

TRAVELING ADVENTURES, HARASSED HEROINES AND DELICATE HUMOR IN NEW BOOKS

ABOLISHMENT OF PRISONS ADVOCATED BY HAWTHORNE

In New Book Author Makes Sensational Charges of Evils in Atlanta Prison. A Notable Book.

Not original, yet startling, in connection with the arguments and exhibits in the case, is the proposal which forms the refrain of Julian Hawthorne's book, "The Subterranean Prisoners" (MacBride, Nant & Co., New York). It is nothing less than that penal imprisonment for crime be abolished.

That the Federal prison at Atlanta was grossly mismanaged during his stay there; that the whole tendency was to break the prisoners down and destroy self-respect rather than reform them; that the dark hole persists despite denials, and that convicts are hung up by the hands for long periods for trifling breaches of rules; that inspectors sent to study conditions indulge in junket parties with the officials and learn nothing; that reforms ordered by Congress were never put into practice—these and other accusations, some even more astounding, are made by Hawthorne. He does not plead that prisons should be converted into places of reformation, but rather insists that they be abolished altogether.

"The deepest and essential evil of prisons," he says, "is not hardship and torture, but the permanent if choice could be made between the two, every man would choose the former."

The inference is plain throughout these pages that the realization of having committed crime is the real and adequate punishment. And this purpose causes one's mind to revert to Arthur Dimmesdale, whose sin was not the crime, but the concealment of it.

While it is unavoidable to read this latest prison book without thinking of Oscar Wilde, yet there is hardly any point of similarity between these two. Wilde's practical descriptions and the poetic philosophy running through "De Profundis" are not the same as the observation and analysis of the various ways in which the convict was so much intent upon unburdening his soul as upon presenting facts.

To bookish people, one of the most interesting features of the volume will be the study of prison types. The conclusion arrived at by the author is that Hugo, Dickens and Charles Reade were all wrong in their conceptions of the convict.

Such is the question raised by H. G. Wells in his novel, "The World of Sir Isaac Harmon" (Macmillan's, New York), a fascinatingly interesting work far superior to "The Peacemaker's Friends."

Lady Harmon was married to Sir Isaac when she was 27, and he was 20 years her senior. The husband, jealous, suspicious, immensely rich, having made a fortune through the consolidation of a chain of bread shops known as the "International Baking Company."

Edison a Peaceful Inventor. Thomas Edison stated recently that "making things which kill men is against my fibre." Frank L. Dyer and Thomas C. Martin, authors of "Edison: His Life and Inventions," state, however, that he is joint inventor of the Edison-Sims torpedo, and that during the Spanish-American War the inventor suggested to the Navy Department the adoption of a certain compound which, placed in a shell and fired from a gun, would explode as soon as it struck water, producing a blaze that could not be extinguished and which would make the enemy's ships visible for four or five miles.

Dr. Wiley's Food Tests. Scientific housekeepers have won a lasting friend in the person of Harvey Wiley, whose book, "The Food Tests," International Library Company, New York, has just been published. Doctor Wiley has made elaborate analyses of all kinds of foods, beverages and toilet accessories to prove their real composition and value.

Submarines in Warfare. It is interesting to note that up to the present war the Confederate navy still held the record of having the only submarine that ever sunk a vessel in time of war.

Books by Bennett. Miss Bennett is working away on a new book, "The Story of the Sea," which she has just finished. It is a story of the sea, told in a simple, straightforward manner, and is a most interesting and valuable work.



Gertrude Atherton, author of "The Perch of the Devil"—Stokes.



Scene from "Person's Unknown," by Virginia Tracy—Century Company.



"By the Bend of the River," by Charles Heber Clark—Winston.

American Women Imprisoned on Island

Given a young, healthy, adventurous, rich millionaire with a big steam yacht. Given as ship guests a charming and vivacious sister, an equally charming chaperon and an older man friend who has been getting success from a "touch of the heart" by shooting ferocious animals in the jungles of Africa.

Mrs. Parnell's Intimate Revelations. On a station platform, bleak, lonely, hidden away in a slum of London, a pretty woman with a bonnet hiding her face paces slowly up and down.

Actress Falsely Accused of Murder—in Novel. "Herick was awakened by a demonic crash of chords. His eyes sprang open; and there, on the blind opposite, was the shadow of a woman. She stood there with her back to the window, lithe and tense; and suddenly she flung one arm up and out in such a strange and splendid gesture, of such free and desperate passion, as he had never seen before.

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Dr. Van Dyke's Daring Venture

"The Lost Boy," in Henry van Dyke's book of that name (Harper & Bro., New York), is the story of a young boy who, after a long and arduous journey, is found by his father in a remote and dangerous place. The story is told in a simple, straightforward manner, and is a most interesting and valuable work.

Prof. Perry on Literary Criticism

To the current number of that excellent periodical, the Yale Review, a member of the Harvard faculty, Prof. Bliss Perry, of the English department, contributes an article that deserves wide reading. Newspaper editors should read it. Publishers should read it. All lovers of literature should take it to heart.

Discovering Your Wife

Eldridge Walcott, after 15 years of married life, fell in love with his wife, whom he discovered while visiting a cabaret place. Added to the stunning blow of his first discovery was the fact that she was richly gowned. He knew the conductor and many of the other people, no doubt, who will refuse to accept his effort on the ground that it is a needless, and none too respectful, elaboration of an account which required no padding.

"Village Life in New York"

So long as there is no law compelling people to read the essays of Simon Strunsky it is likely that there will be a great many who will not read them. More's the pity. There may be some who will read them, but they will not read them with the same interest as they do in the other works of the author's. Strunsky, unlike a great many of our professional humorists, knows his own humor, and prefers the best of his own to that of others.

Mirandy Tells Why Men Don't Marry

It wouldn't be safe for a man who appreciates true humor to read "Mirandy," by Dorothy Dix (Harcourt, International Library Co., N. Y.), in a crowded street car. First thing, he would chuckle, then he'd laugh. Then he'd probably show it to the conductor, and he'd show it to the motorman, and there would be much fun, but no transit therefrom. The book is a gem. The high spots of its humor are so funny, so exasperatingly and unreasonably funny, that even among books of character monologues it is rare.

Tale of Vigorous Manhood

Happily chosen indeed is the title of Mr. Higginbotham's latest story of Western ranch and mine life, "The Way of the Strong" (Jacoob), for it deals with the struggle for mastery—vigorous manhood that comes of long associations with the life of the open range and the eventual elemental forces of nature that confront one in the frozen wilderness of the Yukon country.

JOSEPH C. LINCOLN'S GREATEST NOVEL. KENT KNOWLES: "Quahaug" By JOSEPH C. LINCOLN. Author of "Cap'n Dan's Daughter," "Mr. Pratt's Patients," etc. A big, breezy, wholesome and amusing story that will make you forget the war. If not, this is a good time to begin, for he has never written a better one.

SCRIBNER BOOKS THIS WEEK. The Trawler By JAMES B. CONNOLLY. Winner of the \$2,000 prize awarded by "Collier's" for the best short story. "It is literature, in thought, in elevation of sentiment, in strength and finish of writing it is entitled to a place of permanence."

ARCADIAN ADVENTURES WITH THE IDLE RICH. By STEPHEN LEACOCK. Author of "Behind the Beyond," "Non-sense Novels," etc. Cloth, \$1.50 net. Stephen Leacock is a humorist who puts his ideas into satire and fun. These delicious adventures take us into the realm of financiers, American clubmen and club women, and the magnificent homes of the wealthy, and literally bubble over with wit.

THE POEMS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE. With an Introduction by E. C. STEEDMAN and Notes by Professor G. Z. WOOD-HENRY. Nearly half a century passed after the death of Poe before the appearance of the first edition of his works, which embodied in its editorial departments critical scholarship of the highest class.

Books You Will Want to Know. THE WONDERFUL ROMANCE. By Pierre de Coulevain. This is a time when we want a book to remind us that there is still much good in the world; that beauty may be concealed but cannot be destroyed; that happiness may be hidden but cannot be lost; that there is a possible smile behind the bitterest tears. Here is such a book. \$1.35 net.

RECOLLECTIONS OF FULL YEARS. By Mrs. William H. Taft. Most entertaining reminiscences of official life and the inner side of official life, in the Philippines, at Washington, and in the White House, by the wife of one of our most distinguished Americans. Illustrated. \$3.50 net.

GERMANY'S MADNESS. By Dr. Emil Reich. A revelation, by Prof. Reich, late of the University of Vienna, of the processes by which many Germans have come to the belief that it is Germany's destiny to rule the world. \$1.00 net.

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BOOKS

You no doubt remember that delightful book published several years ago, "A Japanese Artist in London." Yoshio Markino, the author, has continued his charming autobiography in RECOLLECTIONS OF A JAPANESE ARTIST. Beautifully illustrated by the author. Price \$2.00.

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PERCH OF THE DEVIL

By GERTRUDE ATHERTON. Author of "The Copperhead," etc. An American copper-head fortune—A crude American girl grown into a personage—In this truly American novel Mrs. Atherton's genius gives us her best book. It is a most significant novel Mrs. Atherton has given us in several years. —N. Y. Tribune. At all bookstores.

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AND SO THEY WERE MARRIED

A Comedy of the New Woman By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS. THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE: "An immense amount of cleverness has gone to the writing of Mr. Williams' comedy. Its dialogue sparkles and has point; its situations are ingeniously contrived." THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD: "Mr. Williams has a treatment style and he has a deft touch which he seems destined to have achieved." \$1.25 net; postage extra. CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS