THE ALAMANCE GLEANER, GRAHAM, N. C.



Lighter Side of Life as Depicted by Famous Cartoonists and Humorists



A Singing Heart

By M. McCULLOCH-WILLIAMS @ McClure Newspaper Syndicate. WNU Service.

"LET'S throw away all that stuff. "LET'S throw away all that stuff. envy," Miss Claytonia Carr said, nodding at sheaves of sunflowers and golden marigolds. "But Reina said specially she wanted everything like the old time," Betsy exclaimed. "I remember just how the house looked at that concert — when the madame heard her, unknown to her. I got the yellow things on purpose to repeat that <u>h</u> and know she'll love to

peat that — and know she it better have it so." "I know she won't. Rich and famous and all as she is now, think she wants to recall how poor she was then? But nobody can blame the Cantrills — with so many girls of their own, always plenty, and plenty good enough to pass down to Reina. But it hurt her mother—a proud piece if ever there was one. She wore the same black dress from time her husband was buried until she was buried herself."

she was buried herself. Burnham village was coming to the climax of its fairytale—the return of its ugly duckling who had gone away twelve years before and brought the world to her feet. Nobody had seen her since—nor even her picture. Her mother had pinched herself cruelly to give the girl proper lessons—then the music-master had brought a great diva to hear his pupil all unawares. She had listened rapturously and taken Reina away within two days. Since that there had been only snippets of news, though now and again mention of the girl had been reprinted in the local daily. Only of her professional success — never anything personal. Two people knew the reason — Dr. Cantril and the banker he held in leash, as that gentleman held in leash the editor.

Henry Deering came himself along with several nimble young men. He was the village Aladdin, given to speaking and seeing things done right off the reel. "Wish you'd let me get the florist," he said to Betsy. "Home flowers don't seem fine enough for our only celebrity. By the way, will she fetch along her husband?"

"She has none to fetch—unless she's achieved him within the last week," Betsy answered. "She has signed Reina May to all the correspondence about coming here." "Why I heard rather she was to marry her musicmaster—that was why he was so keen to secure the

why her music the secure the big chance for her," Deering said, "Heard it from Josephine Cantril, I reckon," Betsy said, looking down. Deering flushed, but after a silent breath nodded, saying: "She wrote me the news-remember I was out on the Coast when Reina went away." "I care! Many things!" Batey in

"I see! Many things!" Betsy interrupted. Then with a small laugh: "She'll get here around four in the afternoon — if that wretched train makes connections on the dot." "'H--m! She'll be here anyway,"

Deering broke in. "We'll meet her at the Junction-you and I—and fetch her in my car." They were twenty minutes early. Betsy all but laughed at Deering's

Betsy all but laughed at Deering's uneasiness. But her heart was full —and soft toward him. He had been tricked—cheated of his chance for happiness, however it might be with Reina. She had long suspected his love for her—spinster that she was —now she understood. Reina might have forgotten him wholly — even then there would be balm in this new contact after the long blank years. She was at his elbow, a little tremulous, with shining eyes. Her breath came quicker as she saw in the midst of the half dozen leaving the Pullman a figure wholly strange except for the eyes. Reina's eyes unmistakably—faithful eyes as well.

Moral Courage

Moral courage is more worth having than physical, not only because it is a higher virtue, but because the demand for it is more constant.—Charles Buxton.

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They brightened at sight of Betsy's honest ugliness, then rising to the man beside her closed swiftly, as from light to bright. Instantly they opened—she came forward, a creature of undulant grace, of charm, or presence, as unlike as possible to the pale snow-drop personage of twelve years back. She had found not only fame, and friends, and wealth, but beauty unbelieveable.

What words may tell fitly of the night—of the crowds of rich summer folks, eager to hear this cantatrice of world-wide fame! She had come back to her old town, not in vainglory, but to help it on the road to beauty—to turn its ragged common into an orderly park, for the joyous comforting of age and youth.

Reina, beautiful as an angel, and happier than one, sang old and new songs as she had rarely sung before. But the music of her voice hardly matched the music in her heart, since Deering had said masterfully: "I have found you again and will never let you go."

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