

# A CRITIC AMONG THE FILMS

(Copyright, 1919, by Ralph T. Jones.)

"Thou shalt not spend more than thou earnest." That is the thirteenth commandment. It would be hard to find a more sadly needed lesson in this day of luxury. Though, possibly, to the householder who is struggling against the ever advancing waves of inflation, there is a touch of satire in the motif.

The story was written by Rupert Hughes. It has already been published, both in serial and book form, and has proven as popular as his stories always do. In its film presentation, it is just as powerful and striking as the original story and has been adapted so as to prove considerably better than the majority of pictures.

The lovely Ethel Clayton is the leading figure in the cast, and as Daphne Kip, the girl who learns the lesson of womanly independence, she makes the most of an opportunity for some genuine acting. In addition to looking just as charming as ever.

**Old Problem.**  
In its broader aspects, the problem presented in this picture is as old as the history of mankind and woman-kind. It has probably come more to the fore in the present generation than ever before and the thoughtful peoples of the world are giving thanks that there is now held out the hope of a solution. The question is simply the old question of whether or not a wife has the right to depend entirely upon her husband for her support, to spend all that he earns in buying luxuries for her own adornment, and to force him to constant drudgery in order to meet the bills which she has rolled up in the "exclusive shops."

Of course, the answer that the story gives is an emphatic "No!" The heroine, from her own experiences, and her observation of her brother's married life, determines that she will not marry the man she loves until she can come to him as a full partner, on a "fifty-fifty" basis, and contribute as much to the support of their home as he does.

**Is This the Answer?**  
How she carries this out after many disappointments, forms the vitally interesting story. It would spoil enjoyment of the picture to enter further into details. Suffice it to say that in her efforts she has to overcome the opposition not only of the outside world but of her mother and sweet-heart also. The only one who sympathizes with her ambition is her father, and he knows from sad experience in his own married life.

After all, it is too big a problem to be decided otherwise than by long years of upward struggle. But doesn't the answer rest somewhere in the fact that, after marriage, the truly worthwhile couples, enter their partnership to work, not for each other, but for her nor she for him, but both for "The Family."

**"Too Much Johnson."**  
It is a tremendous relief, now and then, to find a picture that frankly makes no attempt to point a moral. After innumerable propaganda films, the problem plays upon the screen, the vamp thrillers, and the moral twist-tellers it is to thank the screenland gods for giving us a picture at which we can wholeheartedly laugh. Laugh just by reason of the plot, and not because of the slapstick work of burlesque buffoons.

There is a delightful airiness about "Too Much Johnson." Within two minutes after the film starts to unroll, we know that it is simply to laugh and that there will be absolutely no bad after-taste to the fun.

Bryant Washburn is the star and he fits the role of "Randolph Billings" just as we want it to be filled.

Private yachts and the leisure to enjoy them are not the lot of a very large number among us mortals. Perhaps that is why, when we can slip into a comfortable seat in a darkened theatre, and live with the screen folks for a little while, that we like our stories to be cast in pleasant, not to say effulgent surroundings, such as these.

It is a story of complications. The young husband is burdened with a maddening, overbearing, "managing" mother-in-law. The little wife appears to be all that a reasonable man could ask of any wife, if she wasn't so completely held under her mother's thumb. Her husband has been forced to sell his private yacht, the treasure of his heart. But he contrives to take another voyage on the vessel. He pilots the "Naughty Lass" to distant waters and back again, and all the time wife and mama-in-law believe he is attending to oil properties in Mexico. But he only owns them for camouflage purposes!

There is another lady—but, no, she isn't a vamp, don't be alarmed. She only thinks she is. She knows husband "Randy" as "Johnson." Then there is the would-be vamp's husband. He only knows Randy by a picture of the top of his head, that he has found. There is an "Oregon Pippin," who has consented to become a mail-order bride, to satisfy a thirty Scotch father. There is a real Johnson who

## Rutherfordton

RUTHERFORDTON, Dec. 27.—One of the most interesting social events occurring this season was the marriage of Miss Alda Izell Taylor to Mr. Clyde Arnold Short which was solemnized Tuesday afternoon, December 23, at 3:30 o'clock, at the First Baptist church here. Rev. J. A. McKaughan, pastor of the church, performing the ceremony in the presence of a large number of friends. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens, ferns and palms. Miss Eunice Hodges sang, "O Promise Me," and "I Love You Truly" previous to the ceremony. The organist, Mrs. W. R. Hill, rendered Lohengrin's wedding march as the bridal party came in, and Mendelssohn march as they left the church.

The maid of honor, Miss Garnett Taylor, sister of the bride, was dressed in yellow georgette with pearl trimming and black picture hat. She carried a bunch of white roses. The bride entered with her cousin, Mr. J. Preston Lewis, by whom she was given in marriage. She wore a handsome brown traveling suit, with hat and gloves to match, and a corsage of white roses. She was met at the altar by the groom, and his best man, Mr. Forist Short, of New York, his brother.

The ushers were Mr. Harry Woodson, of Shelby; Mr. Frank Williamson, of Charlotte, and Messrs. J. Linwood Robinson, and C. Bayles Justice, of Rutherfordton.

Messrs. E. S. Geer and Charles McFarland, of Yatesville, Ga., are spending the holidays with home folks.

Miss Gladys Lewis, of Meredith college, is visiting home folks during her vacation.

Miss Olga Hamrick, who is taking a business course at King's Business college, of Charlotte is spending the holidays with her parents at Rutherfordton.

Misses Mamie Stacey and Louise Brown, teachers at the graded school here, are spending their vacation with

where they will be at home after the first of January. Among the out of town guests here were Mr. and Mrs. Shuford, of Morganton; Miss Mary Anderson, of Shelby; Messrs. Frank Williamson, of Charlotte, and Harry Woodson, of Shelby.

Austin Powers, of Daytona, Fla., formerly of Rutherfordton, is a visitor here, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Powers.

Miss Logna Logan, of Great Falls, R. C., is spending her vacation here with her parents, Col. and Mrs. R. W. Logan.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. McDanel, of Norwood, Georgia, are visiting relatives in Rutherfordton.

Miss Sarah Dickerson after an extended visit to her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Johnson, of Norfolk, Va., has returned to Rutherfordton.

C. R. Hamrick, of Wake Forest, is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Hamrick, of Rutherfordton.

Prof. Roy A. Marsh principal of the Rutherfordton graded school, has returned to his home at Marshville to spend the holidays.

J. Preston Lewis, of the Atlanta Dental college, is spending his vacation here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Lewis.

Miss Sara Taylor and brother Jas. L. Taylor, Jr., of Meredith college, of Raleigh, and Wake Forest college, respectively, are spending their vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Rutherfordton.

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Misses Mamie Stacey and Louise Brown, teachers at the graded school here, are spending their vacation with

their parents at Nebo and Linville Falls, respectively. Misses Marie, Catherine and Dixie Reid, of Forest City, Gastonia, and Greensboro, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Reid.

J. C. Cowen, Jr. and John Mills, of the University of North Carolina, have returned home for the holidays.

B. P. Harris, formerly manager of the Western Union Telegraph office here, is visiting relatives in Rutherfordton.

Miss Pearl Gibbs, music teacher at the graded school, is visiting home-folks at Marion during her vacation.

Charles Monfreda, Jr., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carlo Monfreda.

Mrs. J. L. Geer, of the Presbyterian orphan's home, of Barium Springs, is visiting home folks.

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