EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1920



The Courtship of Miles Standish

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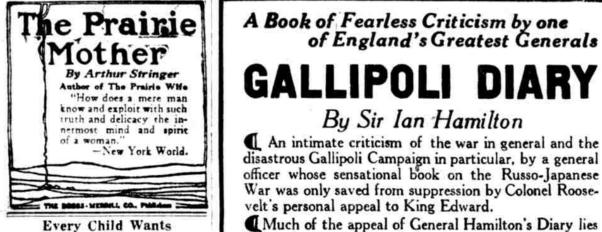
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A COM MEDIANE COM MEDIANE COM



Much of the appeal of General Hamilton's Diary lies in its characterization of famous men, like Kitchener. Churchill and others, its satire on politics, its literary art,

WIT OF AN OLD MASTER WORTH READING TODAY

NEW FICTION AND ANCIENT SATIRE

The Biting Satire and Hilarious Humor of Dean Swift Republished in a Carefully Edited Edition

By FELIX E. SCHELLING

Professor of English in the University of Pennsylvania THERE are authors whom it pleases from irrelevancy and a sufficiency us to remember, like misfortune, as worthy of all praise.

a good thing to have done with. There THE two pamphlets of Swift her are some who to know too well is to I edited were, each in its place, of think less well of. And there are a few—and they are the salt of the earth —to whom we return with pleasure and as the last gun in that momentous fight. as the last gun in that momentous fight leave with an impression of their great. that tempest in a teapot, the Phalaris controversy as to the relative claims of ness enhanced with each closer acquaintancient learning contrasted with modance. I never read or reread Jonaern. In this paper war between the great scholar, Richard Bentley, and the than Swift, the great dean of St. Patgreat scholar, Richard Jentley, and the great diplomat, Sir William Temple, as principals, the latter had contrived to sustain his plea for the ancients by the omission. I fear only too inadvertent, rick's, without a new appreciation of his extraordinary personality, his unmatchable wit, without an overwhelming sense of his sheer power of brain, from the list of modern writers of a few names, such as Shakespeare and to say nothing of a style as perspicuous as daylight in its clarity where he pur-Milton for England, Moliere for France poses to be clear and as opaque and Dante for Italy and Calderon for Spain, disconcerting as a London fog where his Swift was little interested in the merits purpose is mystification.

A ND Dean Swift's purpose was very "The Battle of the Books" much dis-turbed the serenity of a sedate library with the peaks of laughter which it pears to have treated life itself-the life evoked. of political and social bickering, trim-

age of Queen Anne and the first Georges —as a species of huge Gargantuan joke, to be played with at hide and seek, mocked and pantered, ridiculed and satirized, if one was not to go mad-as he ultimately did—with the misery and the pitfulness of it all. For Jona-than Swift, look at him how you will, is a tragic figure, with all bis anties and all his mockery. An awkward Irish lad, expelled from college for "inveterate fre-quenting of the town": the rebellious age of Queen Anne and the first George quenting of the town"; the rebelliou dependent on the bounty of a great man Sir William Temple; a great scholar and writer who treated scholarship and authorship with contempt as merely his means to the aim of his life, political power; a short-lived triumph on the crest of the wave of that power dur-ing which he could make and unmake ministers, create bishops and hector no-blemen, and then a long eclipse in Irish exile from all for which he cared—the end a madhouse. Never was there more light.

ceritably a tragedy than this. THERE is little space left for the

Owing to Swift's indifference, real or affected, to the products of his pen and the intentional mystification which he practiced in the publication of many of his books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of many of this books, to edit him must of the transmission OWING to Swift's indifference, real

which he practiced in the publication of many of his books, to edit him must be a joy. The bibliography of Swift, like his biography, is bristling with work was first printed without his name, some of it he would have us be invex, without his sanction. And the story goes that he scorned the not in-ronsiderable monetary return from it, in one case which had involved collision with the law, declaring that the printer should have the return, as he had run the greater risk. The book before us is one of a class of editings as yet tarely undertaken in this country. It is not autittest place for a book, the parlor renter table. This edition of Swift, fin ons tabled the "Battle of the Books," is planed definitively to which is added the "Battle of the Books," is planed definitively to edit an English classic, bestowing upon it all the apparatus of notes and commentary necessary to an ideal per-formance of this pious task. Messrs, A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith, the editors, are thoroughly completed for the church of England-was no fut an engravane definitively to the discover this may have spared the moderate Martin the greater king, is planed definitively to edit an English classic, bestoving upon it all the apparatus of notes and commentary necessary to an ideal per-formance of this pious task. Messrs, A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith, the editors, are thoroughly completer the subtory believes, "A Tale of a tub," we need not won-that a clergyman who could thus satir-to subtor is a planed definitively to edit an English classic, bestoving upon it all the apparatus of notes and commentary necessary to an ideal per-formance of this pious task. Messrs, A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith, the editors, are thoroughly completer to subtory is sub and the tage the seas an attack upon re-turb." Seems less an intark upon the makes subtory the man with the table the see her ing the ather taken in the sub

THE DAUGHTER OF CAPTAIN MACEDOINE

William McFee Has Told Her Story in a Novel Worthy of the Pen of Conrad

If William McFee's name were on the title page of "Captain Mace" doine's Daughter," the informed reader would say at once that the novel had been written by Joseph Conrad. This does not mean that McFee has imitated Conrad, for he has not. But McFee has imitated Sailed the sea for years and thought on what Henry James called the immiti-gability of the human predicament while he watched the stars or meditated in his cabin. Some day an essayist will discuss the influence of the moving waters and the wide spaces upon the literature of the world and be will find material to his hand in both Conrad and McFee.

The thought back of the book mus have occurred to the author when he saw a small boat tossed helplessly on the bosom of the heaving sea, for that is what Captain Macedoine's daughter was-a girl born with a peculiar in heritance and thrown adrift upon the world only to come to a wreck at the end. Her father was not a captain at all. He was a steward on an ocean steamship, who was called captain in derision. The title fitted so well that it stuck. He had illusions of grandeur, not only as to bis own descant be had of the question: he was out for the fun. And read aloud the other evening, not only as to his own descent been known to look wise when he way

asked if the famous Alexander of Macedon were an ancestor-but as to of political and social bickering, trim-ming and intrigue which disfigured the practices a device which I would his ability to create great wealth. amusing than the description of the god-dess Criticism, who dwells in a den in the mountains of Nova Zembla with Ig-norance, her father, blind with age; Pride, her mother, dressing her up in scraps of paper, and Opinion, her sig-ter, "hoodwinked, headstrong, giddy and perpetually turning." It is not generally remembered that from the fable of the spider and the bee in this book comes Matthew Arnold's famous slogan, of culture, "sweetness and light."

APTAIN MACEDOINE'S DAUGHTER, By William McFee, Garden City: Doubleday, Page & Co.

ANTHONY HOPE

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