

## A Model American Consul

THE late John Lewis Griffiths of Indiana, the American Consul-General at London and formerly American Consul at Liverpool, did more than any man of his time in the consul service to augment amity between the people of the country from which he went and the people of the country to which he was sent. This is not included in the formal official functions of a consul, but it is far more important than any of the express duties of his office. Mr. Hilaire Belloc, a most competent critic who is in equal parts French and English, declared that Mr. Griffiths was, without exaggeration, the most completely successful of those who established personal relations between Englishmen and Americans sufficiently strong to bear the strain of their present association in the world war and its outcome.

Although Mr. Griffiths was born in New York, he received his college education at the University of Iowa and ultimately became a citizen of still another State, Indiana, at whose capital he practised law successfully for many years and held the office of Supreme Court reporter from 1889 to 1893. He was an effective public speaker and took quite an active part in State and national politics up to the time of his appointment to the Consulate at Liverpool in recognition of his services in the campaign of 1904, which resulted in the election of Mr. Roosevelt. The remainder of his life was spent abroad in the service of his country.

Mr. Griffiths's remarkable success in promoting Anglo-American friendship was due to his personal kindness and affability and to his tact, versatility and rhetorical power as a public speaker. Every reader of Hawthorne knows that he was once Consul of the United States at Liverpool and that in his writings concerning his life there he was not lavish of admiration for the city as he knew it. Mr. Griffiths delivered an address on Hawthorne before the faculty and students of the Liverpool University and the following passage shows the tactful manner in which he dealt with a difficult subject:

"It is true that Hawthorne was not fond of Liverpool, but he lived here fifty years ago, before there was a university or the foundation had been laid for a noble Gothic cathedral and before there had been any sincere effort to make the city clean and beautiful. If it is true that he found then only two congenial families in Liverpool, he would now find so many people worth knowing that he would love to abide here. He certainly said nothing more disagreeable about Liverpool and its people than Mrs. Trollope and Dickens and Thackeray said about America, and as the conditions which they described and exaggerated have largely passed away, so that the most ardent patriot can recall their criticisms without the slightest feeling of resentment, in the same catholic spirit can the people of Liverpool read

Hawthorne's impressions, knowing that the city he described is but a memory and has been replaced by one in which art is fostered and science stimulated and education encouraged; a city which in the last fifty years has so greatly ennobled and spiritualized its social and civic life."

How much better it was thus to speak frankly of Hawthorne's antipathy rather than to pass over in silence what was undoubtedly in the minds of the audience and would have rendered them uncomfortable if not thus felicitously explained and excused.

In an address on Abraham Lincoln, delivered at Rochdale, the home of John Bright, Mr. Griffiths told a story of Lincoln which we do not remember having heard before. The parents of a soldier who had been sentenced to death by court-martial called upon the President to intercede in their son's behalf. After he had heard their story Mr. Lincoln said: "I will telegraph the commanding general to take no further action in the case until he hears from me." Their immediate anxiety thus relieved, the father and mother departed; but presently the father returned to the President saying that the boy's life was so precious to the mother that she begged he would take some affirmative action. "Go back," said Mr. Lincoln, "and tell Mother that if her son lives till the General hears from me again Methusalem will always be considered a babe in arms in comparison with him when he passes from off the earth!"

One of the best addresses in this little book is that which Mr. Griffiths delivered at Lichfield in September, 1913, on assuming the presidency of the Johnson Society. It shows that the speaker was a painstaking and thoughtful student of English literature. He was as happy in dealing with Dr. Johnson's well known dislike of the Americans as he had been previously in discussing Hawthorne's dislike of Liverpool. "How could Johnson," he asks, "help loving the present America? He was fond of admiration, even susceptible to flattery, and nowhere is he more generously admired than in the land whose inhabitants he regarded with so much suspicion and distrust." In the wildest flights of imagination the worthy old moralist could not have foreseen that one day the leader of those who should celebrate his fame in Lichfield would be an American coming from a part of the Western Continent that in his time was a howling wilderness.

Mr. Griffiths died suddenly in London on May 17, 1914, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. The memoir concludes with these words of William Watson's as applicable to his career: "The man who forgets himself in the service of his fellow-men will always be remembered."

**THE GREATER PATRIOTISM.** Public addresses by JOHN LEWIS GRIFFITHS. With a memoir by Caroline Henderson Griffiths and an introduction by Hilaire Belloc. John Lane Company. \$1.50.

## Four New Books of Verse

By CONSTANCE MURRAY GREENE

HELEN PARRY EDEN has a most individual muse, and her new volume of poetry, *Coal and Candlelight*, is so rich in beauty of thought and expression that we wish there were more of it. The twenty-seven verses leave us unsatisfied, which is doubtless as Mrs. Eden would wish it. She is artistic in this respect as in all others, and her verse is so spontaneous and graceful a thing that a little of it goes a long way.

In writing of motherhood, a subject which overpowers poets so frequently that we have come to dread its introduction, she is particularly successful. Nowhere is she more charming than in her lines to "Betsey."

"Betsey, 'tis very like that I shall be—  
When death shall wreak my life's economy—  
Repaid with pains for contemplating thee  
Unwisely out of season."

Thus she condemns her own weakness and thereby enslaves us. When she scans her hair and says:  
"How thick it grows  
Over the little golden neck of her!"  
and comments,

... 'gainst the light's full grave,  
The little furry outline of her face."

we too become her worshippers.

Although the volume contains several excellent war poems it is the whimsical note in the poems to Betsey and those to animals which gives Mrs. Eden's work its rare and radiant charm. Who can read the opening lines of *An Idol of the Market Place*

"Decorum and the butcher's cat  
Are seldom far apart—"

without an expectant tingle of pleasure intensified by such delightful verses as

"The butcher's brave cerulean garb  
Flutters before his face,  
The clever dints his little roof  
Of furrowed wood; remote aloof,  
He sits superb and panie proof  
In his accustomed place."

No less completely are our hearts captured by Sir Bat-Ears, the Alms-house dog, strangely human in his tastes and prudent in his ways. Many of us who have not thought of dogs or alms-houses for years (for there are such people) will feel an almost painful tenderness on reading

"And old, old alms persons go by,  
Shaking and almost dead,  
'Good night, good night, Sir Bat-Ears!'  
They say, and pat his head."

How charming in the first place to call the dog "Sir Bat-Ears" and then to speak of his chosen companions as "alms persons!" Surely there is no gainsaying the art of one who can write of children and cats and dogs with such bewildering sweetness and who can in a line or two soften

the hard hearts of the multitude toward "a dozen aged alms persons."

Though in a different and far less original vein, Florence Nash's *June Dusk and Other Poems* interests us as the work of an actress of note who is also a fair poet. Far from adapting Mrs. Eden's method of leaving us unsatisfied, this author has offered her verses too lavishly. Here as elsewhere we see the hand of the amateur. She uses the apostrophe in such words as different, shudd'ring, weak'ning with all the assiduity of a novice and she offends by such lines as:

"And place your mouth adjacent to my lips."

There is no doubt that Miss Nash has a poet's heart which she reveals often happily and always passionately. In this respect her poems resemble those of Charlotte Eaton, whose *Desire* was published last winter. In these, however, we find a regard for rhyme as painstaking as was Miss Eaton's disregard. As original a verse as may be quoted from this volume is *To a Ghost Man*:

"I think it is a sorry thing  
We did not die in fact  
Who then might wander with the dead,  
Unconscious of each act,  
Because the dead have never talked;  
Death's cunning taught them tact."

Alfred Clark, a member of the New Zealand Force, has succeeded in interesting us in *My Erratic Pal* rather because he has done a new thing than for any great worth which his material can boast. The "erratic pal" whose name is not disclosed was also a member of the New Zealand Forces and was wounded at Katia, dying in a hospital a short time after he received his wound. The poems which Mr. Clark has selected cover the period from his early boyhood until his death, and he has placed them in the order in which they were written.

For the American Red Cross, its royalties to be devoted to that cause, Edward Peple, the author of *A Pair of Sires* and *The Littlest Rebel*, has written an exquisite poem, *The War Dog*, which with a frontispiece by Harrison Fisher, makes a most appealing little volume. It is very lovely that a tribute should be paid to the dogs who have taken part in the war. This poem commemorates the heroic act of one dog, but it ends in a plea for appreciation of all their faithful work:

"Yet, he only asks, with a pleading paw,  
When this madness of Might shall cease,  
To hold in your bosom one human law—  
Remember our dogs in the days of war,  
And our dogs in the days of Peace."

**COAL AND CANDLELIGHT.** By HELEN PARRY EDEN. John Lane Company. \$1.25.  
**JUNE DUSK AND OTHER POEMS.** By FLORENCE NASH. George H. Doran Company. \$1.25.  
**MY ERRATIC PAL.** By ALFRED CLARK. N. Z. M. C. John Lane Company. \$1.25.  
**THE WAR DOG.** By EDWARD PEPLER. D. P. Dutton & Co. 50 cents.

# Books Received in Week Ending Jan. 1

**Fiction.**  
**JAVA HEAD.** By JESSE HEMMESHER. A story of Salem at the beginning of the great clipper ship era. The action, which is tragic, is centered about the Chinese wife of a young shipmaster. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$1.50.  
**THE SOLITARY HOUSE.** By E. R. PUGH. A mystery story dealing with the adventures of a fugitive from the law. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$1.50.  
**A GRAY DREAM AND OTHER STORIES OF NEW ENGLAND LIFE.** By LAURA WOLCOTT. Sketches and stories, some of which have appeared in periodicals. Part of them are grouped under the heading *The Heart of a Child*, and these are further subdivided into *Stories of 1878* and *Twentieth Century Stories*. New Haven: Yale University Press.  
**Music.**  
**THE MUSIC OF SPAIN.** By CARL VAN VEBTEN. A book of essays on Spain and Music. "The Land of Joy" and *From George Bizet to Mary Garden*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$1.50.  
**COMMUNITY SONGS.** Patriotic and popular songs set to choral tunes taken from sources all over the world. Macborough, N. Y.: Community Songs Publishing Company. 50 cents.  
**ROSSINI AND HIS SCHOOL.** By H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS. New edition of a volume in the Great Musicians Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.  
**Military Manuals.**  
**MILITARY ENGLISH.** By PERCY WARDEN LOWE and FRANK WILSON CORSETT HERSBY. Official correspondence, orders, messages and reports for use in courses held to instruction in military science and tactics. New York: The Macmillan Company. 75 cents.

**Reconstruction.**  
**THE GREAT PEACE.** By H. H. POWERS. Discusses the necessary conditions for a "people's peace." Questions of nationality, race, diplomacy and treaties are first dealt with and are then applied to the various nations. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.25.  
**Verse.**  
**TALES AND TAGS.** Rhymes by A. J. L. drawings by C. H. L. "A. J. L." is Dr. A. J. LATHAM of Horace Mann School, New York. The book consists of nine folk tales in rhyme, and is intended partly as a supplementary reader in schools. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$1.  
**CHRIST IN THE POETRY OF TO DAY: AN ANTHOLOGY FROM AMERICAN POETS.** Compiled by MARYA FORTZ CROW. Verse by such poets as: Katharine Lee Bates, Anna Hempstead Branch, T. A. Daly, Richard Watson Gilder, Hermann Hagedorn, Joyce Kilmer, Edwin Markham, Edgar Lee Masters, Willard Wixtles and others. New York: The Woman's Press. \$2.  
**MY FLAG AND MY BOY AND OTHER WAR POEMS.** By WILLIAM H. BARTER. Lieut. Barter died on November 12, 1918. He was on the staff of Gov. McCall of Massachusetts. Boston: The Page Company.  
**GLEAMS AND DREAMS.** By REBECCAH GOODSMITH. Poems, many of them on themes derived from the war and about a dozen grouped under the heading *A Hero's Child*. New York: James T. White & Co. \$1.25.  
**ESTRAVS.** By THOMAS KENNEDY, GEORGE F. M. DR. VINCENT STARRETT and BASIL THOMPSON. Thirty-nine poems by four authors. Chicago: The Camelot Press, or Vincent Starrett, 2611 South Boulevard.

**Essays.**  
**LES TRAITES ETERNELS DE LA FRANCE.** By MAURICE BARRES. The French soldier's devotion to France is the theme of this address delivered by M. Barrès before the British Academy in July, 1916. It is here printed in French with notes in English by Fernand Baldensperger. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$1.  
**THE OLD HOME.** By CHARLES CORE WOODS. Sentimental sketches with verse and photographic illustrations. New York: The Methodist Book Concern. \$2.  
**MORALE AND ITS ENEMIES.** By WILLIAM HERBERT HOCKING. Morale, "the temper of a people expressing itself in action," is here considered both in war and reconstruction. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$1.50.  
**Religion.**  
**THE PROCESSIONAL.** By P. WHITWELL WILSON. A small pamphlet on the war and some religious aspects of it by the author of *Two Ancient Red Cross Tales*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company.  
**RELIGION AND THE WAR.** Edited by E. HENSHKY SKEATH. A series of essays on the war and reconstruction by members of the faculty of the School of Religion, Yale University. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$1.  
**Government.**  
**HOW THE WORLD VOTES.** By CHARLES SYMOND and DONALD PAIGE FRANK. Two volumes. A comprehensive work describing systems of election from the early days of Athens to the present time, and including the changes in electoral systems effected by the war just ended. Springfield, Mass.: C. A. Nichols Company. \$6.50.

**History.**  
**ENGLISH LEADERSHIP: ENGLISH LEADINGS IN MODERN HISTORY.** By J. N. LAMOND. With an introduction by William Howard Taft. THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR IN ENGLISH HISTORY. By DONALD E. SMITH. ENGLISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT AND THE ENGLISH GIFT TO WORLD LITERATURE. By GRACE E. CUDWELL. Four studies of phases of English history in one volume. Springfield, Mass.: C. A. Nichols Company. \$2.75.  
**For Children.**  
**SUNSHINE LANDS OF EUROPE.** By LENORE E. MURKIN. Interesting and informative stories of children in France, Spain, Italy and Portugal, with illustrations. Yonkers, N. Y.: World Book Company. 64 cents.  
**THREE YOUNG CRUSOES: THEIR LIFE AND ADVENTURES ON AN ISLAND IN THE WEST INDIES.** By WILLIAM ALPHONSO MURRILL. Written to entertain and to instruct in nature study children of twelve years or older. New York: W. A. Murrill, Bronxwood Park. \$1.50.  
**Miscellaneous.**  
**ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES.** By CHARLES W. DILLON. Eighth edition, revised and enlarged, of a manual by a physician detailing treatment in the absence of a doctor. Indexed. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. \$1.  
**HISTORIC GREEN POINT.** By WILLIAM L. FLETCHER. A brief account of the history of the northerly section of the Borough of Brooklyn, city of New York. Brooklyn: Green Point Savings Bank.