

The Reader's Guide

(Continued from preceding page)

G. N. D., New York, is looking for a book on typing: he uses the favorite hunt system, but it is too slow, and he wants to go at the matter more systematically, but without a teacher.

If he uses a portable, the maker probably issues a booklet about the touch system as applied to this machine—one of these has been blinking reproachfully at me from a nearby pigeonhole for these many moons. But there is a book on the subject in general that is interesting from a psychological viewpoint, apart from its usefulness as a guide: "Learning to Typewrite," by William F. Book (Gregg). The author is professor of psychology at Indiana University and director of the psychological laboratory there, and the book has a discussion of the psychology and pedagogy of skill.

E. N., Stamford, Conn., tells G. W., who asked for French nursery books, of the French editions of Beatrix Potter's books (the titles come out beautifully in the Gallic tongue) and of Bannerman's "Little Black Sambo," published by Stokes and Warne, "L'Entente Cordial des Bêtes," and "Jean Gilpin" (Stokes), adding that for rough-house fun this family recommends "David Blaize of Kings" (Doran), "The Adventures of an Irish R. M." (Longmans, Green), and Miss Warner's "Life's Minor Collisions," and "Groups and Couples" (Houghton, Mifflin). For two even older treasures "The Casting Away of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine" (Scribner), and

"The Colonel's Opera Cloak" (Little, Brown). H. G., Boston, also recommends the works of Miss Warner complete for fun books. And S. R. L., Oneida, N. Y., is reminded by the "brothers" discussion of a story that was the first piece in either the *Century* or *Harper's* or perhaps *Scribner's*, a few years ago, which she recalls as the most beautiful story about brothers that ever she read, and which she would fain recover, but cannot recall the name and so asks for help from readers.

The New Books Religion

(Continued from preceding page)

and accurate use made by the author of the bibliography of his subject is an assurance of his competence to a public to whom his name is not well known.

Professor Lewis makes quite clear to his readers that the Human Quest cannot place in any other than the foremost position for inquiry the career of which the Synoptic Gospels give us both the fullest reliable report, and the most direct religious impression. He gives credit for unquestionable "sincerity and ability" to the historical critics who depict that career without resort to the supernatural in the sense that this category is employed by the evangelists. At the same time he brings against them the serious charge of prejudging the case. "They want no other than a humanitarian Christ; they also believe that the humanitarian was also the historical Christ; and they so employ the method (of "comparison, criticism, and correlation") that the

Gospel story is made to support the pre-judgment." How such a charge can be brought without questioning either the ability or the sincerity of critics who strenuously deny the charge is difficult to understand. Nevertheless the book is to be heartily commended.

THE REASONABLENESS OF CHRISTIANITY. By DOUGLAS CLYDE MACINTOSH. Scribners. 1925. \$1.50.

This volume won the Bross Prize of \$6,000 in a competition of over seventy manuscripts submitted. If the public may judge by previous awards the decision was a wise one. The standard of Bross volumes will certainly be raised by this latest addition. Of the thirteen chapters the first is entitled *Apologetics Old and New*. The book itself illustrates the contrast, much to the advantage of the New.

Professor Macintosh is well known to students in the field of the psychology and philosophy of religion by his fearless and logical treatment of the facts of present-day experience. Particularly has he interested himself in the problems of epistemology. His justification of Christian Morality, Moral Optimism, the belief in Freedom, Immortality, God, Providence, Revelation, The Historic Jesus, and the significance of His Person and Work, make a clear and logical approach to his conclusions as to Knowledge in General, Religious Knowledge, and Reality.

The main contents of the book were given as lectures on the Nathaniel W. Taylor Foundation at the Convocation of The Yale Divinity School in April, 1925. Their reception at the time by constantly growing audiences of appreciative hearers proved that not merely their substance was welcome, but that it was put in a form so clear and logical as to be easily apprehended even without the printed page.

WHY I AM A SPIRITUAL VAGABOND. By THOMAS L. MASSON. Century. 1925. \$2.

The combination of wit and wisdom should suffice to make a book both readable and worth while. Mr. Masson's book has this and more. It is profoundly sincere and intensely earnest. If Mr. Masson has a deep-seated antipathy to any group of human beings it is that known as "critics" in the larger group of "intellectuals." The present writer is willing, however, to sacrifice such aspirations as he may have had to rank with either class in order to commend Mr. Masson's book. A "spiritual vagabond" appears to mean a student of life in its deeper meaning who has determined to explore the problem which Carlyle defined as that of "duty and destiny in the mysterious universe in which we find ourselves," and to explore it "on his own." May there be many to accept Mr. Masson's invitation to join the company!

It may not have occurred to students of the psychology of religion to take as a practical guide the veteran editor of *Life*. That may be because they wrongly regarded *Life* as only a comic newspaper. Its former editor shows that he has studied life to real purpose, and with a seriousness no whit behind the great mystics of the church. Augustine and Francis of Assisi had not acquired the art of "snappy" writing. But Masson proves that one can be as earnest as they, as profoundly religious, as devoutly eager to imbue others with the victory and peace he himself has found in conversion, without relinquishing the style that has long characterized America's leading satirical and humorous weekly. If The American Tract Society has funds to spare we would suggest the subsidizing of a popular edition of Masson's "Spiritual Vagabond."

SEVEN DAYS WITH GOD. By Abraham Mitrie Ribbany. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.
THE BIBLE UNMASKED. By Joseph Lewis. The Freethought Publishing Co. \$2.50.

Travel

AROUND THE WORLD AT EIGHTY. By FLAVIA CAMP CANFIELD. Rutland, Vt.: The Tuttle Co. 1925. \$2.50.

It was Oliver Wendell Holmes, we believe, who coined the expression "eighty years young." Surely to no one has it ever been more applicable than to the author of this brief record of travel around the world. For Mrs. Canfield, despite her long line of years, took experience with as frolic a welcome as could ever a youthful journeyer, was obdurate against mischance, oblivious of discomfort, and receptive to impressions. She went on her trip alone, and lagged no whit behind her companions in the energy with which she took in the sights her extended itinerary provided. Her narrative ought to fill the hearts of the ageing with courage.

INDIAN DREAM LANDS. By MARGARET MORDECAI. Putnam's. 1925. \$4.50.

Mrs. Mordecai is an enthusiastic traveler and an observant sightseer even if not a particularly lively narrator, and her account of journeyings in Ceylon, India, and Burma is informed and many-angled. Her route lay along the main traveled ways in great part, her trip affording little that lies without the experience of other travelers to the Orient. But she examined much and carefully, inquired concerning native customs and history, and faithfully recounted what she saw and learned. Her record is a personal one presenting her own reactions to people and events, and introducing occasional anecdotes concerning fellow-travelers and casual acquaintances. An admirer of the Orient, Mrs. Mordecai is tolerant of its divergencies from Occidental manners and points of view, and is always sympathetic in her attitude towards native peoples and customs. Her book lacks vivacity, but it nevertheless has considerable interest.

THE TOUR OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA: An Intimate Record. By RALPH DEAKIN. Lippincott. 1926. \$4.

The interest of this travel narrative, by the special correspondent of the *London Times* who accompanied the expedition, is contained in the vastly illuminating and valuable descriptions of England's colonial possessions in West and South Africa. Of course these significant passages are constantly interrupted by the inevitable tawdry show which attends the presence of Prince Edward—rousing cheers from whites, cordial grunts and yells from natives, prolonged stretches of hand-shaking, flag waving, bowing, scraping, dining, ceremonious receptions, patriotic orations, and other obvious hokum. We are told solemnly, if without any very substantial proof being given of its portentous accomplishments, that "the mission was perhaps the most important trip of our time." At any rate, the author does his best to make it seem so. His book is well illustrated with forty-six photographs, not all of which have "the greatest salesman in the world" for their featured subject.

MY CROWDED SOLITUDE. By JACK MCLAREN. McBride. 1926.

Here is a literary skill of a rare sort—simple narrative by a man who has lived through a most uncommon experience; restrained, modest, but none the less (really, the more) gripping. The language is graceful, forceful, quiet, as becomes a doer. No striving after effects, no rococo, no baroque. Because of the author's capacity for selection of material, he presents an unforgettable delineation of his eight-year solitary struggle against nature and savage, which has no dull spots and no futilities of expression.

The first page catches you like a steel trap, and you are held for hours helpless in its velvet grip. Such an unassuming manner Jack McLaren has in telling about it that one almost forgets the strain and struggle of his exploit, the self-reliance, the daring. He refuses to take himself seriously, and this endearing quality makes the reader in after-thoughts on the book take him and his tale all the more so. It is no slight thing to change a sector of Australia's paleolithic era into twentieth century times; to lead a tribe of black Esaus into becoming Jacobs, by kindness and not by the orthodox way of gunpowder and lash. No slight thing to make a literary story about it, either.

No Cocoa palms on Cape York? Very well, he, the wanderer, will put them there!—even though it involves eight years' abstinence from wandering. What nature's ocean currents and trade winds could not do with the floating nuts in ten thousand years, he would do with transplants in eight years—and he did. After eight years of solitude ("crowded" with life) the tamed jungle blossomed into rows of stately palms dropping nuts like manna. And then, the Wilding came again, and he was off, leaving the solitude a better place to live in for his having been that way,—and the world's bookshelves the richer, too.

"The Journals of T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, 1879-1922," in two volumes, will be published by R. Cobden Sanderson, in a limited edition this Spring. The journals form a record of the last forty years of the diarist's life, and includes the history of the founding of the Doves Press. Catalogs are also given of books bound by Cobden-Sanderson personally between 1884 and 1893, before the founding of the Doves Bindery, and of books printed and published at the Doves Press between 1900-1916.

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The three sessions were well attended by collectors and dealers, buying was well distributed, and competition, especially for the rarer lots, was very keen. The highest price, \$2,700, was paid for an extra-illustrated copy of Irving's "Life of Washington," large paper copy of the first edition, New York, 1855-59, 5 vols. extended to 15, by the addition of views, portraits and autograph letters and documents. Eight leaves from the Gutenberg Bible, with a bibliographical essay by A. Edward Newton, bound in levant, brought \$1,750.

Other important lots and the prices realized were the following:

Alken Colored Plates. *The Sporting Repository*, with colored plates by Henry Alken and others, 8vo, calf, London, 1822. Fine copy of this short-lived periodical. \$675.

Alken. Surtees's "Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities," with colored plates by Henry Alken, 8vo, original green cloth, London, 1843, second edition but first with Alken plates. \$770.

"American Statesmen," first series, 32 vols., 8vo, morocco, Boston, 1898. Large paper, with an autograph letter or document of the subject of the biography inserted. \$1,300.

Audubon (J. J.). "Birds of America" and "Quadrupeds of North America," in 131 original parts, 1840-54. One of finest copies known, and extremely rare in this condition. \$1,050.

Binding. John Keats's "Poems," 2 vols., small 4to, London, 1904. In a magnificent binding by Reviere. \$600.

Boccaccio (Giovanni). "Il Decamerone," etc., 4to, morocco by Bozerian, Firenze, 1527. Robert Hoe copy. \$500.

Clemens (Samuel L.). "Writings," 37 vols., 8vo, levant, New York, 1922-23. Definitive edition. \$500.

Cruikshank. "German Popular Stories," collected by M. M. Grimm, and illustrated by George Cruikshank, 2 vols., levant by Reviere, London, 1823-26. First issue of the first edition. \$325.

Defoe (Daniel). "Robinson Crusoe," 2 vols., 8vo, original calf, London, 1719. Rare first edition. \$925.

Dickens (Charles). "Works," 60 vols., royal 8vo, levant, London, n. d. Extra-illustrated copy, extended from thirty volumes. \$850.

Franklin (Benjamin). A. L. S., 2 pp., 4to, Boston, September 5, 1763, to Joshua Babcock, chief justice of Rhode Island. \$430.

Heywood (John). "The Spider and the Flie," small 4to, morocco by Rodwell, London, 1556. Fine copy of the first edition. \$950.

Homer. "Iliad," folio, vellum, Florence, 1488. Large paper copy of the *editio princeps*. \$550.

Manuscript. The Sermon on the Mount, modern manuscript of 13 leaves, with miniatures, 4to, London, 1911. Executed by Alberto Sangorski shortly before his death.

Irving (Washington). "Works," 40

vols., 8vo, levant, New York, n. d. Joseph Jefferson edition. \$700.

Jonson (Ben). "Workes," 2 vols., folio, original calf, London, 1616-40. First collected edition. \$510.

Kipling (Rudyard). "Schoolboy Lyrics," 16mo, wrappers, Lahore, 1881. First edition of Kipling's first book. \$1,300.

Presidents of U. S. A complete collection of autograph letters signed, letters signed, and autograph documents signed of the presidents of the United States from Washington to Wilson neatly mounted and bound in a folio volume. \$900.

Scott (Sir Walter). "Waverley Novels," 51 vols., royal 8vo, autumn leaf levant, London, and New York, n. d. Extra-illustrated. \$800.

The Sporting Magazine, over 2,000 engraved plates, 156 vols., 8vo, half calf, London, 1792-1870. Fine complete set. \$1,125.

Surtees (Robert). "Sporting Novels," 5 vols., 8vo, all in original parts, in cases, London, 1853-65. \$1,525.

Symonds (John Addington). "Works," 68 vols., 8vo and 12mo, three-quarters levant, London, Oxford and Bristol, 1857-1902. First editions. \$900.

SALE OF DROUET LETTERS

THE report comes from Paris of the sale at public auction of the letters written by Juliette Drouet to Victor Hugo, numbering, it is said, many thousands. This actress, whom Hugo loved, retired from the stage and lived a life of seclusion for fifty years. Almost every day during that period she wrote the famous author a letter, as he had asked her to do, although they were seeing each other regularly as well, and this collection was carefully preserved. Victor Hugo spoke of these letters in one of his letters to Juliette, in which he said: "Our life is there, recorded day by day, thought by thought. Every dream of thine, every suffering, is there. The letters are so many charming

little mirrors, each one of which reflects a view of thy splendid self." This collection of letters associated with the memory of one of the greatest French authors, unique in literary history, brought \$700. If they had been offered in New York, beyond a doubt they would have brought many times this figure.

GIFT OF RARE BOOKS TO YALE

A COLLECTION of rare editions of thirty-five seventeenth century English poets recently given to the Widener Library at Harvard is now on exhibition in the Treasure Room. The gift was made in memory of Lionel de Jersey, Harvard '15, a lineal descendant of John Harvard, who was killed in action at Boisieux-au-Mont on March 30, 1918. The donor has requested that his name be withheld. The poets represented includes John Cleveland, Abraham Cowley, Thomas Stanley, Sir John Suckling, Sir John Taylor, George Wither, Frances Quarles, Henry Vaughan, Samuel Daniel, Michael Drayton, John Davies, John Taylor, the Water-Poet; Giles Fletcher, the younger; Sir William Davenant, James Harrington, Richard Crawshaw, Sir John Denham, Francis Hubert, Robert Anton, Thomas Nabbes, George Buck, John Hepwith, Samuel Rowlands, Nicholas Hooker, Alexander Rosse, Thomas Carew, Robert Stapleton, Joseph Hall, Richard Lovelace, Ben Jonson, George Chapman, Richard Flecknoe, and Nicholas Breton.

NOTE AND COMMENT

FORMER Premier Venizelos of Greece has finished his translation into modern Greek of Thucydides's "History of the Peloponnesian War." A prologue, a commentary upon the text and a political disquisition will complete this work of fifteen volumes. The work will be unique, because never has a practical statesman commented upon the work of the greatest and most difficult Greek historian.

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