


In the Realm of Women --- Some Interesting Features



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The Luck of Geraldine Laird

BY KATHLEEN NORRIS

Author of "The Story of Julia Page," "Heart of Rachel," "Josselyn's Wife," "Sisters," etc.

"She was out drivin' with Louis, she'd never been here before," Mrs. Redding said, in her delicate, cracked old voice, "and they got rather late, so she's to come here as soon as she is dressed. She's with her aunt, you know, Mrs. Knowles, of the club. You know our vice-president—Mrs. Knowles? They ought to be here any minute. She's quite a fascinatin' person; we had dinner there last night, and I thought she was very fascinatin'." Louis tells me that she sells plays for people—I never heard of a lady being in that business before—

"She handled 'The Wages of Life,' you know, one of the big successes this past winter," Louis Redding, who was listening, contributed.

"They say Behrman, the manager, came to her for a play only seven months after he refused her a chance. I met her winter before last, when I was down in New York; she was just commencing then."

"I've not been down to New York since our wedding trip," Geraldine said. "I don't think she was there then."

"Oh, my, no!" he said, eagerly. "Why, she only came to the city a couple of years ago—it's extraordinary, her success. She's only a girl now—twenty-five or six."

"Steady, Louis!" Geraldine said, with a significant glance from his face to his mother.

"Oh, nothing like that, I assure you!" the man answered again, putting his arm about his mother's little shoulders, as he sat beside her on the couch. "This is my best girl right here—I don't need any other! But you'll be crazy about Kennedy, Geraldine, she's just your sort, full of life and fun, and extremely pretty. And I want Dean to talk to her about his stuff. Nothing might come of it, of course, but on the other hand, she might be able to read some of it, and give him an opinion—"

"My dear—Dean won't even let me see it after seven years in the holy bonds of matrimony!" Geraldine interrupted. "Has he ever shown you any of it?" she asked pointedly.

"No, he hasn't," Louis Redding admitted, a trifle daunted. "But he'll never sell it if he never lets any one see it!" he objected.

"Well, he may talk to her about the situation generally," his wife said, doubtfully, "but he is the most sensitive person I ever knew in my whole life! He disappears up there in that cold sewing-room; I hear his old typewriter going, but he never has anything to say! Not a month ago, when he was particularly vexed, at my brother George, you know," Geraldine went on frankly, lowering her voice confidentially, "I suggested that he give up the office, and really give the thing a trial, but he snapped my head off—as it were. He asked me if I knew that there were—I forget whether it was twenty thousand or twenty million— aspiring playwrights in New York, and if I wanted my offspring to starve!" She laughed cheerfully, as her two hearers laughed, "that you urge him to discuss this thing with Louis," she finished seriously, "for if he will do it for any one in the world, he will for you! And now here are more people streaming in, to study the lines of a my two-dollar shirt-waist," she said, rising. "I'll go to the tea-table, and begin to earn my supper!"

The tea-table was in a corner of the immense room, and for a while, filling an occasional cup of tea, and indulging in a running fire of talk with the women who came and went about her, Geraldine watched the room curiously, awaiting, as they all were awaiting, the arrival of the stranger. She had just confided to the wife of the family dentist that Miss Bond was certainly late, when Miss Bond arrived.

(To Be Continued.)

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TALKING IT OVER

—With Lorna Moon—

The French Bride

Mother is all upset! She told me so in a great flutter. "I wouldn't care a rap," she said "about Jim getting married, (Jim is her son) it isn't that. If he only married a good American girl, I would be satisfied, but to think that he is bringing home one of those fast, flighty French girls—she'll ruin him with dress and extravagance."

No—Mother has gotten her idea of French girls from movies and snappy literature. She never met a French girl in her life, having spent four years in France in pre-war times I hastened to assure her that her idea of French girls was pessimistic in the extreme.

I don't know a thing about the lower class of French girl for at the time of my stay I was too thoroughly chaperoned to be able to make investigations in that street; and the nobility of France didn't seem to remember to call upon me; but of the great middle class French I can speak with knowledge.

And I WILL speak. The middle class French girl is neither fast, flighty, nor extravagant. She is domestic, thrifty and practical; she is a born home maker, and a great home lover. If there is one country in the world that can claim that it produces the finest wives in the world, that country is France.

A French woman's ability to make a feast out of scraps, (scraps which any American house wife would throw in the garbage) is proverbial in Europe; when our boys come home it will be better known here. And as for extravagance in dress, the American girl would be stunned if she was asked to dress upon the sum that clothes a French woman. With but one costume to her name, a French woman will give the illusion of expensive dressing. It is an art with her.

Jim's mother and sisters are due for a big surprise when the new bride comes along. She will show them all how.



Bobbie—Polly want a cracker?
Polly—Er-edible or explosive?

HEARD ON THE SIDE

The Whig heard about the meanest man in town on Monday. He is the driver of an automobile, and it is stated that a few days ago, when a little boy was hurt in an accident and rendered unconscious, he refused to take the little sufferer in his car to hospital, a very short distance, when appealed to. The father had the youngster in his arms, and was trying to get the boy to the hospital as quickly as possible, but it is alleged that the man drove on and the father had to carry his son to the hospital. There is certainly truth in the old saying that it takes all kinds of people to make up the world.

It's funny what you hear from time to time. A few days ago, a Kingston man was in the town of Goderich. While there he heard a man make a remark to a friend "I'm going to take a motor trip to Kingston on my holidays." "Don't go to Kingston," remarked the friend, "for if you do, you will have to sleep in a chair."

This is another good boost for the hotel accommodation in this city.

Now that the barbers are on strike, there is surely some truth in the old nursery rhyme which goes like this:

Tiddly wink the Barber
He went to shave his father,
The razor slipped
And cut him in the hip
Tiddly Wink the Barber.

Since the barbers went on strike, a good many razors, which have been taken down and honed, but to the man who has been getting his tonsorial work done down town, shaving has not been a very easy task, and quite a number have made a slip and cut their hip.

Wrecking Auxiliary Wrecked.

Belleville, July 8.—A run-off occurred on the line of the G.T.R. in the west yard of the city limits on Sunday, which blocked the west-bound track for hours. A box car of an east-bound freight left the track and the auxiliary was called out to replace same. Whilst the auxiliary was passing over the bridge spanning the Moira River the boom of the auxiliary crane caught in the overhead projection, causing the crane to be overturned. Engineer John Gunn was severely scalded by escaping steam and was otherwise injured. The part overturned weighs upwards of 90 tons, and auxiliaries from Hamilton and Montreal had to be brought to replace the crane.

Brockville Woman Dies.

Brockville, July 8.—The death occurred on Sunday of May Beatrice Reynolds, wife of Travelling Immigration Inspector D. H. Reynolds, of Ottawa, after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Reynolds was a native of Brockville, being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. West, of this town. A brother, J. E. West, is chief dispatcher of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Ottawa.

Miss Mary Meehan, Pembroke, died on Monday, aged fifty-three years. She was in business with her brother and father up to 1916. Following her retirement from business Miss Meehan gave her time generously and unselfishly to patriotic and charitable work.

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