

REAL CLASSICS IN PROSE AND POETRY.

In literature the word classic was originally limited to Greek and Latin prose and poetry. It has now come to mean any piece of literature whose quality is such that it has survived for fifty or a hundred years and is by common consent regarded as so good as to be permanent. A literary classic should possess one or all of the following qualities:

1. It should reflect the mode of thought and the customs and manners of its time.

The travels of Herodotus, the dialogues of Socrates, and the novels of Jane Austen are examples.

2. It should be written in a beautiful and striking style.

Lincoln's Gettysburg speech is an example.

3. It should spring from and appeal to a cultivated imagination.

The poems of Keats are an example.

4. It should be a contribution to the thought of the world and should stimulate the thought of the world.

The essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson are an example.

5. It should possess a universal human interest and express all phases of human experience.

The Old Testament and Shakespeare's plays are examples.

No one generation can determine what classics it is producing. The final judgment must and will be pronounced by succeeding generations.

Walt Whitman and Lincoln were looked on with contempt by many of their most highly educated contemporaries. And yet Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" and Lincoln's Gettysburg speech will live as long as the English language lives.

Nor does a classic have to be "high-brow stuff." If it is a genuine intelligent and witty picture of a certain aspect of society, even a "best-seller" may become a classic; although I am bound to say that most of our modern best-sellers have very little chance of achieving this immortality.

The "Pickwick Papers," the "Biglow Papers," and "Night With Uncle Remus" were all best-sellers and are all classics. I hope I shall shock nobody by saying that I think "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" is more likely to become a classic than many contemporary novels or stories that are much more pretentious. Artificial and pretentious writing never makes a classic. Sincerity, simplicity and spontaneity are qualities that every true classic—whether in music, painting, prose or poetry—possesses; all others pretending to the titles are counterfeits. Let nobody hoodwink you into supposing that the classics are pompous, stilted, and boring. If they were, nobody would read them—not even your teachers and professors.—Lawrence F. Abbot, in the Outlook.

Plant Societies

The science of botany has been greatly advanced by the development of what may be called the sociology of plants—that is, the study of their relations to one another as well as their adjustments to surroundings. Botanists recognize that plants are not scattered haphazard over the globe, but are organized into definite communities. A pond has its plant society, all the members of which fall into their proper places. A swamp forest consists of trees possessing a certain social relationship and differing from those that form a forest on dry land. There is progression from one social organization of plants to another. A lily pond may give place to a swamp shrub, and this to a society of swamp shrubs, and this again to a swamp forest of tamarack, pine and hemlock. So societies of plants on dry land succeed one another as the conditions change.

TRUST COMPANIES RANK NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING HIGHEST

The outstanding trust institutions of the United States are those that were pioneers in using advertising as a means of selling their services, a speaker told a conference of trust companies held in New York recently. He presented the results of a questionnaire sent out by the Trust Company Division, American Bankers Association, making an inquiry into the advertising practices of institutions doing a trust business. Three out of every four trust companies and banks engaged in extending trust services were found to be advertising. The opinion was expressed by the speaker that their growth would closely follow the amounts spent each year for advertising.

The local newspaper is the most highly regarded advertising medium, it was disclosed. In all, 929 companies answering the questionnaire used the local papers and 333 did not. The institutions buying space in local papers are evenly divided among all sections of the country. Comparing six media for selling personal trust services and considering their effectiveness from the standpoint of producing results, the speaker declared that the local newspapers should head the list. Folders and booklets can reach a limited audience, he observed, but the newspaper is the best medium for acquiring prestige and mass circulation. It should never be omitted, he urged.

—The Watchman publishes news when it is news. Read it.

Something Lacking in Men of Great Minds

Many great philosophers have shown an extraordinary inability to carry out their teachings in daily life. Their precepts are sound enough; their wisdom is undoubted. Yet they are foolish fellows, after all.

The reason is not so obscure as it seems at first sight. A man may have a fine brain, so that, in the quiet of his study, he can put in words great wisdom. But along with that fine brain may go a weak character which balks him whenever he attempts to cope with stark reality.

John Stuart Mill was a great philosopher. But in his daily life he committed every conceivable blunder. Thomas Carlyle concentrated his profound mind on the causes of misery in the world, and made his own home utterly unhappy by an uncontrolled and irritable temperament. He could give the world a lot; but for his long-suffering wife, whom he loved in his own way, he had little but harsh words, scoldings, and churlishness.

Anatole France, greatest of modern French writers and commentators on life, said, shortly before he died: "I have never known a moment's happiness." Why had he not known happiness? Surely because, for all his wisdom, he had not, after all, mastered the art of life.

The great German philosopher, Schopenhauer, whose treatises on metaphysics are classic, was a fool in the affairs of life. While writing his monumental treatises on philosophy he yet contrived to be so peevish, suspicious, and quarrelsome that his own mother, with whom he lived, requested him to go away from her. It is said that he had not a single friend.

Many a simple, ignorant man possesses more real wisdom than a learned professor. The true test is action; those men are wise, who live wisely.

Successful Book Thief

Fortunately for our literary treasures, dishonesty among librarians is extremely rare, but the arrest of the curator of a Paris library for trying to sell a valuable Thirteenth-century MS. in his charge to a London bookseller recalls the deprivations of the most successful book thief on record—Count Guglielmo Libri, for many years Inspector general of public libraries in France. In the course of his visits of inspection Libri contrived to remove from the various collections a remarkable number of valuable books and manuscripts, and before discovery managed to accumulate some \$200,000 by the sale of his plunder. In 1848 a warrant was issued for his arrest, but he had friends at court and was enabled to escape to England, where he lived very comfortably for many years on the proceeds of his stolen treasures.

Providing Beauty

It is delightful to have something done without regard to the returns to the doer, to have something spontaneous, ample, gloriously useless; thousands spent for the mere pleasure of spending it on others; to have the savings of years bottled in a flask, and then pour it forth on feet and head . . . and then break the flask. To some it seems like a criminal waste to put all the skill and labor of a lifetime on a few feet of canvas, while the painter can scarcely get bread, and then give that canvas to the world. But it will impart pleasure to thousands. . . . Pour out your money on the beautiful. Encourage the workers in the beautiful. . . . You who are rich ought to provide the beautiful for yourselves and for the poor.—Charles F. Deems, in "Religion in Beauty."

One of the Collection

Edsel Ford, who is a great collector of automobile anecdotes, said the other day:

"A man once went to the Blank headquarters to try a Blank car. A stock car was brought round and a demonstrator drove the man 20 miles out into the country. Then the car stopped. The demonstrator got down to see what the trouble was.

"My goodness me!" he said.

"What is it?" was the demand.

"What ails her?"

"They forgot to put a drop of gasoline in the tank," said the demonstrator. "The car has done these 20 miles on its reputation alone."

Recording Land Sales

The Torrens system has been described as follows: It is a system of registration of titles to land (as distinct from registration of deeds). It was introduced into South Australia by the Real Property (or Torrens) act (laws of 1857-58), drafted by Sir Robert Richard Torrens (1814-84). The essential feature of the Torrens system is the guaranty by the government of properly registered titles. The system has been generally adopted in Australia and British Columbia, and in its original or a modified form in some other countries, including some states of the United States.

New Business Idea

A retail drug store at Seattle, Wash., bought up the street car capacity of the city for the hour between 9 a. m. and 10 a. m. During this period any one might ride to town free. The result was that twice as many people as usual entered the retail district that forenoon. The store playing the host regarded the deal as good business. Soon there were enough applications for the same innovation to sell the car service each day for a month.

FARM NOTES.

—Spring calves should not be turned on pasture until they are 4 to 6 months of age. Less digestive trouble and more satisfactory growth will result.

—Do not take grain away from the ewes too early in the spring. Remember that the young grass carries a high water content and very little nourishment.

—Be sure to enter that litter in the Keystone Ton Litter Club before May 31, the final date for nominations. You will find that it pays to grow a ton of pork per litter in 180 days.

—Are you listening in on the farm and garden programs of the WPSC broadcasting station at State College each Monday evening at 8 o'clock? Tune in on the latest information.

—Many of the old-fashioned perennial flowers may be sown now in boxes so that they will be sufficiently large to set out in early September. Most of these will bloom next year.

—Annual flower seeds should be sowed directly in the outdoor beds after the middle of May. This should not be put off too long if flowers are to be in bloom before frost comes next fall.

—The ideal garden provides plenty of vegetables which not only keep the family well supplied during the growing season but also provide food to be canned, dried, or stored for the winter months.

—A cow tester's training course will be given at the Pennsylvania State College, May 16 to 21. Several associations will need testers at that time and positions will be available quickly.

—The iris, or flag, as its old-fashioned name is known, makes a fine cut flower, say landscape architects of the Pennsylvania State College. In cutting leave plenty of foliage for the promotion of growth.

—Keep the strength of the honey bee colony up to standard by preventing starvation this spring. Look at the hives and if they do not contain the equivalent of three frames of honey, begin feeding sugar syrup to the bees.

—Rape makes a good pasture for fattening lambs. One acre will carry from 20 to 25 lambs for 4 to 5 weeks. Turn the lambs in when the rape is six inches high and provide other pasture while the lambs are learning to like the rape.

—Sweet clover sown in wheat or oats this spring will provide considerable pasture in the fall, and next summer it will carry 2 to 4 cows per acre. Dairy farmers are urged to try this cheap method of summer feeding. The soil must be sweet.

—Cows on pasture need grain. Do not plan to take grain from them as soon as they are turned out. Pasture is a succulent, watery feed and does not contain sufficient nutrients to keep a cow in flesh and milking heavily at the same time.

—Now is the season to look over the dairy stable and see what improvements or changes can be made that will lessen labor or increase the comfort of the cows. Less labor decreases costs and greater cow comfort increases yields and profits.

—If you have a good litter of pigs on the farm this year, be sure to call up the county agent so you can nominate the porker family for the 1927 Keystone Ton Litter Club. Producing a ton of pork with one family of pigs in 180 days is a paying proposition.

—Do not sow seeds too thickly and then neglect to thin the plants. It is very easy to sow too much fine seed, such as carrot, lettuce, and radish. If the seed is sown thickly to insure a perfect stand of plants, be sure to do the thinning while the plants are young.

—On account of the late development of apple red bugs and the apparent failure of putting on the calyx application for codling moth early, it is probable that codling may be omitted from the codling moth application, say extension entomologists of the Pennsylvania State College.

—Choose your next herd sire very carefully. No improvement in the herd is possible without bringing in some better blood. If a better herd is wanted in the future something must be done about it now. If you do not understand pedigrees get someone to help make the selection.

—In pruning the young apple, there are three objectives which constantly must be kept in mind since they form the goal toward which all pruning operations are to be directed. These three objectives are strength, size, and fruitfulness, say specialists at the Pennsylvania State College.

—Prevention of worms in poultry is better than attempting to control them after they have become entrenched. The best method is to follow a strict sanitation program. Raise the chicks in clean houses, with clean litter, use clean feed and water, and let them range only on clean ground.

—It is better to be safe than sorry, say plant pathologists of the Pennsylvania State College, in recommending that lime sulphur which tests 1,008 be used. Some fruit growers believe that a weaker solution is satisfactory but the specialists say that this is true only in years when there is a poor germination of the apple scab aspospores.

—April 24 to 30 is American Forest Week. Remember that wood and timber gain in volume even though a farm may be abandoned. While

other income may fall very low or cease altogether, the timber crop continues to gain. This feature is important in maintaining the value of the farm in the face of the town industries which tend to lead the farmer away from agriculture and cause him to neglect his farm business.

Forced to Call Halt

Rev. George Potter, vicar of St. Chrysostom's, Peckham, England, who has always permitted all his 8,000 parishioners to use his telephone, has announced that he will censor all calls in the future. He declared youths' lengthy calls to girl friends and "delayed at the office" calls, cannot be permitted from his home. "One man came in recently," he said, "and asked if he might use the phone. He called his bookmaker and asked him to 'put \$1.25 each way on that horse.'"

Overdoing?

Hurry, Worry and Overwork Bring Heavy Strain.

MODERN life throws a heavy burden on our bodily machinery. The eliminative organs, especially the kidneys, are apt to become sluggish. Retention of excess uric acid and other poisonous waste often gives rise to a dull, languid feeling and, sometimes, toxic backaches and headaches. That the kidneys are not functioning perfectly is often shown by burning or scanty passage of secretions. More and more people are learning to assist their kidneys by the occasional use of Doan's Pills—a stimulant diuretic. Ask your neighbor!

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