Title:	Much ado about something: a satirical allegory on the short comings of character : in one act and one scene
Name(s):	McCree, Junie
Resource Type:	
Note(s):	From the collections of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division.
Subject(s):	song marriage marital relations -- economics -- personal finance transportation -- automobiles songs song title -- "I Love You Bill" dialects -- Italian opera -- excerpts
URL	http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/loc.rbc.varsep.s44910

PDF dynamically generated by the Library of Congress.

MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING,

A Satirical allegory on the short-comings of character, in one act and one scene,

By,

Junie McCree.

MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING,

A satirical allegory on the short-comings of character, in one act and one scene,

By,

Junie McCree.

SEP 15 1916

©CLD 44910

Much ado about somethinga satirical allegory on the short comings of character : in one act and one scene/McCree, Junie

MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING.

A satirical allegory on the short-comings of character, in one act and one scene,

By. Junie McCree.

C A S T.

Marion Maxwell . . . The Expert Bride . . . . . .

Gabby Lott . . . . . The Scandal Monger . . . . . .

Mame)
: . . . . . Bowery Lovers . . . . . .
Bill)

Vivian Deer. . . . . The Military problem . . . . . .

Sweet Marie. . . . . The Disappointment . . . . . .

(SCENE:- Street in (1)

(Music lively at rise. enter Marion from R.I.E.)

(Sings) Marion

The gown I wear is proof that there is going to be a wedding,
A Wedding is a proof that life is not all easy sledding.
But I've been there before.so there is no need I should tarry.
When I have nothing else to do,
Then I go out and marry.

"Marriage my dear is alright in its way",
My mother said and sighed.
"The first time I got married dear,
Is the first time that I died".
She oft spoke of June as the bridal month,
I still can hear her say:

"If the honeymoon begins in June,
Shoot me in the month of May".

Marriage, my daughter, is all very well.
Sometimes it's Heaven, more often it's hell.
My dearest daughter, avoid the hot water
Which heats up the marital stew,
'Til its sizzle-ing;
You know and I know and every one knows
That men are like angels they day they propose,
But the wings on a husband are blacker than crows,
And each word of Mother's came true.

(Music stops)

(MONOLOGUE)

How vividly I recall Mother's advice. "BEWARE OF MAN" she said, she had repeated her warning "BEWARE OF MAN" so often that one day I said "Mother, why don't you say "MEN - "BEWARE OF MEN instead of "BEWARE OF MAN"? She replied:- MEN are not dangerous, MAN IS. You are SAFE with a CROWD of MEN, but with a MAN (rolls eyes) "BEWARE MY CHILD".

I guess that's the reason Mother married four ti es. Marriage is an unsolved problem. I might say it's a MATHEMATICAL problem, for it begins with ADDITION. In a short while you have MULTIPLICATION, when wifey searches hubby's pockets, it's SUBTRACTION, and for the least in-FRACTION of the marriage vows, it means DIVISION. It starts with SHORT division, but alimony makes it LONG division.

Years ago people married for LOVE. Today they marry for CONVENIENCE. Any man who owns a motor car doesn't have to remain single ten minutes.

WITH a PIERCE ARROW he can win an HEIRESS. With a CADILLAC, he can get a SOCIETY GIRL. With a SIMPLEX, he may run across a rich widow. And even with a FORD, he has to disguise the HOOD to keep the CHICKENS off the running board.

I spent my first honeymoon in a LIMOUSINE FLIVVER. Dear me, how that car did RATTLE and SHAKE. It shook so much that my husband got the SHAKING HABIT, and in TWO WEEKS he SHOOK ME. But he was a typical MOTORIST. He ATE, DRANK and TALKED motoring, called me his CARBURETOR, and when he wanted to kiss me, he'd say "LET ME REMOVE SOME OF THE CARBON FROM YOUR SPARK PLUGS". Called the house we live in "OUR GARAGE". At breakfast he'd hand his coffee cup to me and say " A LITTLE MORE GAS". In the mornings when he used a tooth brush, it sounded like STRIPPING GEARS. He always referred to his straw hat as "A ONE MAN TOP".

He came home one night FULL OF MOBILOIL, so much so, that he SMOKED and SKIDDED. He must have had his dimmers on for he ran into me; first thing he said was "WHY DIDN'T YOU BLOW YOUR HORN"? I said "for two pins I'D BLOW YOUR HOME". That straightened him up, so he put his hands on my head as though it was a STEERING WHEEL, and he said "Dearie! LET'S KEEP TO THE RIGHT, and TURN THE SHARP CORNERS OF LIFE ON FIRST SPEED".

Never let any scandal get on our MUD GUARDS. If times get bad as we find ourselves going DOWN HILL, Let's SHOVE OUT THE CLUTCH and COAST AWHILE. This will save our FAMILY GASOLENE and rest the ENGINE of LOVE. and who knows butin a short while we may have A (INDICATES CHILDREN) PAIR of TWIN SIXES to RUNABOUT THE HOUSE (pause. After listening to him, marriage became a greater puzzle.

(Sings)

Marriage what is it? Excitement awhirl.
A white Satin gown, a cake and a girl,
Marriage what is it? A ring and a fuss,
Some rice and some slippers,
Some tears and a muss.

(recites travesty)

Marriage what is it? a frock coat, a groom,
Some bride maids and ushers to wait at your doom,
Marriage what is it? Some happiness maybe,
A short honeymoon. then a bow-legged baby;
Marriage what is it? a gamble, a game.
Where everything changes, even your name.
Xxx Marriage what is it? A mere game of chance,
And a million of squabbles to see who'll wear the pants.

(exits L.I.E.)

(GABBY enters during musical introduction)

GABBY

Verse.

I live in a neighborhood called "Gossip Avenue",
Where the Scandal Mongers do their entertaining;
Every family skeleton held up to public view
Would really have an awful time explaining.
Stories are imported, assorted and distorted,
No rumor is a blooper in our set;
Last week we had to handle
A meaty little scandal,
What the thing was all about I quite g forget.

CHORUS

Mary told it to Annie,
Annie told it to Sue,
Sue rushed over to Fanny's house
And told her Sister Lou.
Lucy told it to Mamie,
Mamie told it to Kate,
Katie told it to Jessie
When she met her at the gate.
Jessie told it to Lizzie,
When Lizzie had it rehearsed,
She broke her neck to tell Mary,
But Mary had told it first.
Each girl who told the story
Had added something to,

Much ado about somethinga satirical allegory on the short comings of character : in one act and one scene/McCree, Junie

By the time it got back to Mary,

It was absolutely new.

(Repaat chorus.)

(MONOLOGUE)

(Smiles)

How they do EXAGGERATE GOSSIP where I live.

Mr. Jones bought a new typewriter the other day and carried it to his office on a street car.

Mr. Smith casually told his wife that evening that he'd met Jones on a street car with a new typewriter.

And now, GOSSIP has JONES ELOPING WITH HIS STENOGRAPHER IN AN AEROPLANE.

Mrs. Brown bowed to her chaffeur last Sunday coming from Church and NOW the neighbors have her RUNNING AWAY WITH BARNEY OLDFIELD.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson spend two weeks visiting relatives in Philadelphia. And GOSSIP has them BOTH DEAD and BURIED.

Madame Fromage Signorita Lombardi and Mrs. McSwayne after VERBALLY CHASTIZING every nieghbor until they run out of adjectives. wind up by deciding the European war.

Madame Fromage says:- (shrugging shoulders)If deez war was fought One hundred years ago. she would not last two week. NAPOLEON would say to JOSEPHINE "Ma Chere! I will not be home TONIGHT. There eez a war going on and MAYBE PERHAPS I will not be home for two or three night. (ranting) MY COUNTRY

SHE CALL ME! De clash of de SABRE, de roar of de CANNON, de sound of de MUSKET eez só MUSICAL. dat I must SWIM in de battle for FRANCE. I must SWIM in de battle Josephine. I MUST SWIM IN DE BATTLE.

Den Josephine would stop crying and say:- "MY Lord Master Napoleon, sef you MUST SWIM in de battle, hang your clothes on a hickory limb, but DON'T GO NEAR DE WATERLOO.

Then Signorita Lombardi wrings her hands)wrings hands) excitedly) and exclaims hysterically:- "Oh I hope - a deeza war eez gonna quita soon. My Tony is getta so mad, when he reada de EVENING paper ina de MORNING, dat he shouta "ROSA! if deez war ainta gonna commence-a to begrinna to stop, I'm gonna close-a de barber shop for two three day an go backa to Italy an BREAKS SOMEBODY'S-A NECK!

"Are yez talkin' about the High Jinks they're havin in Europe"? says Mrs.McGhayne. Sure MY ould man informs me that he's SETTLED that war FIVE or SIX times. But EVERYTIME HE SCEERS UP THEY'RE AT IT AGIN.

While these neighbors have been wading through their MILITARY DIGEST, some one across the street has read an item in the birth column of an evening paper that Mr. and Mrs. DIXON HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TWINS. This item has been distorted so many times, in GOSSIP ROW, that it culminates with Mrs. Dixon running A KINDERGARDEN and Mr. DIXON HAVING CHARGE OF A REGIMENT.

CHORUS.

Mary told it to Annie,
Annie told it to Sue,
Sue rushed over to Fanny's house
And told her Sister Lou.
Lucy told it to Mamie,
Mamie told it to Kate,
Katie told it to Jessie,
When she met her at the gate.
Jessie told it to Lizzie,
When Lizzie had it rehearsed
She broke her neck to tell Mary
But Mary had told it first.
Each girl who told the story
Had added something to,
By the time it got back to Mary,
It was absolutely new.

(Exits.)

(MAME and BILL enter. He is a bit sullen and stands centre with head down while she sings).

VERSE.

Mame.

I don't know why you seem to doubt me Bill,
You know I'm ready any time you say.

To stand up in the Church and say I will,
With all my heart, love-honor and obey,
You've often sang, "That's how I love you Mame",
The sweetest song I ever heard you sing,
But now why don't you be a little game,
And make a noise just like a wedding ring.

(Music stops)

Bill.

(Bashful like)

I don't think ya love me like I love you.

Mame - Chorus.

I love you like a sailor loves the water,
Or like a Yankee soldier loves his flag.
And like a granny loves her own grand daughter,
I love you like a toper loves a jag.
I love you like a jockey loves a winner,
I love you with my soul and always will,
Just like a little baby loves its dinner.
So help me! That is how I love you Bill.

(Music stops)

Bill.

Well Ilove ya the same way, but when it comes to proposin'
I don't know how to spill it.

Mame.

Don't spill it, SPRINKLE it you fish, SPRINKLE it.

Bill.

Well here goes, Mame - I - you, aw how do you start?

Mame.

Get down n your knees and swear -

Bill.

Get me mad first.

Mame.

What for?

Bill.

So I cin swear.

Mame

Oh I don't mean your ever day conversation.

Bill.

Well what do ya mean?

Mame.

I mean get on your knees and say "Mame! If you'll fly with me I'll take ya to me castle in the Mountains,

Bill.

What Mountains?

Mame.

On Second Avenya, ya Heinie.

Bill.

They aint no mountains on Second Avenya.

Mame.

I know it, it's only a bluff like you are. Tell me you'll cover me with diamonds.

Bill.

Aw they aint enough in the deck.

Mame.

I don't mean THEM kind. I mean REAL diamonds, what cost a dollar apiece. Tell me you'll buy me a horse and a auto and a bicycle.

Bill.

I might as well trow in an aeroplane too.

Mame.

Tell me that we'll have a summer cottage in Florida, and a Winter home on Fifty Avenya.

Bill.

We'll be lucky with a one room flat on Houston street.

Mame.

Tell me; if I don't marry you, you'll jump in the river.

Bill.

What! And me not able to swim?

Mame.

I won't let you jump in you boob.

Bill.

Naw! You'll push me.

Mame.

I'll do SOMETHING if you dont propose to me so n.

Bill.

Oh I want to, but the words won't come out in English.

Mame.

Ask me in "PIGEON ENGLISH".

Bill.

How do ya mean, "PIGEON ENGLISH?

Mame.

Ant-kay oo-yay eek-spa ob- hay at-in-lay?

Bill.

(Smiling) Oh- Nay.

Mame.

(Music vamps, Bill sings)

Ood-kay oo-yay earn-lay oo-tay uv-lay ee-ma ,
Ood-kay oo-yay I-may eer-day uv-day ee-bay,
Ill-way oo-yay ee-bay Ipmay ife-way.
Ake-may ee-may ad-glay or-fay ife-lay,
et-lay ee-may i-bay ee-thay ing-ray,
or-fay ee-thay edding-way.
Et-lay ee-may iss-kay,
Oo-yay eer-day iss-may,
Ee-bay I-may arling-day.

Bill.

I know wot dat is.

(Orchestra repeats cho. softly and Bill speaks the chorus in English. Arms around her).

Could-you - learn - to - love-me,
Could - you - m y - dear - dove - be,
Will - you - be - my- wife,
Make - me - glad - for - life,
Let - me-buy - the - ring,
For - the - wedding.

(Music stops)

Mame.

That's what I been wantin' to hear you say right along.

(Embraces him and they walk slowly R.)

Bill.

Tell me again, Mame, the way you love me.

Mame.

(Sings chorus of "I LOVE YOU BILL".)

(Both exit.)

(Enter Vivian Deer)

Vivian

Verse.

Uncle Sam y said to me "Now get yourself a gun",
"You can't tell how soon that we'll be mixed up in the fun!"
"We need a bigger army and we need a lot of boars",
"We also need a girl like you to write our little notes".
He - told-me -
"Some one ought to make a move, so we would be prepared",
"And then", he said "No war with us would ever be declared",
He handed me this weapon (indicates gun) and my forehead
then he kissed,
So I've been looking for the station where I can enlist.

Chorus.

I just want to be a soldier,
With a gun upon my shoulder:
Ev'ry day as I grow older
I believe we should prepare
For our own protection.

Much ado about somethinga satirical allegory on the short comings of character : in one act and one scene/McCree, Junie

Ever/ ready for the battle
Which may start most any day.
If the dove of peace is taken from us,
"Proud to fight", Let that be shaken from us,
Ev'ry girl should be a soldier.

(repeat cho. with march).

2nd Verse.

Uncle Sammy asked me if I'd thought of married life,
Adked me if I understood the duties of a wife.
He spoke of these domestic wars that happen every day,
And how the wife surrenders in the middle of thefray.
I - told - him -
How I'd make a study and devised a clever plan
Where woman would be on an equal basis with a man;
It's just a simple recipe for married women's rights,
Adopt my plan and it will end all matrimonial fights.

2nd Chorus.

Ev'ry wife should be a soldier,
With a gun upon her shoulder,
Ev'ry day as you grow older,
You'll find out you must prepare
For your own protection,
Ever ready for the battle
Which may start most any day.
If the dove of peace is taken from you,
"Proud to fight" Let that be shaken from you,
Ev'ry wife should be a soldier.

(Exit.)

Much ado about somethinga satirical allegory on the short comings of character : in one act and one scene/McCree, Junie

(Enter SWEET MARIE)

MARIE

1st Verse.

Pedro Pellegreeni izza my sweet-a-heart,
Joost a year ago from Italy beeza start,
Come-a-to deez count-e-ry where money eez so loose,
Heez gonna seeng de Opra li e Carus;
By and by he send a me de sweet leetle note,
Tella me teez time for me to get on de boat,
He also say dat when he seeng,
De people shout like enny- teeng.
Heez gotta New York Cety by de troat,
Heez right "de people shout" joost like he say,
Shout for de waiter in de cabaret.

Chorus.

My Pedro eez a seenger in a rag a time a cabaret, cabaret,
All he doo eez de snapping of de feenger while de banjo play,
banjo play (snaps fingers.)
Heez notta a seeng a one a song dat he study for in Italy, Italy,
I long to heer dat Rigoletto strain.
(Rigelotto)
Instead from dat when Pedro take de stand,
Heez seeng "De Sky drop down in Ireland",
(Cho. "little bit of Heaven".)
'Cause a my Pedro eez a rag time seenger in a Cabaret.

2nd Verse.

Pedro has to seeng untill heez getta so hoarse,
When dey bring de food heez seeng a for every course;
Every bowl of soup heez gotta watch where she goes,
Den seeng "Down where de Reever Shan on flows".
When dey bring de beef steak den heez seeng "Toreador".
Kidney Stew he sing "my dream of love eez a o'er.
And when he eggs eez boiled or fried,
Heez gotta a seeng "I dreamed I died";
And den he has to open every door.

De frist a time some cer an cheese he saw,
He seeng out loud "Wake up America".

My Pedro eez a seenger in a rag a time a cabaret, Cabaret,
All he do eez de snapping of de feenger when de banjo play,
banjo play,
Heez notta seeng a one a song dat he study for In Italy, Italy,
I long to hear that Pagliacci strain.
(Pagliacci)
Instead fm from dat he seeng out loud and shrill,
"Won't some one take me down to Louisville".
(Cho. of "Louisville".)
'Cause a my Pedro eez a rag time seenger in a Cabaret.
(Exit.

FINIS.