

CLARE KUMMER

Good Gracious, Annabelle. FRENCH.

Rollo's Wild Oat. FRENCH.

A Successful Calamity. FRENCH.

Clare Kummer writes the best whimsical dialogue of any American playwright. Her plays are frothy, sparkling, but they strike through to a deeper note. She has a faculty of writing a penetrating scene under the guise of the flimsiest action. Miss Kummer was born in Brooklyn, of the Beecher family, and is a cousin of William Gillette. She first gained prominence in 1906 as a song writer, and her first play, written in 1912 in collaboration with Sydney Rosenfeld, was "The Opera Ball".

"And indeed, I think you may say that the approach to Clare Kummer by way of Jane Austen is our best chance of a just appreciation of her work. Miss Kummer's atmosphere is one of droll and delicate wit, a mood innocent and quiet that takes our social foibles for its heritage, and with its own kind of irony, a soft, arrested blow that rarely misses its aim. The whole first act of 'The Mountain Man' has a light and lovable ripple above its gentle, deep waters; something that suggests happy moments in literature, suggests taste, quaint affability, steady reflection on life." — Stark Young, NEW REPUBLIC, February 8, 1922.

"If I had read Miss Clare Kummer's plays in manuscript before any of them had been acted, I should not have foreseen their success. The public, I should have said, the gross public which likes its jokes heavy and its sentiment viscous, will not notice the range of Miss Kummer's quiet voice nor feel the pleasant fresh liquid coolness of her humor. Her plays are scenically and emotionally and morally too unpretentious for our American taste, their amusing waywardness is too unemphatic. Today, when for several seasons, Miss Kummer has had a public which appreciates these good qualities and her others, and when it is too late to prophesy even wrongly, I still incline to the opinion that her plays would have been wasted on the only public I know anything about, the

public of 25 years ago. . . . She has invented a new corner of *le pays de tendre*, a place where the day is still young, where the shadows are shortening, where Cinderella has no wicked stepmother, where gaiety keeps the sweetness from tasting too sweet, where a fantasy that is humorous and a humor that is oddly like good sense together keep reminding us that the surface the light feet of her characters are walking on, resembles the brown earth we all know. Miss Kummer's nonsense is often wise and always serene." — P. L., NEW REPUBLIC, April 20, 1921.

REFERENCES:

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Clare Kummer. P. L., NEW REPUBLIC, April 20, 1921.
A New Comedy Gift. LITERARY DIGEST, October 27, 1917.

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