

WHY DON'T AMERICANS READ ESSAYS?—ARNOLD BENNETT GOSSIPS ABOUT A FRIEND

METAPHORICAL BLEND OF GINGER AND HOPS

Morley's "Shandygaff" Is a Sparkling Intellectual Tipple of Pleasant Flavor—English Vogue of the Casual Essay

"SHANDYGAFF" asked "Doctor" McFabre, picking up a book at his elbow, as he sat near my desk and reading the title. "What is that? I never heard the word before." "Your education has been neglected, doctor," said I, smiling at the more worldly Owen. "I met first shandygaff many years ago in a chon house in Brooklyn. The chon house was run by an Englishman in an old Dutch Colonial mansion standing in the rear of some business buildings and reached by a narrow alleyway. It was called the Abbey. The proprietor had gathered a fine collection of old Colonial furniture which delighted his customers. On the tables in his restaurant one could find London Punch and Ally Stope's Half-Holiday, and one or two other comic weeklies. In a corner stood a grandfather's clock, with a hole in the case made by a British bullet fired in the battle of Long Island. Gilbert Evans, a brilliant young newspaper man of Welsh birth, took me to the Abbey one day and introduced me to shandygaff.

"Who was he, anyway?" the clergyman asked, with some impatience. "You should say, 'What was it?'" doctor said. "Shandygaff is a potent. One-half is beer or ale—alcoholic beverages, you see—and the other half is ginger ale—non-alcoholic. The resulting blend—I think 'blend' is the proper term—is sufficiently non-alcoholic to get by the rigid prohibition statutes of Kansas, and it is sufficiently alcoholic to be most agreeably refreshing on a hot day. I should like to introduce you to it, doctor. How about it?"

The clergyman held up his hands protestingly, but Owen was eager to make the acquaintance of a new tiple.

"We'll have some the next time you come around," I said to Owen. "In the meantime I want to remark that this book called 'Shandygaff' is as delightful as the potentation after which it is named. If you won't sip the drink, doctor, you ought to read the book. It is a collection of essays and sketches by one of the most brilliant young men now writing in America. His name is Christopher Morley. He is a graduate of Harvard College, where his father was at one time professor of mathematics. He spent three years at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. He has been a publisher's reader, an associate editor of the editors of the *Evening Public Ledger*, and has published three volumes within a year. One of them is a book of verse which is already so popular that his publishers are preparing an illustrated edition for the holiday season. The charm of his writing lies in its wholesomeness. He is not pessimistic, sleeps soundly at night and digests his meals with the aid of a pipe, loves men, women, children and books and thinks the world is a pretty good sort of place to live in. He has written in this latest book about walking, Don Quixote, smoking, Rupert Brooke, prefaces, Stevenson, the family man, William McFee and a score of other subjects.

"Why didn't I think of that?" exclaimed the clergyman. "They are barroom stories and nothing more." "If Morley's book were published in England it would have a wide sale," I went on. "For the British seem to be fond of the casual essay and have been ever since Charles Cotton translated Montaigne into English. Addison and Steele and Lamb and Hazlitt and Lucas and Chesterton and a score of others have won fame through the popularity of their pleasant and pungent comments on life and the way it is lived by men and women. We have some men who have done good work of this kind, but their books do not sell widely. Charles M. Skinner produced two or three books that reached a limited public, but thousands have heard of his brother, Otis Skinner, for one who has read his 'Nature in a City Back Yard' or 'With Feet to the Earth.' David Grayson has a following and there is a select public which buys everything that Samuel McChord Crothers writes. Charles Dudley Warner's amiable reflections were more popular in *Harpers Magazine* than when put into a book and Howells gets ten readers for a novel where he finds only one for a volume of essays. H. L. Mencken has some vogue with a highly specialized class interested in music and the drama. His latest volume 'Dame! A Book of Calumnies' will appeal to a still smaller class because it has all the vices of his other volumes compressed into small compass. It is cynical, immoral and brilliant. Mr. Mencken has said all the foolish things which the rest of us in moments of exasperation have felt like saying and have had the good sense to keep to ourselves. If we said them at all it was before we passed the age of eighteen when we thought that to be irreverent and nasty was to be witty and original."

"May I borrow the book?" asked Owen with a twinkle in the direction of Doctor McFabre. "Morley is an American," I went on, "and Morley is constructively so, although both his father and mother are English. They write their essays knowing that the chances are against a large sale. The real Englishman living across the ocean writes similar literature confident of a hearty welcome from a wide public. This may be for the reason that there is a reading class over there who likes to have a volume to pick up for ten minutes while waiting for dinner or just before going to bed and is pleased when it can get the pleasure of reading the reflections of an intelligent man on the latest fad or the newest play or the most recent man of letters to attract notice. E. V. Rieu is one of the institutions of London. When he described for the Englishmen the interesting work of an American, he wrote a biographical dictionary of the famous men of the past he was certain that he would find readers, and when he put his *Boswell of Glasgow* in a volume along with a lot of other shorter essays on such subjects as 'The Oldest Joke' and 'Love and Loss' he knew his public would buy it. He plays with an idea, making no attempt to persuade anyone of anything and admitting that he does not know everything. The *Flag Day* part of the volume is particularly delightful for it reminds one of what we frequently forget—namely, that it is human nature does not vary much with the passing centuries and that it is not affected by the differences in language or religion. That reminds me, doctor, that I never was able to regard the Chinese as human beings until I read a book of Chinese history written by a Chinese. That book was full of the tenderest sentiment and the most charming affection for little children that I have ever read anywhere and I said when I laid it down that the race which could produce it was about to die.

"But the popularity in England of the occasional essay is proved, if proof is needed, by the appearance of an illustrated edition of *Pellicia on the Shore*' by John Galsworthy, first published in a cheap form. The demand for it has justified the publishers in engaging an illustrator to draw a lot of pictures for it and to get the book out in dainty form and offer it at a price which the poorer book lover will gladly come to pay. The *Pellicia* are similar to those which Lucas has gathered in his *Album* along the shores of the sea. In this *Album*, he describes about twenty umbrella morals about reading in bed, about scenic visions, and about other bits of living about catching the train and playing golf and such like things. And he makes comments that are entertaining even if they are not instructive.

"Do you know, gentlemen, I expect to live to see the growth of an American public which will welcome a volume by Morley with as much eagerness as it would a book for a volume by Tolstoy."

Although more books have been written in interpretation of the Russian people than any other nation involved in the war, the *Sins* still remains the least understood factor actual and potential in the convulsion of world affairs and modern civilization. The great majority of writers have chronicled the rash of events of the Kerenski regime and later, without regard to the historical or comparative result that sanctimonious and superiority have ruled their books of humanitism. Mr. Peole, with sagacious vision, recognizes clearly that the heart of the situation lies in the continuation of the present, his hopes, his dreams, his philosophy and environment. The smiling succession of rival factions is but a mere facade, a striking scene of humanity—the great political class, of "dark people," constituting 90 per cent of the population. The tales and staff, but the town will remain. The "Dark People" is a graphic, illuminating picture of the great present. Second direct is the third-hand observation and analyzed by the trained writer's faculty of observing what is essential and significant.

Mr. Peole's attitude is one of rational idealism. He attributes the present-day vices to the "dark people" but he does not obviously admire their impulsive, irritable simplicity, their sincerity of conviction and their better personal qualities. He is even more than the average man, for he must necessarily close before education can bring intelligent unity of thought, before order can be evolved from the present chaos. He takes two very different tones, and his varied viewpoints, not only enlighten, but stimulate and help, furnish many important, interesting, provoking and admirably balanced view of the great and varied variety of Russian character. The author ventures upon no rigid definitions, but he does account the reader thoroughly with the present-day many problems—social, economic, political and spiritual.

"SPIRIT OF RUSSIA" by Ernest Pool. The strange, menacing beauty of Russia and the personality of its people are described with interest by Olive Gilbert in her book entitled "Miss Americana". Whether the author's intention was to create a new romantic tale or whether she attempted to lighten the burden of the present day, it is difficult to say. Her "Miss Americana" is a book of letters, written by a young girl in Russia, and her letters are full of interest and charm. The author's intention was to create a new romantic tale or whether she attempted to lighten the burden of the present day, it is difficult to say. Her "Miss Americana" is a book of letters, written by a young girl in Russia, and her letters are full of interest and charm.

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"EVERYMAN CLASSICS" by E. P. Dutton & Co. The name of Jean Francois Paul de La Harpe, Cardinal de Retz, has not remained the same since he died. He lived with the same name as that of Armand Jean de La Harpe, Cardinal de Retz. The name of Jean Francois Paul de La Harpe, Cardinal de Retz, has not remained the same since he died. He lived with the same name as that of Armand Jean de La Harpe, Cardinal de Retz.

"TO MAKE PEACE PERMANENT" by No more urgent or important than can come before the nations of the world when peace is finally concluded than a program to prevent war in the future. In anticipation of this time the League of Nations has been proposed and a tentative platform for determining whether the suggested program to practical that Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan have discussed the various features of the League of Nations.

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THE BED ROCK OF RUSSIA

Ernest Pool Looks to the Prospects as the Hope of the Great Nation

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LIFE AT THE REAL FRONT

Described by a Canadian Officer Who Knows What It Is Like



Author of a book of sentimental essays and sketches

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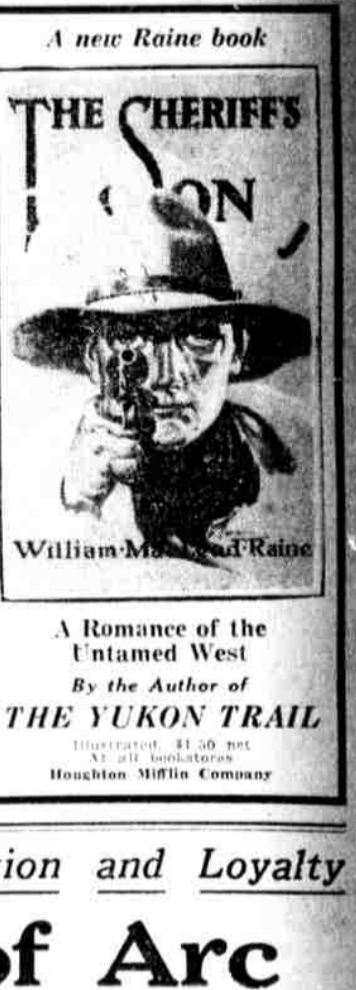
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Advertisement for the book "The Sheriff's Son" by William MacLeod Raine, published by The Yukon Trail. The book is a romance of the untamed west, featuring a man in a cowboy hat. The advertisement includes a list of bookstores where the book is available, such as A. C. McClurg & Co. and J. B. Lippincott Company.