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## Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

### "FORETHOUGHT OR FEARTHOUGHT?"

We were talking about the weather the other day. Someone said, "I think it is going to rain." Said some one else, "I think it is going to clear off." "Why do you think it is going to rain?" I asked. "Well," he said, "I am afraid it is going to rain." "Why do you think it is going to clear off?" I asked the other speaker. "Oh," she said, "I hope it is going to clear off and you might as well believe that you hope as what you fear, don't you?" Optimist and Pessimist Again. That's not a bad definition of the difference between a pessimist and an optimist, is it?—a pessimist believes what he fears, and an optimist believes what he hopes. Of course if it is something on which you have some definite basis of knowledge, that's another thing. You haven't any right then to found your expectations on anything but your reason tells you is most likely. To do otherwise is either a sign of cynicism or foolish sentimentality.

Why Not Hope Instead of Fear? But when it's something incalculable, like the weather, you might as well expect what you hope for as what you fear, mightn't you? And believe me, it will make a vast lot of difference in your state of mind and consequently in the amount of happiness you get out of life, which mental habit you cultivate.

Only part of our pleasure—I had almost said a minor part—comes from the satisfaction of any want. Another large part comes out of happy hopes and expectations. Of course the person who thinks one ought to be properly prepared for any unpleasant thing that might happen, will put a word in here. He says he believes in forethought. I heard of a book the other day which I mean to read as soon as I can get hold of it, because I like the title. The title is "Forethought Versus Fearthought."

I think many people mistake fear thought for forethought. Some of the worst pessimists I ever knew, were no more able to deal with a dreaded situation when it did arise than their optimistic neighbors.

We Seek Happiness—Why Drive It Away! Forethought is a fine and necessary thing. Fearthought is unnecessary and one of the worst destroyers of happiness in the world. Now whether we expect to find it through love or pleasure or travel or wealth or service, the one thing we are all seeking in the world is happiness—why, then, not avoid anything we know is fatal to happiness? I admit it's not quite so simple to do as that sounds, but it is possible.

### Miriam the Prophetess.

Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, was the eldest of her family. She seems to have had to shoulder responsibilities at a very early age. While Moses slept in his basket of bulrushes by the side of the Nile, Miriam stood afar off to learn what would be done to him.

When Pharaoh's daughter found the child, and touched by the cruel fate that befell all the Hebrew boys, she adopted him. Miriam became his nurse, loving him and looking after him to the full measure of devotion. At Pharaoh's court, where more were emancipated than any other parts of the ancient world. As guardian of the grandson of the king, Miriam would have had many opportunities of education she had not have found anywhere else at that period.

Soon as Moses was full grown he no longer needed her. Miriam, by this time, a full grown woman, returned to her people and evidently became something of a leader to them. She became known as "Miriam the Prophetess." The words prophet and preacher were synonymous in some ancient languages.

Among the Egyptians of her day, fortune telling and sooth saying were common, but Miriam was no ordinary fortune teller or prognosticator of things to come. She was a woman of great brain power and eloquence, and a leader among men as well as women. No doubt her influence had much to do in turning the hearts of captive Israel to thoughts of freedom, and to enlarge trust in Jehovah the God of their fathers.

While Moses and Aaron pleaded with Pharaoh through the plagues season, Miriam must have encouraged her people to wait patiently and prepare for the flight from Egypt which would certainly be brought about.

Miriam it was who led the great celebration, following the Exodus from Egypt, and the deliverance by the miraculous passage of the Red Sea, an honor that would never have come to her countrymen and women.

We gather that Miriam could "speak her mind" when the occasion demanded it for when Moses married a

Cushite woman, she told him what she thought of him saying:—"Has the Lord spoken only with Moses, has he not also spoken with us?" Meaning that if Moses felt himself so strong that he could please himself in all matters, he was mistaken. The Lord might choose another leader, and had chosen Aaron as well as Moses to be prominent in Israel.

According to the story Miriam's bluntness of speech was punished when she was afflicted with leprosy, but she recovered, much to the joy of all the people.

A poetess of considerable power, highly educated in the learning of the Egyptians, she appears several times in the sacred history as a person of influence, perhaps not always wise, but on the whole a worthy sister of the most distinguished pair of brothers produced in Old Testament times.

She died at Kadesh, while the Israelites still wandered in the wilderness and was buried in state, near Petra, leaving a memory that will live as long as Hebrew history endures.

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### VICTORIAN DAYS.

The age Victorian, methinks, produced some able writing gals, although they're jeered at now; the modern wielders of the pen insist that prudery was then behind each bulging brow. The authors of that bygone time wrote tales of love, intrigue and crime, in palace and in hut; and all their tales were good and clean, but left out all the sordid. The beastliness of life, gadsooks! Why write it up in mighty books, in language coarse and curt? Why overlook the blooming rose to show that soil from which it grows is largely made of dirt? Our later scribes resolved to strike against convention and the like, and show life as it is; and when I read their stirring tales of gas the sewer pipe exhales, I weep and cry "Gee whiz!" They show up every morbid phase of life as lived these sordid days in slum and den and sty; and if the tales they tell are true, and life is such a beastly stew, the world had better die. The prudish Victorian were wise; they wrote of mirth and shining skies, clean dames and decent men; they knew the world had filth and vice but figured that it wasn't nice with such to soil the pen.



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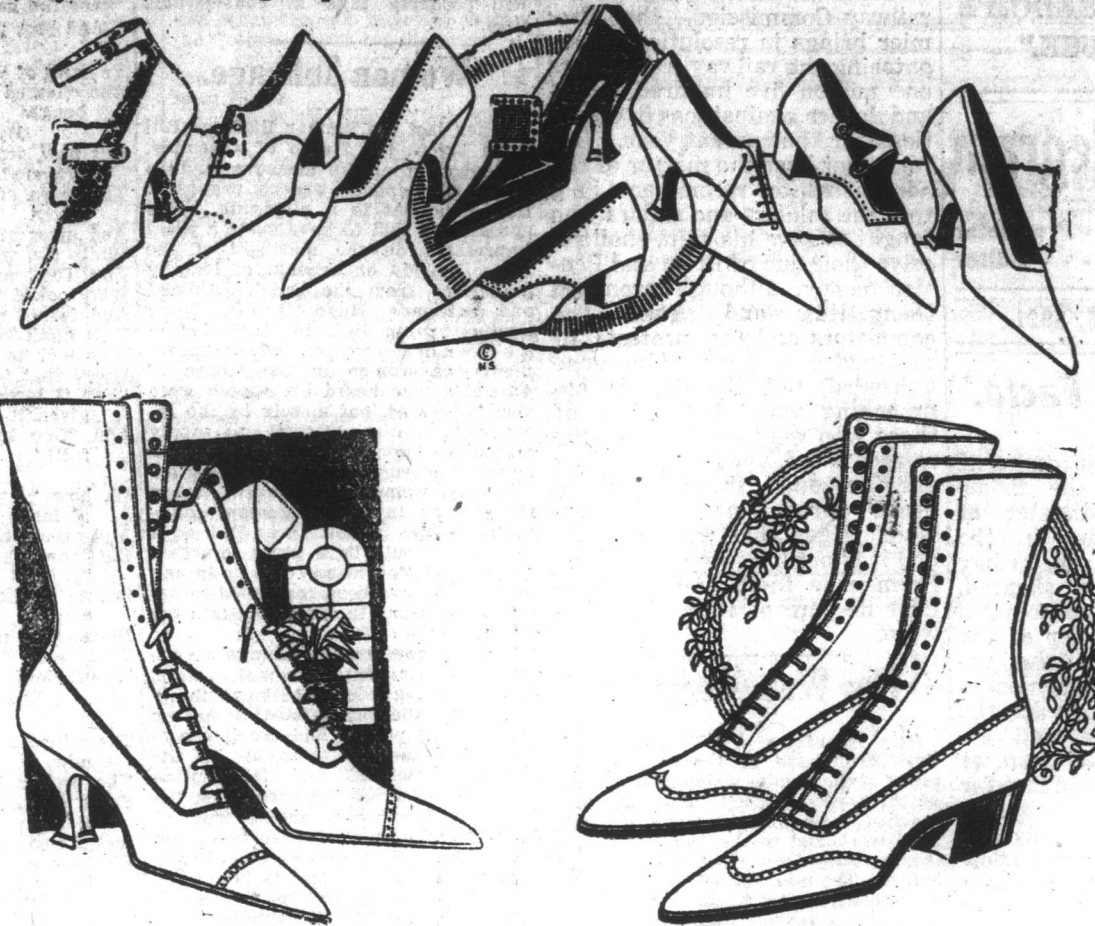
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### Names and Phrases.

Hill is often spelled heels in Somerset, and Heale, Heel and Hale are all variants of Hill. Oakley is a common-place name in England and gives rise to the surname Oakley.

In order to raise the foot from the hot sands the Persians placed a pad under the heel, and from this has sprung the modern fashion of building heels to our boots.

Scots may be surprised; but in the days of Ptolemy Ireland was known as Scotia! In fact Ireland has had a number of names. Diodorus Siculus calls the Island Iris, or Irist; in the De Mundo, credited by some scholars to Aristotle, it is called Irenne; in the Argonautics of Orpheus it appears as

Irinus; Srtabo called it Irenae; Caesar, Tacitus, and Pliny mentioned it as Hibernia; Mela called it Juverna. The native names in Celtic are Ir, Eri, Erin. Ptolemy mentions it under the name of Aegyia.

Scotchmen are the tallest men in the United Kingdom, Welshmen the shortest. The average heights of men in the United Kingdom are as follows: Scotchmen, 5ft. 8 1/2 in.; Irishmen, 5ft. 5 in.; Englishmen, 5ft. 7 1/2 in.; Welshmen, 5ft. 6 1/2 in.

Quick now means rapidity of motion or action. The Dutch "kwik" and Danish "gvik" designate the property of life, as distinguished from the condition of being inanimate. The English "quick," Latin "vivi" I live, and the Greek "bios" life, all spring from the same root. We have a sur-

vival in the phrase "the quick and the dead," in the Apostle's Creed, while a hedge, composed of living, growing materials, such as boxwood, is called a "quick" hedge in England. A curious modern application is in the term a "live man," meaning one who is quick or speedy.

The squirrel derived its name from its tail. The word comes from the greek skiovrus; skia, a shadow, and oura, a tail. So that a squirrel is the animal which shades itself by its tail.

Esperanto, invented by Dr. Zamenhof, and Ido, which is simplified Esperanto, are the only ones of the many "universal languages" to show signs of survival. The need of some such medium is illustrated in the debates of the League of Nations.

It is a good idea to hang a label on the valve when you shut off your water supply. Then you will be able to find it instantly in case of emergency.

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