

Hoover Orders New Fight on Food Hoarders

Declares More Rigid Economy Is Necessary; Powers May Be Widened

Asks Women to Redouble Efforts Needs of Allies Must Be Fulfilled to Win the War

Where Volunteer War Workers Are Needed

The Tribune invites the war work societies to voice their needs in this column. It extends an equally cordial invitation to the stay-at-home patriots who want to work for their country.

New York in Lead For Food Economy, Williams Declares

For self-denial and economy in the use of foodstuffs, especially those most vitally needed for the success of our armies in the field, the people of New York City lead the entire nation.

Profiteer Here Got Tons Of Sugar When Supply Was Lowest, Is Charged

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Ask Women to Help

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Egg Dealers Warned Against Raising Price

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City Residents Urged to Plant Slacker Lands

Back Yard Gardens Needed if Allies Are To Be Fed, Says C. L. Pack

Appeals to New York Campaign Started to Raise Crops on All Vacant Plots

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On Flies in Amber Which Do Not Destroy the Value of the Amber, but Are Quite Superfluous

By Willis Fletcher Johnson

"Frenzied Fiction," by Stephen Leacock, is so exuberantly good that I hate and hesitate to point out so much as a single flaw in its deft workmanship. As sheer, rollicking, irresponsible fun it is quite irresistible; while as keen, penetrating satire on the foibles and follies of our day and generation it has scarcely been surpassed since the days of the "Potiphar Papers." To Mr. Leacock, and to the John Lane Company, Salut!

Nevertheless, there is a fly in the amber, thought it be but a little one; to which I call attention not by way of nagging or carping, in which far be it from the critic to indulge, but rather to raise a broad and far-reaching question of literary art. I do so, moreover, with the least regret because there are other flies, much bigger and more egregious, in other pieces of amber with which—the amber, but the flies—Mr. Leacock will not, I am sure, resent my bracketing his delightful "Frantic Fiction."

This, then, is the aforesaid specimen of *Musca domestica*—that Mr. Leacock represents New York at the time of Washington Irving's writing of "Diedrich Knickerbocker" as being a provincial town of some twenty thousand souls, when of course Macaulay's most venerable schoolboy knows that it was bigger than that before Irving was born, and was more than five times as big at the date in question.

Now that, as I have said, is an insignificant fly. But though it be, as saith Master Francis Bacon—he who did not write the works of Shakespeare—"preserved forever in a more than royal tomb," we cannot help wondering why it should be there at all. It really is not, was not, necessary. The point could have been made just as well by a man of Mr. Leacock's fertile and facile fancy without the anachronism.

There are, of course, other flies. I shall not name the writer who only the other day told of a pair of lovers, or somebody, watching the rising of the new moon; for that was "magazine stuff," which, as every judicious critic must be aware, is not necessarily and invariably literature with a capital L. But there was Henry Seton Merriman, in a real bound book, telling us how thunderously loud even the faintest footfall sounded in the thin air of a mountain top. There was Edgar Allan Poe, who was of the very elect, telling us how the speed of a pendulum's vibrations increased with its length and how a blade tapered from a sharp edge to a thick back. And there was Walter Scott, who somewhere—I forget just where, but it's there—made the sun set in the east or rise in the west. And to come back to mine own people, there was Richard Harding Davis making the south front of the New York City Hall of brownstone because the city had not been expected to grow beyond it in that direction, and also making that Cimmerian sepulchre, the Mulletian postoffice, a glowing and scintillating mountain of light all through the night.

Oh, yes, Brother Leacock, the little fly in your crystal and pellucid amber is a very little one. But still it is there. And so I come back to the question which I asked before, Why should it be? And why should all those others have been? Without being finicky or meticulous or any such abominable thing, the like of which is *anathema marantha* to the critic, why should even the tiniest flylet, *Muscula minima*, of such unnecessary kind, find lodgment in our amber beads?

And, finally—this is, after all, the gist of the whole matter, and what I started out in my first paragraph to say—if these flies do thus occur, who are the amber makers that they should treat with condescending scorn the mere newspaper man—Nassaufer for Journalist—who sometimes fails to keep a fly from alighting upon his ephemeral essays?

Some Recent Fiction

A Doll's Awakening

THREE'S A CROWD. By William Caine. 12mo. Pp. 306. Hutchinson-Middle Company.

It is a long time since we have read so thoroughly interesting a character study of that kind of American woman who, pampered and guarded and petted, never has an only a genuine spoiled child, as William Caine says in his Doll's Awakening. On the very first page we get an impression of her, which the author enlarges upon without passion in a delightfully detached manner. The mother and sister of George, Doll's fiancé, are calling on Doll and her mother.

"Here, in Mrs. Brackett's suite in the Savoy Hotel, they had large opportunities for improving their knowledge of the girl's appearance. In the room there were, great and small, eight photographs of her. She was to be seen in a variety of costumes, seen equipped for dancing, walking, driving, riding, motoring, being presented at court, as a baby, as a child, as a girl, as a young woman; looking down, looking up, looking sideways, with a fan, with a bouquet, with a horse, with her mother. No one who should so much as glance around this small reception room could fail to perceive the importance of Doll, in the opinion of Mrs. Brackett, her future wife.

After this felicitous beginning Mr. Caine proceeds in lighter vein, in a charming manner, but with the same thoroughness which characterizes Meredith's immortal pictures of the complete male egoist, to draw us one of the female sex. One constantly recalls speculation as to the meaning of the author's immortal pictures of the complete male egoist, to draw us one of the female sex. One constantly recalls speculation as to the meaning of the author's immortal pictures of the complete male egoist, to draw us one of the female sex.

Author and Publisher

THE CREAM OF THE BEST. By James Branch Cabell. 12mo. Pp. 239. Robert M. McBride & Co.

This seems to be the heart revelation with this fiction as the medium—a favorite form for such soul adventures of an author who has had a hard time of understanding, disorderly fashion, the work in uneven passages of great beauty being crowded on either side by others of gray dullness. The author thus states his unhesitant desire to put their theories in regard to Felix Kennerton as a parable. The man was not merely very human; he was humanity. To interpret all humanity in 280 pages is a big undertaking.

Palpable Propaganda

THE HIGH ROAD. By Emma S. Allen. 12mo. Pp. 120. The Merril Press.

We suppose that at this time, with the agitation for national prohibition, we must expect to be bombarded with books full of temperance propaganda. Authors, and particularly amateurs with little knowledge of fiction and a burning desire to put their theories in print, will never learn that the novel is not the place for propaganda, unless it is so sugar-coated by an excellent plot and a well told story that its real nature is successfully camouflaged. The author of "The High Road" has not succeeded in doing this. She tells an obviously purposeful story in stilted language, without insight or sense of justice, and in an unskillful manner.

Old Themes Reworked

THE DEVIL'S OWN. By Randall Parrish. Illustrated by the Kinnes. 12mo. Pp. 356. A. C. McClure.

Parrish has given us another tale of the Middle West at the time of the settlement of the country. The background is the best part of the story. The plot is a rather threadbare one, and is not very original, with the hero light weight, and of course the heroine is surpassingly beautiful and wonderful. The illustrations are the best part of the book.

Cherchez Le Chat!

WANTED A TORTOISE-SHELL. By Peter Bunzl. 12mo. Pp. 312. John Lane Company.

A perfectly ridiculous situation which involves a staid, middle-aged man and a charming and humorous girl and a camouflaged tortoise-shell cat! The story is delightfully told, and while a lot of extraordinary things happen none of them is impossible.

Where Haroun Reigned

The Hohenzollern Dream of Empire in Two Continents

Cycle on cycle attains to a close. Where civilization began, civilization fights its greatest fight to avert untimely ending. The very name of Mesopotamia arouses visions of the imperial past; perhaps before Egypt itself was born. Babylon and Nineveh tire memory; yet there were those before them in the land which above all others is the centre of the world. Gull the crises of humanity have entered. Darius and Xerxes, Cyrus and Alexander, are names which are the landmarks in history. America itself owes its discovery to the passage of the Straits and the closing of that highroad to India and Cathay. And now this twentieth century Armageddon, in which the Drunken Helot of Spain strikes with the arts of Athenian civilization against itself in a

Books of the Week

THE COMING GOLD AGE. By Frank Rosewater. 12mo. Pp. 127. Published by the Author.

An attempt to solve the social problems of the future.

Economics

STATISTICS. By William B. Bailey and John Cummings. 16mo. Pp. 153. A. C. McClure & Co.

How to gather, tabulate and interpret facts.

Education

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHILDREN. By Frank O. Carpenter. Illustrated. Small 60. Pp. 135. American Book Company.

Geographically for little folk narrative form.

Fiction

INTIMATE PHRASIA. By A. Raymond. 12mo. Pp. 120. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Healthful, interesting, just before the war.

History and Travels

THE EARTH OF THE WORLD. By Bernard De Vries. 12mo. Pp. 120. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Geography for little folk narrative form.

Poetry

SILENCE AND TRUE LOVE. By J. Brookes Smith. 12mo. Pp. 120. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Free verse on current themes.

Sociological

THE MARRIED MOTHER. By Percy Gardner. 12mo. Pp. 120. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Both original work and translations from South American poets.

Biography and Memoirs

THE LIFE OF JOHN B. HENNING. By George F. Johnson. 12mo. Pp. 120. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Life of a man who died for the cause he loved.

Book News

Authors and Publishers and Their Works.

AGENTS: REVIEWS: PUBLISHERS

Fragments from France

by Bruce Bairnsfather

Captain Bairnsfather's sketches from the front set all England chucking when they first appeared, and have met with as hearty a welcome from Americans lucky enough to see them. They have made the war-faded "Tommies" rock with laughter, amused and cheered the people at home, even made German prisoners forget to "strafe." They are humorous, human documents, calculated to take a deal of the bitterness out of war.

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