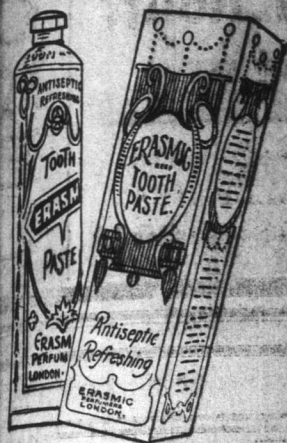


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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

THE LOST MATE.

What a dangerous business it is to get acquainted with someone you could never like.

Perhaps you started out with a perfectly healthy dislike.

One of the facts that you feel sure looked at you sniffling that day were your last year's hat to the hat, and that you heard she sent her daughter to a private school.

She didn't think the schools in her town were good enough. You had that dislike on the tip of your tongue, and you were sure you would want to run the Club and would spoil every-

body's fun. You had been talking to your little girl on the street and that she thought she was a perfect dear, and that she hoped she would come over and play with Edith, as soon as Edith came back from school.

And then she sighed and said: "Poor Edith, you can just imagine how hard it is to send her away when you have such fine public schools here but I suppose you've heard she isn't strong and has to go to school where all the teaching is done in the open air. Perhaps in a year or two." And actually you saw the tears standing in those blue eyes that you had told your husband were so hard and critical when they looked at you in your old hat.

Began to Wobble.

Somewhat that healthy dislike of yours so well fed up to now, suddenly got wobbly on its legs just in those few minutes.

And a few days later when you ran in to have a cup of tea, as she had begged you to, and she brought the lovely clothes she had brought back from abroad, only two Paris gowns which were all she could afford as she had been over just to take Edith to a specialist; and when she told you what she was hoping to do to the old house and asked your advice about draperies, and gave you some advice straight from Paris about making up your crepe mar-

tain, that dislike that had been so perfectly healthy and growing stronger every minute up to the time you met her, just lay down and died.

Don't Get Acquainted.

No, it certainly isn't safe to know anyone very well if you want to enjoy a thorough-going dislike.

Just a few days ago I was introduced to a woman whom I have had a "hate" on.

We talked for an hour. After we came away the Authorman said: "Well, what is she like?"

"Oh she's not half bad," I admitted.

"It's a surprising thing," said the Authorman, "how few people are, or even a quarter bad."

Blood Thicker Than Water.

Nearly half a century ago Sir Lambton Lorraine, a British naval commander, had the freedom of New York conferred on him while visiting that city and during his stay there received from admirers of the Comstock Mines in Nevada a bar of silver ore, on the burnished face of which was engraved his name, with the words: "Blood is thicker than water. Santiago de Cuba, November, 1873." A few weeks ago a memorial to Lorraine, consisting of a bronze bust mounted on a pylon of marble, was unveiled in front of the town hall at Santiago, and thousands of Cubans joined in the ceremonies of the occasion. The bust was modelled by the daughter of a Cuban patriot, and the inscription in Spanish on the front of the memorial shows it to be dedicated to "the illustrious memory of the English admiral, Sir Lambton Lorraine," as "a tribute of gratitude and justice rendered by the Cuban nation." Henceforth the Avenue in which it stands will be known as the "Avenida de Lorraine."

What the British commander did to merit these honors is fairly well suggested by a letter he wrote in Nov. 1873, the text of which reappears on the reverse of the memorial. The story begins in October of that year, when the American ship *Virginius*, flying the stars and stripes, left Port au Prince, with a consignment of war materials destined for the Cuban insurgents. The vessel had previously aroused the suspicion of the Spanish authorities and had occasionally been detained by them; on this trip she was pursued and captured by the Spanish man-of-war *Tornado*. As the compromising cargo had been thrown over early in the chase the Spanish commander found no war material to seize, but he did not hesitate to arrest the passengers and crew of the *Virginius* as pirates, and a mock trial held on the *Tornado* they were condemned to death as such. Despite a strong protest from the American Consul, four of the men were shot immediately after the landing, their dead bodies being mutilated by a mob. The rest were placed in the goal at Santiago, and Joseph Fry, an American, Capt. of the *Virginius*, fell first of the second batch of fifty shot there.

The victims are said to have suffered terribly before being despatched; "in some instances the firing party placed their guns in the mouths of the wounded men and shattered their heads, and in others fired shot after shot into their bodies until they were quiet." A wall and a firing line awaited the remaining 100 prisoners, and they would also have been executed but for an unexpected interposition.

The Spaniards were reckoning without Lorraine. His ship, the *Niobe*, was in Cuban waters at that time and happened to turn into the harbour of Santiago just as preparations were being made for the final act of vengeance. He promptly sent a message to General Burriel, the local military commander, declaring that while without instructions from the British Government, he assumed responsibility in the matter, convinced that his action was "on behalf of humanity and civilization." It would receive the approval of His Majesty. "And I require you," he proceeded, "to immediately suspend the filthy butchery now going on." adding: "I do not think it will be necessary to say what my procedure will be should my demands not receive attention." Lorraine had with him the guns and ammunition needed just for such an emergency, and it is said that he followed up his message by threatening to bombard Santiago. His vigorous protest, asserting inalienable rights under the United States flag, assured life and freedom to the

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menaced hundred, among whom were several prominent Americans, a number of Cubans, one British passenger, and members of a mixed crew representing many nationalities. That was a "goal delivery" well worthy of recognition by the Cuba of to-day. It will be recalled by Americans as by no means the first or last of the occasions on which blood was shown to be "thicker than water."—Boston Herald.

China's Sage Did Not Teach a Religion.

There is a mistaken belief that Confucianism is a religion. Confucius, "China's Most Perfect Sage," taught expressly for the purpose of making the younger generation adhere to one word, virtue. Legend has it that on the night of his birth bright lights shone forth, as during the day time;

two dragons encircled his home; five old men came down from the heavens and a unicorn is said to have spat out a book of jade.

During his boyhood, Confucius excelled all the other lads at school. At the age of 18 he married and was blessed with a son and a daughter. For his marriage he was given an official post, in which his diligence soon won him one of the foremost positions of the state.

As he was clever and well versed in politics, he was appointed one of the ministers of the Duke of Lu, who placed in him much trust. During a term as prime minister, Confucius effected many reforms. He conducted his administration in a very able manner, much to the peace and benefit of the state and the people, who loved him dearly.

It was not until some 300 or 400 years after his death that Confucius' memory was ordered by the government to be honored, and even to the present day his sacred memory is duly preserved. He died 479 B.C.—Detroit News.



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By Gene Byrnes

