

A Tribute

(To Mrs. Sidney Eastman, who passed away March 9, 1929)

Sidney Corning Eastman of Melrose avenue and Abbottsford road, Kenilworth, returned last Monday after a winter spent in Pasadena and again the Eastman home will be a gathering place for many friends. The house and grounds have been ready for some time. With Mr. Eastman came Mrs. William Stone, a niece, who will remain until after the arrival of Miss Bartlett of Washington, D. C., another niece, who will make her home with Mr. Eastman for the present.

The winter's stay in Pasadena with Mrs. Walker, the sister of Mrs. Eastman, and directly next door to Dr. and Mrs. Stone, was inspired by the hope that a warmer climate and out-of-door life would benefit Mrs. Eastman's health, but this hope was only partially fulfilled.

To her countless friends she will always live a gay, joyous person of wit and charm, generous to a fault, and loving dearly the friends she dearly loved to entertain, always courageous, always dauntless, always an ideal of heroic conduct to those who came in close contact with her fine spirit. Her life was an inspiration, her passing was heroic and the memory of her fine character is her real memorial.

Coming as she did from a family famous for its hospitality, the Halls of Ann Arbor, Mich., the Eastman home kept always "open house" and "the latchstring was always out." To Mrs. Eastman the very word "party" breathed an incense of its own and this incense has been burned in the past without stint to add to the happiness of countless brides-to-be and to celebrate many happy occasions.

Old friends remember well her surprise for them when, to celebrate her wedding anniversary, broad white satin ribbons were suddenly stretched without warning through the crowded rooms to form an aisle and to the familiar strains of the wedding march a heavily veiled bride came slowly down the stairs on Mr. Eastman's arm, bridal shower bouquet well in evidence, and the creamy satin gown with long train and old lace. As the company speculated on which niece was to be married that evening, the veil was thrown back and the hostess' merry laugh rang out as she stood in her own wedding dress of many years ago to receive congratulations.

Again old friends recall the gay insouciance with which this gallant spirit invited all the neighbors, and I mean all, to a place luncheon on the following day. And another time on which she invited an adjournment for luncheon at her home of an overlong program on the English dramatist, Shaw, with a too enthusiastic friend as speaker, and over twenty responded. The writer has reason to remember this joyous affair as she was the innocent cause for this particular celebration.

The last "party" shortly before the California trip was in honor of old Chicago friends including many distinguished men who had won high laurels in their professions. One of the events of the evening was the rendition of the Balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet," enacted blithely and nimbly by the younger Pond brother of the famous firm of architects, who took both parts with equal zest, properly posed each time according to his conception of the appropriate and at lightning speed. A kitchen table was his only property and needed to be sturdy. Who that saw and heard him can ever forget his rendition of Juliet reclining upon the kitchen table as "the balcony," her left cheek coyly propped upon a curved finger and the

false voice in which she sought to learn Romeo's whereabouts or the quick spring with which Romeo responded in basso-profundo with appropriate gestures from beneath the balcony only to regain the table-balcony with flying leap, landing in the proper reclining position in time to reply.

Among the most amused at these histrionic antics was our gracious hostess who was the presiding genius of this real party, "queening" it from a comfortable arm chair. It was on this occasion that she was heard to say that "The Eastman family always try to add to the joyous side of life and certainly not to its depressions," and it was on this high note of self sacrifice and courage that she passed from our sight, but leaving her fine spirit with us as an ideal of conduct.

So she lives on. So we always think of her, the happy gracious hostess, "the great lady," the incarnation of true hospitality, and a living inspiration to countless friends—"Noblesse oblige."

—E. C. L.

New Trier Debaters Meet Proviso Teams on April 19

New Trier High school will engage Proviso High school of Maywood in a dual debate Friday, April 19. The subject for debate will be: "Resolved, that jury systems should be abolished." New Trier's affirmative team, composed of Dorland Davis, Lois Goldstein and John Erickson, will travel to Maywood, while another team composed of Albert Denton, Lowell Comee and Olin Sethness will remain at home to defend the negative side of the question. The debates next Friday will be New Trier's first inter-school clashes this year. Chester E. MacLean is the debate coach.

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