Is O. Henry a Pernicious Literary Influence?

Mrs Katharine Fullerton Gerould Says That He Wrote Expanded Anecdotes, Not Short Stories, with Nothing But Climax

do. Joyce Kilmer

Henry has been called many things. Some people have called him a pernicious influence, and in the

century Balzac. Some have called him the American

in the highest degree. She was enjoying the

ness for him, she called him a Pernicious Influence.

The author of the "Vain Obligations" and "The Doughnut" stories wrote these novels and

in a sterner critical mood. She was enjoy-

in the novel "The Four Million". The novel, set in the

shades of St. Clair Court, her pleasant Columbia

of English at the university. Mrs. Ger-

one at peace with all the world—

ter, nevertheless, she called O. Henry a Pernicious

Now, the only real way for a

temporary short story writer to refer to O. Henry is to

fully. Mrs. Gerould, in spirit of the fame which her

she brought her, is above all things a writer of short

and has written for the Washington Cable—some of his New

my novels must be localized.

"I cannot see a novel as at once local and general," I asked. "Cannot its characters be peculiar to some locality and their manners and mode of life universal—as in some of Hardy's novels?"

"Hardy?" said Mrs. Gerould. "Well, I must say I do exceedingly remember. I have never had the Hardy feeling strongly, because Hardy really doesn't play fair with his characters—they might be called angelic or something like that, but the characters in a French novel, they are not flesh and blood, they are

she called O. Henry a Pernicious

fluence. Now, the only real way for a

permanent literary influence. His name was

Wheeler, the very present in the English language it is

in the English language, it is very special, very local, and it is

to Mr. Sharp, who writes the Washington Cable—some of his New

The nation, to put it in the

my own language in the English language, it is very

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