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# NOVELS THAT WILL ENTERTAIN THE IDLE

## A CINDERELLA HEROINE

"Rich Relatives," by Compton Mackenzie, Has Delectable Humor-Touched With Pathos  
Compton Mackenzie has written more important stories, perhaps, but never one so diverting as "Rich Relatives" (Harpers), which combines delicious humor with shadows of pathos, and commands the reader's interest all of the time.  
The Cinderella heroine of Mr. Mackenzie's book is Jasmine Grant, whose beloved and eccentric father, held in some scorn by pompous relatives, has died in a remote corner of the earth, leaving Jasmine an orphan completely. The sorrowing little daughter, on the invitation of various groups of rich relatives, returns to England to make her home with her kindfolk, but they can't understand her, nor she them.  
She experiments again and again, first with one family and then with another, and she does her very best, but every effort ends in disaster. Even her romance with Mr. Vibart seems, until the very last, to be headed for the same calamitous end. But love conquers all eventually, with the surprising aid of the richest of the rich relatives, who changes suddenly from the very grumpiest and stingiest of grumpy and stingy misers into a fairy godfather under Jasmine's sunny influence. And then all is well.  
A delightful story, honest, wholesome and told with charming grace—a book which should not be overlooked.

Defends Queen Elizabeth  
Frederick Chamberlain, a well-known American lawyer and writer, has reviewed himself as a skilled investigator in his latest book, "The Private Character of Queen Elizabeth." Mr. Chamberlain is an out-and-out champion of the "Great Queen," and he vigorously refutes the charges of laxity brought against her by historians. According to him, good Queen Bess lived an upright life and her moral call for no reproaches. Dodd, Mead & Co. announce that the new edition of "The Private Life of Queen Elizabeth" was ordered in advance of publication.

## BEHAVIORISM

A Scientific Study of the Control of Emotions and Personality  
The emotions and personality are the two most discussed subjects of general psychology. A scientific consideration of them is undertaken in "Psychology from the Standpoint of the Behaviorist" (J. B. Lippincott Co.). The author is John B. Watson, Ph. D., LL.D., professor of psychology in the Johns Hopkins University.  
On the psychology of personality depends a good deal of the possibility of the close community relationships that are consequent on modern civilization. Industrial and modern life of today throws individuals into mass or group relations. The day of the eremites in the desert or the cenobitic isolation of men in monastic seclusion, when the world has passed. The adjustment of the units to the whole is after all the problem posed by the conflicts of capital and labor, with its constant fections, and that of international politics so often disturbed by the clash of races or nationalities. The daily life of human beings and whatever factors govern their thinking and inspire their ideals must be taken into the reckoning for solution of the issues of the great problems which presently disturb the world.  
Dr. Watson has had the courage to get down to fundamentals in his book, which considers psychology from a somewhat unusual angle, but very practically. He has discarded the canons of outmoded philosophies and has scrapped academic traditions. His book has as its purpose the prediction and control of human action and is not, after the older fashion of psychologists, an analysis of consciousness and moods.  
It is the contention of "behaviorism" that its facts were all at hand the behaviorist would be able to handle after watching an individual perform an act what the situation is that caused his action (this is prediction), whereas if organized society decreed that the group or the individual should act in a definite, specific way the behaviorist could arrange the situation or stimulus which would bring about such action (this is control).  
The book is written scientifically, but is not too technical for the interested reader. It is well illustrated with graphs and charts of the nervous system illuminating the points of discussion.

## GENIAL OPTIMISM

Prof. Hudson's Gascony Novel a Refreshingly Wholesome Book  
Dr. Jay William Hudson, professor of philosophy in the University of Missouri, might have written a different sort of novel of the war than "Abbe Pierre" (D. Appleton & Co.) if he had served in the trenches. It might have resembled "Three Soldiers," but this is not likely. Professor Hudson is forty-eight years old and John Dos Passos, who wrote "Three Soldiers," is not yet twenty-eight. The older man did not get to France until 1918, when he went over as an inspector with the rank of captain for the American Red Cross. He saw the fall end of the war. Then he went down into Gascony to recuperate. While there he married Germaine Sansot of the village of Aignan.  
He has put the story of his Gascon experience into "Abbe Pierre," a book described as a novel by the publishers, but which is only by courtesy a novel. It is the kindly, genial human reflections on life by a professor of philosophy, strung together on the slender thread of the romance of a young American and a Gascon girl. The reflections, however, are made by an old abbe, who had taught for years in Paris and had retired at the age of sixty-five to his native village. He loved the country and he loved the people. He writes of the beauty of the hills and the simple churches and of the gentleness of the old roads along which men have been traveling for centuries. He expresses his profound faith in God and in the Church, and he speaks tenderly of the weaknesses of the people. It is all tolerant and human, in strong contrast to much that the younger generation of cynical writers is producing.  
The central figure of the book is the personality of the old priest is that of an old Gascon. Perhaps a Frenchman might discover a faint note occasionally, but to an American the man seems so French and so priestly that the illusion is perfect.  
Curiously enough Professor Hudson calls his heroine Germaine Sansot, a name so closely resembling that of his Gascon wife that the reader would be justified in concluding that he had drawn her portrait. He makes the name of a young American professor of literature in an Ohio college and this exercises some degree of invention. But those to whom the book will appeal will not read for its style, but for its revelation of a beautiful outlook on life and for its genial optimism.

## MASTERS' NOVEL

"Children of the Market Place" Autobiography Which Surveys American Ways and Ideals  
"Children of the Market Place" (Macmillan) is a notable achievement. Edgar Lee Masters in it has sought to survey the evolution of American ideals and the progress of American manners over well-nigh a century—the cycle of development that ran from about the War of 1812 to the Spanish-American War; the period, that is, that ran from the simple, rural life of the pioneer to the dawning imperialism that was to break into internationalism and world policy with the Great War. A fecond span of years in the history of the Republic, rich in movements, in the class of interests, in exploitation, in expansion, in recrudescence democracy, in major issues, of which one, union, plays a most important part in the book.  
For the central figure of the book is the autobiographer in which Mr. Masters has cast his novel is in his prime during the stretch of years in which the great issues of free soil or slave, union or separation, were waged. In his early days young Stephen Douglas becomes his friend and the book chronicles their intimacy till Douglas' death. The rise of Douglas as a political leader and his subsequent fall are chronicled through the analytic observation of a discerning and critical contemporary.  
The sense of contemporaneity is marvellously mastered by the author. Profound grounding in his material and a capacity for producing a gripping narrative make the pages not merely illustrative but very real. The supposed reminiscences of the autobiographer, through the significant and stirring years from 1833 to the sixties, recast the events of our history in a new light, but it has color and character of valid fiction. The facts are subjected to the shaping of art.  
Shrewd observation of American thinking, manners and ways informs "Children of the Market Place."  
I should like the pillared hours  
And pulled my life upon me.  
And literally the hero—or central figure, to be more exact—of this realistic transcript of the actuality of life, unredeemed by much of the colored romance, was a modern spiritual and intellectual Samson. The book reads like a document from the past, but it is a document of our present, and its verisimilitude, fast in the form of fiction, the book has the ring of fact.  
The central figure is a successful lawyer—a politician of the West. His philosophy is one of resentment and revolt against the ills and conventions and many of the canons and creeds of society. This philosophy, like the man himself, "dishes mensuration by rule of thumb." Finally, radicalizing hands him in jail with the pillars of Gaza in ruins about his feet. But the Gaza does not symbolize society, but his own career. The book winds up on an interrogation as to what is about to be released from jail, to find an answer to the unsolved Omartian riddle of why and whither.  
Mr. Rieltberg is meticulous in revealing the inner aspects of his man, merciless in flaying his weakness of the flesh, drastic about his understanding and his red opinions. He does not attempt to solve the riddle of existence or propose any panacea for society, but simply sets out one man's reactions to life—an exceptional man in brilliancy and achievement, to be sure, but after all of the same flesh as the average. The rectitude of style and the quietness of movement make the book one of the most readable in prospect, the modernistic unrest, spiritual and intellectual and social, and it has more grip to it than most works cast in autobiographical mold.  
If there is any moral it is the author's adhesion to the principles laid down by Theodore Roosevelt in commenting on an earlier work of Mr. Rieltberg's: "The big reward if society is to remain healthy must be given for service and not exploitation of one's fellows."  
Motoring to Mesopotamia  
Major E. Alexander Powell, the much-decorated correspondent and author of numerous books—the latest, "Asia at the Crossroads"—has sailed from New York with a considerable party on the "Empire State," the floating down the river to Baghdad. From Baghdad they will go, again by motor, eastward to Teheran, seeing much of Persia. Major Powell expects to be about five months on the journey, in a country almost unfamiliar to him, and expects to produce a book, or books, which will shed light on conditions in that part of the troubled world.  
A Historical Novel  
Mary Johnston in her latest book, "Silver Cross" (Little, Brown & Co.), has returned to the historical novel, in which she made her first great success.

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