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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

SENTIMENT OR SENTIMENTALITY?



RUTH CAMERON

A friend of mine has been accused of being very unsympathetic. The grounds for this accusation are that she fails to sympathize sufficiently with a friend who has recently lost her brother. The accuser, as you may have suspected, is the friend in question.

"She's the hardest thing I ever saw," says the latter. "She never shows the slightest sympathy, just tries to turn the conversation to other things when I talk about Richard, and one night when she came in and found me crying because it was just six months from the last time Richard was home, she never even said a word to comfort me, and her face looked so hard. I don't believe she has a particle of feeling in her."

Now the law of the land demands that the accused shall always have the right to speak for himself or herself, so here goes.

Why Didn't She Sympathize?

"I suppose I ought to be more patient with Ethel when she runs on about Richard, but I simply can't. You know they never got on together at all when he was alive; he was always a worry to the whole family because he was so wild and, besides, he was disagreeable and selfish. I heard Edith tell how he even forgot his mother's birthday. And besides, he hadn't lived at home for a couple of years, so how could she really miss him the way she pretends to? I went in there the other night and they were all in the dumps and they explained it was because it was six months since the last time he was home. And I remember the last time he was home Ethel came over to my house and told me how disagreeable he had been and how he had got into debt again."

Can You Guess My Verdict?

The testimony is in. Which way will you give the verdict, Reader? I wonder if you can't guess which way I would give it.

There is a fine and beautiful thing which we call sentiment and there is another thing which we call sentimentality.

It is my opinion, from what I know of this case, that there is a big element of sentimentality in this woman's grief.

She reminds me of another woman I know who, whenever hymns are being sung, will always ask for a certain one and then begin to weep when it is sung and explain that it was the one her mother asked for on her deathbed.

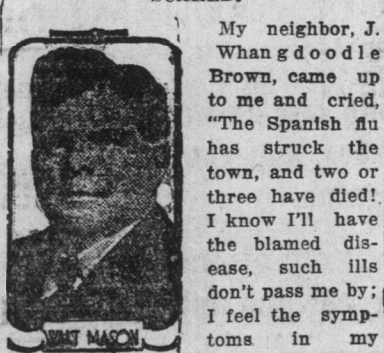
Sentimentality Wallows in Grief. It is the essence of sentimentality that it wallows in grief or emotion of any kind.

Another way to tell sentiment from sentimentality is that sentiment is spontaneous and entirely unself-conscious whereas sentimentality is conscious of itself and always has more or less of an eye on the impression it must be creating on others.

The greatest writers have sentiment in their works, the lesser ones sentimentality. To permit oneself to get the habit of sentimentality is to weaken and cheapen one's power of genuine emotional response.

Beware of sentimentality if you want to be capable of the genuine sentiment that strengthens and sweetens character.

SCARED.



My neighbor, J. Whangdoodle Brown, came up to me and cried, "The Spanish flu has struck the town, and two or three have died! I know I'll have the blamed disease, such ills don't pass me by; I feel the symptoms in my knees, and also in my eye." The sweat was streaming from his brow, his face was drawn and pale; "Why worry," said I; "you are now exceeding strong and hale. Just think of pleasant, cheerful things, forget the microbe gang; just talk of cabbages and kings, and let the flu go hang. Don't cross your bridges, friend of mine, until they're at your feet; and so for you the sun will shine, and life be fair and sweet." He did not take my sane advice, designed to keep him well, and now they've palmed him on the ice, and rung the passing bell. Sage council seems a whiskered wheeze, the gift of dreary bores, to those who go to meet disease, and lead it to their doors. And worry over passing ills invites the doc and nurse, invites the druggist with his pills, the sexton and the hearse.

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Fads and Fashions.

A hat of dark green straw is faced with pheasant's feathers.

Lace hats and frocks to match are seen in the Southern resorts.

Ribbon sometimes constitutes the entire lower part of a tunic.

Sleeves are longer, and if they are tight fitting it is even better.

A favorite trimming is white eyelid embroidery applied on taffetas.

Heavy gold tissue lines some of the most charming evening wraps of fur.

Many of the Spring hats are woven of grass cloth in interesting colors.

Trails of bright flowers and fruit make charming hair ornaments for evening.

"Pape's Diapiesin" by neutralizing the acidity of the stomach, instantly relieves the food souring and fermentation which causes the misery-making gases, heartburn, flatulence, fullness, or pain in stomach and intestines.

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When you get
Indigestion



Just Folks

by Edgar A. Guest

HUMBLE SERVICE.

I'd rather write in family ink than in the lasting stone of fame; I'd rather for a little time inscribe on human hearts my name.

And pass as one who'd smoothed the way for others, and had tried to live.

Not solely for what he could get, but sometimes for what he could give.

I'd rather fill with little deeds the hours and days and weeks and years.

Than say, "In one great shining task the record of my life appears."

I'd rather own the poor man's smile of gratitude than to possess a place of honor with the great, and all the glory of success.

"Aim high! Aim high!" the sages shout, "Strike for the goals that lie afar!"

And yet that means that you must spend the chance for service where you are.

And you must turn your back on them who need your courage and your smile.

Spending your strength on distant things which seem to be more worth your while.

He who forgets his own desires, and lets his chance for glory go— That he may serve some humbler need, of which the world may never know.

Is greater than the man of fame, and braver than some hero bold— For day by day and year by year his splendid sacrifice is told.

Shott and Nott.

The story of these gentlemen and their duel—a famous one formerly— is revived, and the tale is thus repeated:—

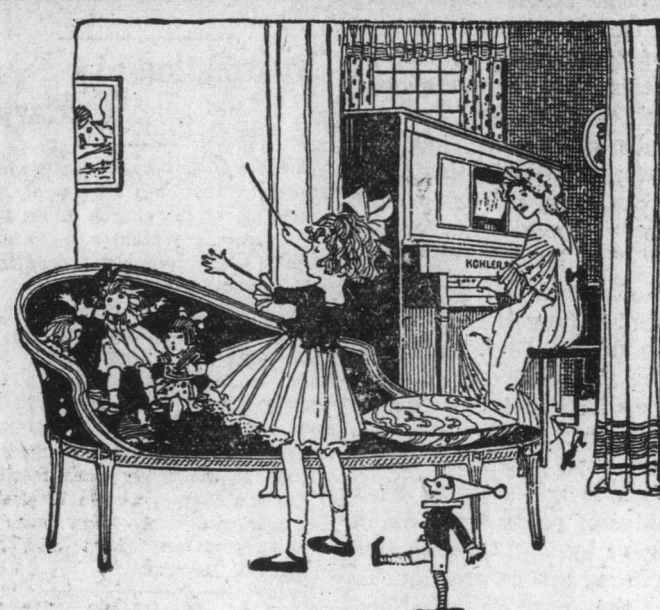
A duel was lately fought in Texas by Alexander Shott and John S. Nott. Nott was shot, and Shott was not.

In this case it was better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumour that Nott was not shot, but Shott avows that he was not, which proves either that the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot, but that Nott was shot notwithstanding.

It may be made to appear on trial that the shot Shott shot shot Nott, or, as accidents with firearms are frequent, it may be possible that the shot Shott shot shot himself, when the whole affair would resolve itself into its original element, and Shott would be shot and Nott would not.

We think, however, that the shot Shott shot shot, not Shott, but Nott. Anyhow, it is hard to tell who was shot.

Occasionally a black net gown is made over a silver tissue and brightened by a sash of apple green tulle.



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Notice to Creditors!

WILLAR and COMPANY, LIMITED,
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Notice is hereby given that all persons claiming to be creditors of, or who have any claim or demand upon, or affecting Willar and Company, Limited, in Liquidation, are required to send particulars of their claims in writing, duly attested, to Howard J. McDougall, Commercial Chambers, Water Street, St. John's, Liquidator of the said Company, or to the undersigned Solicitors for the said Liquidator, on or before the 15th day of April, A.D. 1920, after which date the said Liquidator will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated at St. John's, the 15th day of March, A.D. 1920.

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By Gene Byrnes

