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BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus

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3-9

People and Events

WITH A TOUCH OF PHILOSOPHY

By "Tormentus"

Anox, B.C.

There sometimes drops into the office a sunny-faced lass with a sportive young brave arrayed in a neckshawl, and feathered trousers with cuffs turned up eighteen inches showing a pair of hairy ankles painted a violent violet.

Your Tormentus is inclined to agree with the learned Doctor, the more so having danced several dances from time to time, but we would remind him that even the original Canadian had become infected with the bacillus jazzies.

The little magazine which she lays on our desk has many items of information which have nothing to do with her work and one of these caught our eye the other day, and gave us thought of what a strange human old world this is!

"A Buddhist Salvation Army has been formed, with headquarters in Tokio . . . determined to fight the Christian Salvation Army out of Japan. Some job!"

Such is the march of emancipation! and every established usage and institution must go down before it.

Even the House of Lords is echoing to the tread of its feet, and lo, women have won the right to a seat within its sacred precincts.

And why not? Women who have the courage to face the dangers of the battlefield and the solitudes of the frontiers are far removed from their grandmothers whose greatest adventures were shopping expeditions.

And it would indeed require a woman of the Countess Rhonda's calibre to brave the austerity of such an august assemblage as the House of Lords.

And while the Buddists are arranging to drive the Salvation Army in Japan into the sea, we have a full-blooded Indian taking the war path against the savagery of modern civilization in America!

Dr. Montezuma, is the red man that is after our be-jazzed scalps and our be-shimmied bodies.

He thinks Pocahontas has carried things far in her time, but he shudders to think what her tribe would have done to her had she exhibited a pair of dimpled knees beneath a short blanket, and persisted in wearing bobbed feathers, the while she danced.

As we ponder over this next step in emancipation, the doors of memory swing open and we see a vision of the upper reaches of the Finley River, far, far beyond Hudson's Hope. The broad river with its immeasurable solitude is flushed with the sunset of an Indian Summertime.

Our own evening meal is over (Oh, those splendid Arctic trout!) and we have gone down to the river to wash out a dish or two when the burnished gold of the water is broken by a black dot moving upon the stream.

It comes nearer and we perceive a dug-out canoe occupied by four men whose straight-armed paddling is thrusting it steadily against the strong current.

At our hail, the canoe sides to the shore. The party consists of one Indian, one white guide, and two white "men," one of whom is Countess Rhonda, with her hair in a pigtail down her back. They are all wet to the middle for they had struck a sandbar, owing to the glare of the sun in their faces, and had piled out to push off again. Some of the men murmured at being wet, to which she replied, "I'm just as wet as any of you."

And later we met her again on the Peace, she the one lone

woman amongst ten or twelve men, trappers, Indians, prospectors, surveyors and settlers, and she would take her turn at washing dishes and frying bacon; then sprawled on the grass enjoying a cigarette, tell us how that splendid man, her father, sacrificed his life for the English when, as Food Controller during the war, he used his own body as a laboratory for the testing of food substitutes!

In passing we would like to correct an impression that that charming artistic lady, Lady Rhonda, the wife of D. A. Thomas, Lord Rhonda, is to take her seat in the House of Lords.

This is not the case. It is her daughter, Countess Rhonda in her own right, so created to honour the memory of her heroic father, the girl who through all her childhood acted as his secretary, who has claimed and gained the right to sit in her father's place among her peers in England, as she did in the Northland of Canada.

Tis a far cry from the House of Lords to the River of Peace.

Oh! Peace! Well wert thus named, thou mighty stream,

Spawn of the Parsnip and the Finlay's mating:

The silence of Time's timeless dream

Is thine beyond our human estimating.

How many eons old art thou The eternal youth still smiles upon thy brow.

Oh, Peace!

For, Peace! The mantle that enfolds thy form Is restful unto the tired eyes of men,

Fresh from the roar and ceaseless storm

Of worshipping at the shrine of trifling Gain,

Thy hills and dales and wooded slopes

To our hearts and minds o'erstrained by worldly hopes

Bring Peace.

So! Peace, When sick with clang and hiss of steam,

Call thou to us and in thy vast realms afar,

Show us thy star-swept nights agleam

Mirrored in thy depth. Take of the best we are.

We'll leave the frets of life behind,

And in Nature's arms find quietude of mind

And Peace!

But while the Countess wins her Lords, Babe Ruth accepts a contract to play ball for five years at \$75,000 a year with a \$500 bonus for every home run.

Well, each to his own fancy and as the spring approaches the joys of a canoe, a pipe, a gaudy hook or two and the Valleys that are "plumb full of hush to the brim" are what appeal most to your

TORMENTUS.

Deceased was resident here for many years and is survived by three daughters, who reside in Seattle, and one son, of Ocean Falls.

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