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## Marshall Bros



### The Kindest Thing.

By RUTH CAMERON.



When anyone starts to tell you a story or a personal anecdote which he has told you before, is it kinder to warn him of that fact or to let him go on?

That subject came up for discussion before the open fire the other night. What do you think about it, reader friends?

Personally, I would much rather be warned at once, but I don't think one can rightly apply the Golden Rule here, because other people don't always want the same thing one wants one's self.

I suppose it is a matter which depends somewhat on circumstances—your degree of intimacy with the raconteur, the stage the story has reached before you recognize it, and your own ability as an actor or actress.

Tell Him At Once, If At All.

If one knows the raconteur only slightly, one might not feel like doing such an intimate thing as warning him. Again, if the story has been half told before you recognize it, what use to warn him? You add all the embarrassment of feeling he has bored you to all the discomfort of being interrupted and robbed of his climax. And yet again, if you aren't a good enough actor to appear interested and amused at the proper points, better speak out frankly than leave the raconteur to suspect his mistake from your manner.

If there is anything I dislike it is to be allowed to tell a story and then to be assailed with the suspicion that I have told it before.

A somewhat similar dilemma occurs when one is called up on the telephone by a friend, when one has guests or is about to go out, or at the moment when one is in the middle of some task which cannot be left.

When The Telephone Call Is Inconvenient.

And yet, on second thoughts, I should hardly call this a dilemma at all, because to my mind at least, it admits of just one course of action. Explain to the telephone caller that it isn't convenient to talk at just that moment and that you will call her up a little later. But make your explanations immediately—thus taking any sting out of the situation. Nobody likes to have the truth leak out in the middle of the conversation that the other party didn't want to converse and has been doing it under duress.

At times it is difficult to warn the telephone caller without making one's guests feel embarrassed. For this situation, my telephone friends and I have invented a little formula of warning. Either one who wants to warn the other inquires, "How is So-and-so?" (a mythical personage). The inquiry is a code expression for "I can't talk just now." The other understands and promptly rings off.

These are suggestions of my own preferences, but no one will go far astray in any of these matters who tries to regulate his conduct by the old definition of politeness, "to do or say the kindest thing in the kindest way."

#### To Prevent The Grip.

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### The Protest of A Timid Nation Will Carry Little weight.

Colonel Roosevelt Denounces a Pacifist Policy.

"A nation too timid to protect its own men, women and children from murder and outrage and too timid even to speak on behalf of Belgium, will not carry much weight by 'protest' of 'insistence' on behalf of the suffering Jews or Armenians," says Col. Theodore Roosevelt, in a letter to Dr. Samuel P. Sutton, Secretary of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief.

The letter which was made public by Dr. Sutton, is a vigorous denunciation of the U. S. policy in the present war. Col. Roosevelt says "as long as this government proceeds, whether as regards Mexico or as regards Germany, whether as regards the European war or our duty to Belgium, on the principles of the peace-at-any-price-man, of the professional pacifist, just so long will it be as absolutely ineffective for international righteousness as China itself." All of the "terrible iniquities" of the last sixteen months, can be traced, says Col. Roosevelt, to the initial wrong of which Belgium is the victim; and the "criminal responsibility" of Germany must be shared by the neutral powers, headed by the United States.

The Colonel says: "We have refused to do our duty by Belgium; we refuse to do our duty by Armenia, because we have defied peace at any price; because we have preached and practised that evil pacifism which is the complement to and the encouragement of alien militarism. Such pacifism puts peace above both duty in the present and safety in the future.

All of the terrible iniquities of the last year and a half, including this crowning iniquity of the wholesale slaughter of the Armenians, can be traced directly to the initial wrong committed on Belgium by her invasion

ers and subjugation; and the criminal responsibility of Germany must be shared by the United States for their failure to protest when this initial wrong was committed.

"For all of this the pacifists who dare not speak for righteousness, and who possess such an unpleasant and evil prominence in the United States, must share the responsibility with the most brutal type of militarism. The weak and timid milk-and-water policy of the professional pacifist is just as responsible for the blood-and-iron policy of the worthless and unscrupulous militarists for the terrible recrudescence of evil of a gigantic scale in the civilized world.

The crowning outrage has been committed by the Turks on the Armenians. They have suffered atrocities so hideous that it is difficult to name them, atrocities such as those inflicted upon conquered nations by the followers of Attila and of Genghis Khan. It is dreadful to think that these things can be done and that this nation nevertheless remains 'neutral,' not only in deed but in thought, between right and the most hideous wrong, neutral between despairing and hunted people, people whose little children are murdered . . . . . and the victorious and evil wrongdoers.

"Scores of our soldiers have been killed and wounded, hundreds of our civilians, both men and women, have been murdered or outraged in person or property by the Mexicans, and we have taken no action, but have permitted arms to be exported to the bandits who were cutting one another's throats in Mexico, and who used these arms to kill Americans; and, although we have refused to help our own citizens against any of these chiefs or these bandits, we have now and then improperly helped one chief against another.

"The failure of our duty in Mexico created the contempt which made Germany rightly think it safe to go in to the wholesale murder that accompanied the sinking of the Lusitania, and the failure to do our duty in the case of the Lusitania made Germany, sailing through Austria, rightfully think it safe to go into the wholesale murder that marked the sinking of the Ancona.

"The invasion of Belgium was followed by a policy of terrorism toward the Belgium population, the shooting of men, women and children; the destruction of Dinant and Louvain; and many other places. The bombardment of unfortified places, not only

by ships and land forces, but by aircraft, resulting in the killing of many hundreds of civilians—men, women and children—in England, France, Belgium and Italy; in the destruction of mighty temples and great monuments of art, in Rheims, in Venice, in Verona. The devastation of Poland and of Serbia has been awful beyond description, and has been associated with infamies surpassing those of the dreadful religious and racial wars of the seventeenth century Europe.

"Such deeds as have been done by the nominally Christian powers in Europe, from the invasion of Belgium by Germany to the killing of Miss Cavell by the German government, things done wholesale, things done retail, have been such, as we hoped would never again occur, in civilized warfare. They are far worse than anything that has occurred in such warfare since the close of the Napoleonic contests of a century ago. Such a deed as the execution of Miss Cavell, for instance, would have been utterly impossible in the days of the worst excitement during our civil war."

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### Your Boys and Girls.

Amusement, like everything else in this world, has two sides. It can work for good or it can work for evil. It can life up or it can hold back. True amusement is any innocent pleasure which employs in a healthy way, the imagination, the heart, the brain, the affections of a child, so that something flows out of him in thought and action.

A thousand expensive toys will not give a child one tenth of the joy that will be his if he is able to first create in his brain and then make with his hand some faulty little object, which will be to him, because of the gift of self, dearer almost than his life.

Inertia, once overcome by love, begins to throw out little feelers of growth and almost immediately the selfish child, before whom everything must be exploited, becomes a child of independent growth, willing and ready to give of himself, that the world may be, through his sweetness and effort, a better, happier place.

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### Mr. Redmond in House of Commons

House of Commons, Jan. 17.  
Mr. J. REDMOND (Waterford North)—I can assure the House that I have been very glad indeed to have found it possible to abstain from taking part in this debate, but I feel after the turn the debate has taken that it would not be respectful to the House if I did not offer a few observations. In what I have to say I will speak with extreme candour. I deplore more than words can say the situation that has arisen. I have for a long time past been aware of the raising of this issue, and I have felt that undoubtedly it was a question in any form were passed for Great Britain, and if Ireland were excluded, Ireland's whole attitude towards this war was likely to suffer cruel and unjust misrepresentation. But the situation has arisen and we must face the facts, and the simple fact is that, as I understand the situation, conscription in Ireland would be impracticable, unworkable, and impossible. Conscription, if enforced in Ireland to-day, or sought to be enforced, instead of leading to an increase of the number of Irishmen in the Army, would in my opinion have the opposite effect. It would undoubtedly paralyze the efforts of myself and others who have worked sparingly and not unsuccessfully since the commencement of this war and it would play right into the hands of those—a contemptible minority amongst the Nationalists of Ireland—who are unsuccessfully trying to prevent recruiting and to undermine the position and power of the Irish Party because of the attitude they have taken up.

The mere fact that this attitude Government recognizes that and recognizes that in the circumstances is not in the interests of the prosecution of the war or in the interests of the Empire to extend this Bill to Ireland, ought to be sufficient, I think, to any Irish or Scottish member of this House. It is significant that there are in this Coalition Government many men of various parties who have been closely associated in the past with the Government—men like the President of the Local Government Board, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the present Chief Secretary, who has occupied that office longer than any of his predecessors since the Union—and they unanimously tell the House that in their judgment it would be impracticable in the circumstances to apply this Bill to that country.

#### Irish Home Defence

On this question of military service, Ireland has always stood in a separate and distinct position from

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