

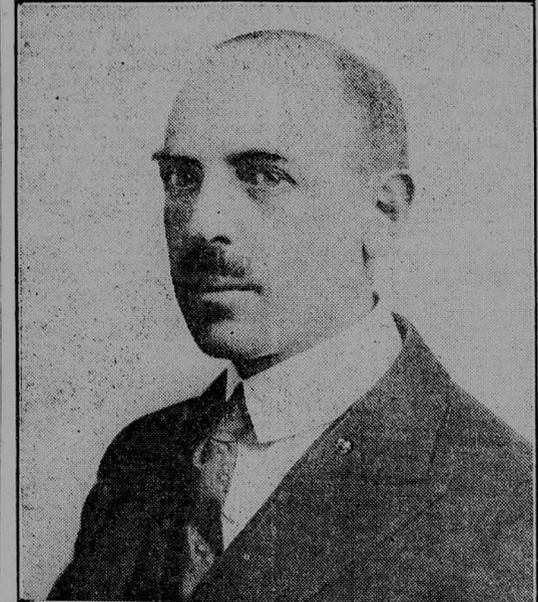
A New Literary Columbus Sets Sail to Discover Us

But W. L. George Is Different

English Novelist Is Cramming on American History in Advance.

Mr. W. L. George, the English novelist, who will arrive in New York about the middle of this month, preliminary to a tour of the United States, is going to know something about the country before he arrives. In a personal letter to a friend here he reveals that he is spending much time studying our history, so that he will be in a position to understand us and write about us intelligently, for, of course, he is going to write a book describing his visit. An extract from his letter follows:

I feel that it is no use visiting America unless one gains some idea of the institutions of the country, of its ways of government. To my mind, the man who has gone through a country examining the museums and the churches has seen nothing except that country's past. The present of a country like America is, I suspect, to be found in places which the foreigner seldom visits, in its courts of justice, in local councils, where a violent dis-



W. L. GEORGE, author of "Caliban," soon to be published by Harper & Brothers, is coming to the United States to give us the once over

By W. L. George

SEEING America, I feel it in advance, is no small job. One doesn't, I suspect, get into an expensive train in New York and come out five days later at San Francisco knowing all about it. One has received impressions, seen skyscrapers, discovered on the train bath-rooms, manicurists, shorthand writers; but that's surface.

And I fear that too many Englishmen when they visit America do not even go so far as that. I suspect that they pass most of their time in the Northeastern states. Generally, they stay only in New York; they visit a few intellectuals in Boston; they run up to the Adirondacks; they note with interest that the English Portsmouth, Plymouth and Gloucester are duplicated on your side; they try the cocktails (I mean, used to try), also the ice water, Coney Island and the canvas-backed duck. Then they write a book about America.

"Skimmed Columbia"

Do not imagine that I sweep everybody into this limbo of superficiality, for Mr. Arnold Bennett, in "Those United States"; Mr. H. G. Wells, in "The Future of America," and several others have produced works which certainly deserve the admiration of England and possibly may earn the tolerance of America. But many people have not exactly libelled Columbia; they have nearly all admired her, but they have skimmed her.

America is rather too large a caldron to skim with a small ladle.

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of her history. This is the least compliment one can pay to a people. I must say that I was, to a certain extent, prepared for this by my French education, in which American history considerably figures, not only in the shape of romantic Lafayette, but in the more prosaic form of lectures on the Civil War, Free Silver and the Dingley Tariff.

So, at present, I am increasing that slender store of knowledge, and you might say evening see me with one of the histories used in your schools patiently working out the exercises which demand of me: "Why was the Embargo act a failure?" Or: "Give the reason why Vicksburg was so important to the South."

I repeat, it's the least one can do. To go among a great people, to be-

Book Gossip

"Empress Eugenie in Exile"

EMPERESS EUGENIE in Exile" will probably be the title of Agnes Carey's book on the late Empress, whom the author knew personally. The Century Company will publish the book immediately.

Mrs. Carey's volume, it is explained, is not a formal biography of Eugenie; it is a chatty, informal book aiming to give the chief facts of her life, especially while on the throne of France, and to reveal her personality in her own words.

In 1886 the Empress and the author were both at Farnborough Hall, in England, the author remaining there as a visitor ten months. She was then twenty-six years old, and the Empress, then sixty, took a decided fancy to the American girl. During long drives and walks and on many days and nights in the house Eugenie talked to the author, reviewing her life and making comments upon personages and events that interested her. There was no thought then of a book in the author's mind; but for years she had written her grandmother a letter every day, and so every day of the ten months she was at Farnborough Hall she wrote home, always chronicling the interesting things relating to the Empress. Reviewing these letters later at home, she found that together they supplied a great deal of unusual information. A book was suggested to Richard Watson Gilder years ago. He was keen for it and a contract was signed, which provided, however, that no part of the manuscript should be published until the Empress's death.

The manuscript is now released, and the Century Company is rushing the book through the presses. "Empress Eugenie in Exile" is not presented in the form of letters; the book is based upon the author's letters home and her memory.

A Poet Laureate's Verse

Alfred A. Knopf will publish shortly a collection of poems by the Poet Laureate of England, Robert Bridges. The book is entitled "October," and the "Westminster Gazette," London, calls it "a lovely and noble addition to Mr. Bridges's work as a poet."

Modern British Poetry

The demands from schools and libraries for "Modern American Poetry," compiled by Louis Untermeyer has encouraged Mr. Untermeyer to compile a companion book of British verse, to be entitled "Modern British Poetry." Harcourt, Brace & Howe have just published this. It covers the period from 1870 to 1920. About eighty poets are represented and the collection is, like the earlier book, marked by its variety. Poems are included from as dissimilar writers as Henley, Stevenson, Kipling, Yeats, Noyes, de la Mare, Rupert Brooke, etc.

Mr. Fitzgerald's Popular Novel

The Scribners announce that F. Scott Fitzgerald's "This Side of Paradise" is now in its seventh edition, which is not surprising, inasmuch as this novel, which gives an extraordinarily frank picture of the thoughts and actions of our younger American generation, is being so much read by and discussed by debaters, college professors and literary critics. A good many mothers and elderly-minded people have been shocked by this book and say the young people they know aren't like that, but the younger generation seem to be reading it with an undigested delight that would indicate pretty clearly it was a faithful and perhaps a remarkably frank comedy of modern manners.

"The Case for Capitalism"

In "The Case for Capitalism," which the Duttons announce for publication next week, Hartley Withers, the English authority upon financial and economic questions, argues for the interdependence and cooperation of labor and capital and shows that when rightly considered their interests are identical rather than opposed.

Books for Boys

As the fall juvenile season approaches Appletons announce these various printings of old favorites—the sixth printing of Ralph Henry Barbour's "Spirit of the School," the twentieth printing of his "Captain of the Crew," the seventeenth printing of Molly Elliot Seawall's "Deceatur and Somers," the sixth printing of A. Frederick Collins's "Book of Stars," the sixth printing of Cole & Ernst's "First Aid for Boys" and the tenth printing of Joseph A. Altsheler's "Scouts of the Valley."



Portrait of Miss Woakes, from a reproduction of the painting in "The Life of James McNeill Whistler"

Plea of Jugo-Slav A Pallid Story

History of Dalmatia Reviewed in Detail

Title of Shaw Desmond's Novel Misleading

THE Jugo-Slav nationality of the peoples living along the eastern coast of the Adriatic is vigorously asserted by Count Louis Voinovitch in "Dalmatia and the Jugo-Slav Movement" (Scribner's). The author is more scholarly than most propagandists. He reviews the history of Dalmatia in exhaustive detail and bases some of his arguments against Italian possession of this region upon the well-nigh forgotten medieval wars between the Byzantines, Venetians, Croats and Hungarians.

The author draws a sharp distinction between civilization and nationality. He admits that Dalmatia is indebted to Italy for many cultural contributions. But he maintains that the racial affinity between the Dalmatians and the Croats and Serbs is quite indisputable. Even Venice in the days of her domination looked upon the eastern coast of the Adriatic as a colony to be exploited, not as a land bound to her by racial ties.

The author describes the complicated course of politics in Dalmatia in the days of the Austrian Empire. His father seems to have played an important role as one of the leaders of the Slavonic faction. Count Voinovitch cites a number of parliamentary victories in proof of his contention that the overwhelming majority of the Dalmatian population is Slavonic, rather than Italian, in its sympathies.

The author makes an excellent historical case for the Jugo-Slavs as against the Italians, although his treatment of the subject is perhaps too highly specialized to appeal to the average American reader, who is apt to be a trifle hazy about the exact location of Fiume.

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An Idealization of Whistler

The Pennells' Biography Interprets His Art More Frankly Than His Personality

BIOGRAPHY is a kind of keyhole business—an avid, snatching for the fallible human element in the heroic—in which success consists of making a special intimacy the property of every one. The less the biographer is inhibited by the accepted reserves, the common safeguards of privacy which make up the gentleman's code, the more likely he is to write the kind of biography which is fascinating and true.

But for this sort of callousness the Pennells (E. R. and J.) have a gentle-folks' distaste. They have written this biography of James McNeill Whistler (Appleton) as of a friend who might chance upon the book. They have dealt with all his indiscretions discreetly—mindful of the reverence due a master. No more suggestive subject for the modern psychological process offers itself than Whistler. He presents such a dramatic contrast in character as does not fail to stir the new generation, sharpened on antithesis. What might it not make of his mordant wit, his manifold eccentricities, his violent enmities, the numberless stories about him, given a genuine intimacy with him? It might come to an understanding of the contradiction between Whistler the harlequin and Whistler the austere artist.

But there is no avenue to an intimacy with Whistler in this book. The Pennells seem to fear to intrude on his personal life. Superficially, Whistler may be said to have had no personal life. He loved living on parade. His escapades, his retorts, the episodes of his colorful life were common property even in his lifetime. And these are sufficiently recorded here. But of his deeper personal life, of the friendships which influenced him, his love affairs, his family life, there is practically nothing in this bulky volume.

"Few men," says the biography, "depended more on companionship than Whistler, and to few was the companionship women alone can give more essential. All his life he retained his cour de femme, and most of his friends were women."

Whistler seems to have soaked himself thoroughly in Murger before going to Paris to study, and to have become the most reckless Bohemian of them all there. Paris in those days sheltered Du Meurier, Leighton, Poynter, Armstrong, and many other future R. A.'s, but Whistler was even in those days contemptuous of British art. He dramatized himself as a Bohemian

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