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Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

THE

RISE OF THE MODERN

SHORTSTORY

BY

ROBERT EMMET MACALARNEY
DICKINSON 93

SUNE VIII, MDCCCXCIII.

De gas laeg central des seen a de eided change ni bli character of america giotain. Ile morres moel on Locares al dito means ago were as a mele so detailed and Jonnidalle ni sige as to make elle germal at even one at them a renois mideresting. Indeed the geome rarie Those cand & sal an extent, that the "three nolume" nove of 12 al.

line has gassed into the waln of come falers or or current joke. And zet ende as wer the sondilion of the word of land day le at of the short atom was even norse. Of mageryme in bo a specially of was drawned og liberature, ller wer gradiane, home In elecation of the duar maro at the made guella, woll of shoop and shifted at ledroni fracessio og detail hed male horse made.

Do-day Mis condition of affairs is comp Dluckange hoursen; Lac vos bran endden nor fromomoed, has has come through the goadnal culturaction of the taske of the reading fullis Ly mis of one mag aguies and gerodicals. The view of the shoot atong has been corral will rouse of the may aggine. By no otter georgee has the offen

A Leignicas o Josafara branch arged to such an extent as by our own, ad for this the about stony las mi a great me adore, bren recoponable In once gogue ar gul dicatione as danger, Scribnes, and electer lung, along atomes and abetales Jon Me elief contento, and this manage a dit or who can seem the break alle some for line monthly reaming motor content it the Moudedge

that he gomenal me e lave ele dangert salio. The main argues of " Janor of Min confarable wides fread and regist Journey of mie of of the middender ce how are much loo hogy me the meetflid care of existence to devole hours to the carrye mod og den gen vorkan ing elect short story cans contain all the breat elemente og lis more

Ondlog lotter the same moderne mental andur well bu done ly it at ele expendile tog me less duine, and gaming a large mulas of all dilutal moders ni fossele uder other conditions That el a la la peary en any means is dead, for it can herrentine de disfersed will, his ly means of the shooten attele en blut hard Le refles d'impron noing Due of gold of and

the magnine and dr Imagilad by god o chara avuelling about and auterlaning statillary mee mad re monge, a de drugiera. stog under og eliet græde blært ar many hamed will worky of mention together had lesofer, Deser ; as Where whose character sketse and attractantess of alger an us breeze de sfile the hundred of foges conames mi a

Reger work. Of Mase unline of along stones ameroci Ones elect break and most umerons. heras a. Comandaye is to the Engerer, and Duy Me Mangasant la la Truel, Roland Meleon Bage, Braider Oraceans, F. Hofferian brilleri, and to id. Den sa munos oldert mel moser mehoning among whom are Henry games versidning Spectioned han delige to the meders of more It an one conditions, A our our wiles Kid and Handing Davie o by far elle ende varied exference gesterd during service years horle, as a repoller. Dan Marky leden at a farmer for claractur drawing and eigelbei deline alono le as foosen

a francias al arm. He favores se academ of van Bilean a Mas Dociet man, mileodie the manais glassed of Der sporter eige ad dia ge and a time in a get one of his brod froductions. The various I solve I am I ad a marrelond sally has one your our om comen dit i oller. One las more a new Trund ad how I am a " and wood De with. nes rosned,

bellet the more me 5 donced the above at any in foldow mee. Lean or gradiains one ni elle la promo remains to be seen. De at there are dangere i ile vorg; to at the de de grang he gold de extremed as had alraay ocamo ni Rome bace, is he done done. Do Jan however, lle ceange as a whole good good

1893 Senior Oration of Robert Emmet MacAlarney, Class of 1893 Transcribed by Krista Gray, September 2008 Edited by Meg MacAvoy, September 2008

The Rise of the Modern Short Story

The past half century has seen a decided change in the character of American fiction. The novels read by our fathers of fifty years ago were as a rule so detailed and formidable in size as to make the perusal of even one of them a serious undertaking.

Indeed this [two words illegible] was carried to such an extent, that the "three volume" work of itself.

[One word illegible] was passed into the realm of our come papers as a currant joke. And yes crude as was the condition of the novel of that day, that of the short story was even worse.

Of magazine's making a speciality of that branch of literature, there was gradually none.

In the opinion of the great mass of the reading public, nothing short and stuffed of tedious processesion of detail, was really worth reading.

To-day this condition of affairs is completely revolutionized. This change however, has not been sudden nor pronounced, but has come through the gradual cultivation of that taste of the reading public, by means of our magazines and periodicals. The rise of the short story has been coeval with that of the magazine. By no other people has the sphere

of periodical literature been enlarged to such an extent as by our own, and for this the short story has in a great measure, been responsible. In such popular publications as [Hanger?], [Scribues?], and the [Century?], short stories and sketches form the chief contents, and the managing editor who can secure the best short stories for his monthly issue, rests content in the knowledge

that his journal will have the largest sales. The main argument in favor of this comparatively understood and rapidly growing style of writing, is, that the people of this nineteenth century are much too busy with the meaningful care of existence to devote hours to the careful reading of lengthy works of fiction. This being so, if the short story can contain all the best elements of his more

lengthy brother the same work of mental culture will be done by it at the expenditure of much less time, and gaining a large number of all [one word illegible] readers impossible under other conditions. Not that the long story by any means is dead, for it can never entirely be dispensed with, but by means of the shorter article even the hard [drawn?] working people of the country may find time as finds of one of

the magazine's and be benefited by finding there something short and entertaining that they will read thouroughly and be benefited.

Among the short story writers of this past decade there are many names well worthy of mention together with [one word illegible], Scott, and Dickens, whose character sketching and attractiveness of style are no better than the hundreds of pages consumed in a

single work.

Of those writers of short stories America has the best and most numerous.

What [A. Comand Doyle?] is to the English, and [Guy De Margassant?] to the French, [Roland?] Harding Davis, Thomas Nelson Page, Branden Matthews, F. Hopkinson Smith, and Mary E. Wilkins, are to us.

There are numerous others well worth mentioning among whom are

Rudyard Kipling and Henry James whose lengthy sketches have delighted the readers of more than one continent.

Of our own writers Richard Harding Davis is by far the best.

With a wide and varied experience gathered during several years work, as a reformer in New York, he has as the end of his few a faculty for character drawing and life like deliberations that possess,

a particular charm.

His favorite character of Van Bibean a young society men, introducing the various phases of New York life and displaying a keen interest in the human nature is one of his best productions.

His various books have had a marvellous sale, not only in our our country but in others.

Only last month a new French editorial of his "[one word illegible] Story" was issued.

Whether this movement toward the short story in fiction will prove to be a beneficial one in the long run remains to be seen.

That there are dangers in the way; that the [one word illegible] way be pushed to extremes as has already seemed in some cases, is no doubt true.

So far, however, the change as a whole has unquestionably been for the good.