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* * *

The Bishop of Arkansas, Rev. James P. Winchester, says of "Painted Windows"—

"'A Gentleman With a Duster' is a much needed benefactor; his rapier thrusts into the popular evils of the day call forth from the reader the combative forces of his reason and conscience."

* * *

Somebody, writing in The Cleveland Plain Dealer, has a strong conviction that Sidney Dark, Editor of John O'London's Weekly, is the anonymous author of "Painted Windows," "The Mirrors of Downing Street" and "The Glass of Fashion." He bases his assumption upon the similarity of style between those three famous books and Mr. Dark's new book

AN OUTLINE OF WELLS

Mr. Dark certainly writes with a delightful grace, spiced with swift, keen, calculated thrusts that are brilliant bits of characterization. His study of H. G. Wells is illuminating—revealing—unique. It is excellent reading, whether or not Mr. Dark is the "Gentleman With a Duster."

* * *

"Dellish"

The New York Herald rises to remark that "Dellish" be added to the list of literary adjectives descriptive of style. No objections, we assure you, particularly as any reference to a "Dellish" book cannot fail to emphasize the original or rather the standard by which the others are judged.

* * *

Miss Dell's new book is called
THE ODDS
and comprises seven novelettes—each one distinctly "Dellish," with all the inimitable elements of her best novels. THE ODDS is just right for a week of "between-times" reading—eminently satisfying, versatile in plots and, as the Herald admits, likely to keep the retail booksellers busy.

* * *

Robert Gordon Anderson gathered an especially choice collection of desperadoes to make life miserable for Ben and Sally in
THE ISLE OF SEVEN MOONS
and they succeed admirably. What with mystery, intrigue, kidnapping, gun fights, vanishing islands, hidden treasure, gamblers, gun men, sailors, adventurers and esses, you can count on a thrill a minute in this ripping yarn.

* * *

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"A finely conceived, delicately and intelligently worked-out theme. Wholly free from the vulgarities that mar so much current literature."—George Wood, in the New York Herald.

* * *

G. P. P.

The Case for E. H. Harriman Stated by George Kennan

GEORGE KENNAN won fame enough thirty years ago by writing about the Russian exile system in Siberia to make it profitable for him to go on the lecture platform.

GEORGE KENNAN

His Siberian book was an arraignment of the Russian autocracy because of the cruelty with which it treated political prisoners. Because of it the Russian police forbade his return to Russia.

He has just written a life of E. H. Harriman, published by Houghton, Miffin Company, in which he has come to the defense of one of the most characteristic railroad kings in America. If he had chosen to do so he could have found an abundance of material for building up a case against Mr. Harriman, just as in Siberia he found plenty of evidence that the Russian Government was not treating leniently the men and women who had been plotting to over throw it. Mr. Harriman was bitterly attacked during his life.

But Mr. Kennan has chosen to make an attempt to explain and interpret Mr. Harriman instead of to attack him. There will be little disposition in informed circles to disagree with his conclusion that Mr. Harriman was one of the great constructive forces of his time, and that the West, where he was active in railroad development, has profited greatly as a result of what he did.

When the good and evil that he did are balanced it will be found that the good preponderates.

IT DOES not need the marshaling of the evidence by Mr. Kennan to prove this. It was admitted long ago. If he had been as skillful a propagandist as J. J. Hill, who long before his death was hailed as the maker of the Northwest, Mr. Harriman's reputation during his lifetime would have rivaled that of Mr. Hill. Mr. Harriman did his work without any blowing of trumpers. He decided what ought to be done and did it quietly. Only those whose business it was to keep themselves informed were aware at the time of the revolutionary methods he employed in rebuilding the Union Pacific Railroad and in transforming its owners from a bankrupt into a prosperous corporation.

Mr. Kennan tells the story of Mr. Harriman's entrance into railroading by buying a small line in New York connecting a port on Lake Ontario with the New York Central system. He sold this line to the New York Central Company and then became interested in the Illinois Central. He wanted to connect the Illinois Central with the Union Pacific and although he could not do this directly he forced his way into the Union Pacific directorate and then, because he was the abiest man on the board, he was soon in active control of its policy. In the course of time he bought into the Southern Pacific and pursued the same policy with that road that he had pursued with the Union Pacific. The shares of both lines increased in value and enriched their owners.

Mr. Harriman was definitely a railroad operator rather than a speculator in railroad securities. He made his money by making profitable the roads in which he was interested rather than by combinations and the issuing of new securities to be unloaded on the innocent public. Mr. Kennan makes this clear in his story.

Mr. Harriman, however, was bitterly attacked for various things that he did, and he let his accusers have their say without contradicting them.

MR. KENNAN tells the story of the controversies in which he was involved. There is the Northern Securities Company with which he was connected, for example. It was formed, according to Mr. Kennan, and he gives his authority, in order to protect the investments of several old men who did not want their property endangered after their death. The raid on the Northern Pacific stock for control was the inciting cause. The Northern Securities Company was organized to hold the shares of the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific and the Burlington roads. Its shares were exchanged for the railroad shares and nearly all of the shareholders consented to the plan by depositing their holdings with the new company. The company was attacked in the courts as a combination in restraint of trade under the Sherman anti-trust law, and was ordered dissolved by the Supreme Court by a vote of five to four. The majority insisted that the combination was in restraint of competition and that the law against restraint of trade was a law against restraint of competition. The minority Judges insisted that there was a vital distinction between the two restraints and that a union of competing lines to increase efficiency, while a restraint of competition was not a restraint of trade, as the competing business of the three lines formed but a small part of their total business and also as the combination did not prevent the building of competing lines by any one who had the capital. It is admitted now that the suit was political, growing out of the agitation against big combinations and the opinion prevails that if the Court were asked to pass on a similar issue now its decision would be likely to be somewhat different. Indeed, the new railroad law provides for regional combinations of railroads like that provided for by the Northern Securities Company and that if the combinations are not made by the railroads themselves within a given time they shall be made by the Government. Mr. Harriman was involved in the case because he had been trying control in the Northern Pacific Railroad.

But, according to Mr. Kennan, it was speculators and not Mr. Harriman who forced the price of Northern Pacific up to $1000 a share in order to get the shares which they had been selling short on the theory that there was to be a slump in values.

TWO chapters are devoted to the break between Roosevelt and Harriman growing out of the negotiations for an interview between the President and the railroad man in 1904. Mr. Kennan tells the Harriman side of it, which is that the interview was asked for by Mr. Roosevelt in the first place and that later Mr. Roosevelt tried to make it appear that it was Mr. Harriman who sought the interview. The letters that passed are quoted so that the reader may form his own conclusion. As Mr. Kennan leaves it Roosevelt does not appear to very good advantage.

Another chapter is given to Mr. Harriman's connection with the Equitable Life Assurance Society, in which Mr. Kennan explains that Harriman, who was a director, had no knowledge of what was going on until there was a fight between two factions of the owners to get control. He then aligned himself with the faction which he thought was most trustworthy. His purposes, according to his defender, were unselfish and public-spirited.

And so it goes through all the activities of the man. Since he died the greatness of his work has been appreciated more fully than during his lifetime and much of the criticism directed against him is admitted to have been unjust. If Mr. Kennan has erred it has been on the side of favoritism. But his book on the whole is a valuable contribution to the history of the development of America, in which Mr. Harriman had a large place.

G. W. DOUGLAS.

LIFE OF FARQUHAR

The York Manufacturer Has Written an Interesting Autobiography

It is unfortunate that the autobiography of A. B. Farquhar, of York, is published under the title of "The First Million the Hardest" (Doubleday, Page & Co.). The title is misleading. It might have appeared over the story of Mr. Farquhar's achievements in a sensational Sunday newspaper, but it is out of place on the cover of a book. There is nothing in the book about the second million and only incidentally is anything said about Mr. Farquhar's first million.

A. B. FARQUHAR

The book is really the reminiscences of a successful manufacturer who started life as an apprentice in a farming machinery factory at twenty-five cents a day and ultimately became its owner. The most interesting parts of the book deal with the period between 1855 and 1875. Mr. Farquhar was born in 1838. He sent a substitute to the Civil War, but he was in the hospital corps at the battle of Gettysburg. He was active in preventing the destruction of York by the Confederate Army. He tells an interesting story of how he entered the Confederate lines and asked the commanding general, who was an old friend, what he was going to do. The general told him and he went back to York without interference and reported.

The book will entertain those who like historical reminiscences, and it will instruct ambitious young men who are anxious to know what are the principles which have guided a successful man. Mr. Farquhar tells at the close of his volume what experience has taught him. Among other things it has taught him that it is a safe rule to trust human beings, that there is nothing that will take the place of work, and that the laws of God cannot be broken with impunity.

HUMOR AND HAZARDS MARK MYSTERY NOVEL

Octavus Roy Cohen can write mighty good detective stories as well as mighty amusing Afro-American fiction. He proves it in his new mystery yarn, "Midnight" (Dodd, Mead & Co.). From a baffling situation he works through page after page of hazard and excitement to an amazing climax. His characters have real human characteristics and not merely the movements of fictional automata.

The plot is mesmeric—no other word describes it. And for a novelty in mystery yarns there is an abundance of humor—and not merely comic relief, but intrinsic to the people and the situations. The detective hero is not a blood-lusting sleuth, hard and mechanical, but a regular feller. And the girl—well, Evelyn will linger long in the memory after the story is pursued to its absorbing conclusion.

What People Read

Statistics for the last six months of the Modern Library are now available. They show that "Dorian Gray," "The Way of All Flesh," "Whitman's Poems," "Pepys' Diary" and Madame Bovary" are the five most popular titles.

NEW BOOKS

Fiction

SLIGHTONIAN SOCKER. By Everett Macdonald. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs Company.
A breezy story of New York life and the race course. Interesting plot, well developed.

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS. By John H. Turner. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
A novel that has been called a witty, humorous, yet sincere and deep commentary on modern life.

AFTERGLOW. By Edith Thompson. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.
The story of a fine dauntless woman set in an exclusive resort in the Berkshires and in high social circles of the national capital.

THE SHRIEK. By Charles Somerville. New York: W. J. Watt Company.
A travesty on the over-colored novels of the Orient that is palpitatingly "Passionut." The author has illustrated it amusingly.

MARGEY WINS THE GAME. By John V. A. Weaver. New York: A. A. Knopf.
A novelette, the first book in prose, of a Brooklyn literary editor who studied current vernacular in a book of verses, "in American." It is breezily written and shows a good sense of character.

BARBARA JUSTICE. By Diana Patrick. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.
The life of a very modern girl is drawn against a vigorous and colorful background of outdoor life and varied incident, the result being a delightful story.

FRANK OF FREEDOM HILL. By S. A. Derieux. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.
A story for dog lovers of all ages.

THE KINGFISHER. By Phyllis Bottome. New York: George H. Doran Company.
The novel of the making of a man by the author of "The Dark Tower."

THE BRIGHT MESSENGER. By Algernon Blackwood. New York: E. P. Dutton Company.
A great cosmic intelligence is the base of this striking novel by a high priest of the psychic and superhuman among litterateurs.

LADY BOUNTIFUL. By Geo. A. Birmingham. New York: George H. Doran Co.
A light-hearted and irrepressible story by the author of a number of fictional successes.

SUNDRY ACCOUNTS. By Irvin S. Cobb. New York: George H. Doran Company.
Another volume of this favorite writer's sterling short stories. He is a master hand at delineating American traits and picturing American characters.

General

THE NOTION COUNTER. Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press.
This is called "A farrago of foibles, being notes about nothing, by Nobody, illustrated by Somebody, dedicated to Everybody." Motors, checkbooks, shoe shops and many other familiar subjects are discoursed upon quaintly and with a pretty wit and mellow, tender humor.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE AT WASHINGTON. By Mark Sullivan. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.
The story of the Conference.

THE REVOLT AGAINST CIVILIZATION. By Lothrop Stoddard. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
The author of "The Rising Tide of Color" and "The New World of Islam" herein treats of "the menace of the under man" and discusses the unrealized gravity of potential revolution.

THE DAYS THAT ARE NO MORE. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.
Reminiscences of Princess Pauline Metternich, a gay, vivid figure of the Third Empire, and a confidant of the Empress Eugenie. She was the granddaughter of the celebrated Austrian diplomat.

PAPER MAGIC. By Houdini. New York: E. P. Dutton Company.
The celebrated magician and manacle-breaker describes the whole art of performing with paper, including paper tearing, paper folding and paper puzzles.

Brief Notes About Entertaining Books

ONE of the greatest satires of human society is Mark Twain's "The Mysterious Stranger." It has just been included by the Harpers in a volume with six other stories by Mark Twain. The others are "A Horse's Tale," an extract from "Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven," "A Fable," "My Platonic Sweetheart," "Hunting the Deceitful Turkey" and "The McWilliamses and the Burglar Alarm."

Mark Twain's Great Satire

Those who do not own a complete set of the writings of Twain can get from this volume a pretty fair idea of the range of his intellectual interests and a taste of his literary methods. And if they are not interested in these matters they can get entertainment anyway.

THE colorful, swashbuckling story is coming back into its own. The flapper and the Freudian sex drama are being pushed away. And "In the Favor of the King" (Doubleday, Page & Co.) illustrates this literary tendency, although Hawthorne Daniel, the author, has brought forth something that is conventional in the extreme.

A Romance of Coronado

The story of Coronado and his search for the hidden treasures of the new world forms a background of the tale. It runs true to form and is a repetition of the synopsis of a hundred other such stories of a decade ago. The author his failed to get himself into the colorful mood old Mexico would seem to warrant, and as a result he has produced only a routine story, but one that keeps interest fairly alert along well-grooved channels.

WITH the popular craze for radio sweeping the country, it was to be expected that publishers would be quick to meet the demand for information about the new science. Many so-called "popular" textbooks have been issued, but none of them seems to get down to the "words-of-one-syllable" simplicity demanded by the boy enthusiast and the hard-headed business man who knows how to turn on an electric light, but nothing else about electricity. The principal mistakes of these authors are two—they cannot seem to talk without technical terms and they cannot seem to illustrate by any method other than the diagram with electric symbols which are totally unintelligible to the novice.

Books for Radio Fans

"Amateur Radio" (James A. McCann Company) seems to have got nearer to basic facts stated and illustrated simply than any other book so far sent out by publishers. Its author, Maurice J. Grainger, has the knack of keeping his explanations fairly well within the limits of the ordinary man's vocabulary and his illustrations are notable for their simplicity and clarity.

"The Home Radio" (Harper & Bros.), by A. Hyatt Verrill, is not so fortunate. The diagrams are not clear and the explanations that accompany them suggest that Mr. Verrill is more of a theorist than a practical radio operator.

LOVERS of attractive books will be interested to know that Doubleday, Page & Co. are issuing in what they call the Lambskin Library a lot of their successful publications. Twenty-one titles are already announced. The books are bound in red leather and are small enough to carry in the pocket and are sold at a low price. Conrad's "Lord Jim" is included in the list. It has an introductory note by William McFee. The other volumes are also to be introduced by an appreciative commentator. Mr. McFee has this discriminating comment to make of Conrad: that neglecting certain easily explained failures men react to Conrad in direct ratio to their integrity of character.

McFee on Conrad

TO REPEAT that J. Henri Fabre endeared himself to thousands by his life-appointed task of biographer to the insect is unnecessary. Dood, Mead & Co. are publishing the collected works of the famous Frenchman as translated by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. In each of the eleven columns, be it "The life of the Spider," "The Life of the Fly" or the latest, "The Life of the Weevil," M. Fabre takes the reader on an intelligent journey into the life and habits of each tiny insect and shows the wonders that really exist in the insect world if one will take the patience to observe. Avoidance of a heavy scientific atmosphere has always been the beauty of M. Fabre's writings, and Mr. de Mattos has preserved this quality in his translations.

Fabre's Life of the Weevil

A. S. M. Hutchinson's New Novel

A. S. M. Hutchinson, author of "If Winter Comes," has just cabled Little, Brown & Co., his American publishers, that the final chapters of his new novel are in the mail. It is to be called "This Freedom," and will be published in September.

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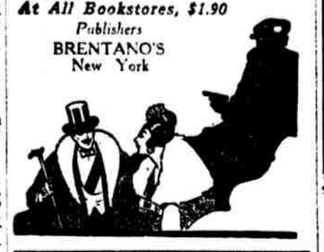

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A. HAMILTON GIBBS calls it "one of the finest and completest pieces of literature that has been penned these many years. . . . The working out of its problem is as clear-cut as a diamond and makes a fascinating and exciting book. . . From both the psychological and the fictional angles 'The Dark House' is an exceptional book." —*Philadelphia Ledger.*
E. W. OSBORN writes: "In many ways it is a stronger piece of work than Miss Wylie has given us before. In particular it reveals in the study of its principal character an understanding and a sympathy that seem to us phenomenally keen."—*The World.*
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