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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

WHY SHE WASN'T ENVOIOUS.



RUTH CAMERON

On a wonderful evening last summer I sat with an older woman on the seashore and watched the waves breaking in the misty moonlight. After we had been there a few minutes she drew my attention to two young people who had just come down and were sitting on a drift-wood log near us.

The Moment Most Women Love Best

They were apparently in that blissful state of courtship which comes just before there is any open declaration or overt act of love (I have a feeling that to a woman this is the supreme and most exquisite moment in the whole drama), the time when a casual hand-touch, as both burrow in the sand, is rapture, then simple words have magic meanings, when the meeting of eyes is an intimacy too poignant to be borne for more than a second. "Aren't they wonderfully happy?" said my companion.

"Does it make you envy them?" I asked.

"Yes," she said, "and no. I envy them. I'd like to be feeling as they are. And yet I have so much that I have not that I do not really feel envy."

"You mean—"

"The things she has and they have not."

That they have more pleasure out of their sensation, but that I get happiness in other ways they don't get and won't for years. For instance, do you think all this wonderful country means to them as much as it does to me. (She is an artist.) Do you think as they walk down the street they see as much as you or I who have learned to be interested in so many more things? Do you think they have the keen interest in watching the big vital drama of the daily news that an intelligent older person has? And what about the joy of getting out of the companionship with growing children and with a husband with whom I have a hundred things in common to the one they two have with each other—don't you think these things weigh pretty heavy on my side of the scale? Of course I don't mean that I would be for anything having passed through the stage they are in now.

and in a way I do envy them, but I have so much more than they that I am not stinging in the envy."

Don't you think that is a beautiful summing up of the whole situation, I do.

Why All Education is Worth While.

We all know that all the school education one can get is worth while, even if one cannot make it pay financial dividends, because it gives one that much more background, puts that much more meaning into life, makes you see that much more and understand that much more.

Well, is it not equally true that every year one lives adds to the richness of life for the same reasons, since all life intelligently lived is education?

Of course, to get the most out of this education, one must have one's ears, one's eyes, one's mind and last but far from least, one's heart always open.

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NOTE OF THANKS.—Mrs. Stone and family wishes to thank Miss Ida Smith, Mrs. E. and Miss A. Framp-ton, Miss Edith Snelgrove, Messrs. A. Parsons, G. Churchill, A. Oxford, S. Rose, F. Parsons, for wreaths sent to adorn the casket of their dear son and brother Ralph; also those who sent letters of sympathy and all other kind friends who in any way helped to lighten their sorrow in their recent sad bereavement.—adv't.

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HENS.



THE HEN

I have a dozen silly hens I bought to make High Cost look sick; and it would take a powerful lens to see just where they do the trick. 'Twas in a poultry magazine I read that chickens always pay; they lay large eggs, and said eggs mean a handsome profit every day. That publication misled its guess, or tried to put some bunk across; the female roosters I possess are nothing but a total loss. I dreamed when first I took them home of selling eggs about the town; no more I'd hawk the dippy pome, and have my patrons beat me down. A basketful of henfruit fine I'd proudly take upon my arm, and draw eight plunks or maybe nine—such dreams of commerce have their charm. Alas, my hens are golden bricks, they lay around on idle legs; their squawking voices answer "Nix," when I screech them for some eggs. They eat all kinds of greens and grain—what such things cost my ledger tells; I feed egg tonics all in vain, they won't lay eggs, nor even shells. That delegate was surely daft who wrote that hens would help out fine; we cannot beat the High Cost graft by keeping hens or cows or swine.



EDGAR A. GUEST

RIGHTS.

The meanest man I ever saw
Knew all there is about the law.
He never stepped an inch beyond
The legal phrasing of his bond.
He wouldn't lie and wouldn't cheat,
But children dodged him on the street.
And neighbors had no love for him
Because his ways were stern and grim.
He wanted everything in sight
If he could say 'twas his by right.

I've noticed that the meanest fights
Begin with men who want their rights.
Even as Shylock, they pursue
The fina. dollar that is due,
And though they pay the debts they owe,
No mercy to their friends they show.
The law proclaims them honest men,
But in the verdict rendered them,
Throughout the script you cannot find
That it is written they are kind.

All men have rights, and yet it seems
The happiest joys and sweetest dreams
Are always theirs who now and then
Forego their rights for other men;
Men who their petty claims release
For friendship or the sake of peace,
And would not make another bleed
Although the law allowed the deed.
Know more about the world's de-
lights
Than they who coldly want their rights.
Give me the man who will not press
The neighbor who is in distress.
The man of principle who gives
Some thought to how his brother lives
And chooses rather here to act
With kindness than in ways exact.
The man who, when there is a doubt,
Forgets his claim or wipes it out.
He shall be richer in the end
For having been to all a friend.

"Marching Through Georgia."

The song, "Marching Through Georgia," was the product, in 1865, of Henry Clay Work, a popular song writer, who wrote many songs that were popular in civil war time. He was a printer by trade and often composed the words while working at the "case," and when he was setting up music type he would compose the music "free hand." "Marching Through Georgia" is probably unique among war songs, in that it was composed without appearing in manuscript.

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By Gene Byrnes



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