started for higher levels, hero-hearted!"

## Monster of the Sea.

NEW SEA GIANT THAT WEIGHS FIFTEEN TONS.

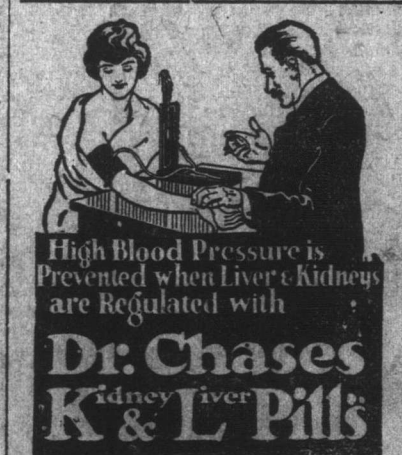
A mysterious sea monster captured south of Miami, Florida, by Captain Charles H. Thompson, is exercising the minds of American piscatorial experts and naturalists. The sea round Florida are famous for their huge tarpon, but this fish makes the tarpon look like a sprat.

The strange creature, of a species altogether unknown has, after great labour, been preserved and mounted by Professor J. S. Wambeth, of Washington, the American taxidermist.

Everybody who has seen it says the most remarkable feature about the monster is that it is very much like an ordinary fish, but thousands of times magnified.

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