

Among the Books

"Crow-Step"

By Georgia Fraser, Witter & Kindner, of New York, publishers, \$1.50. There are so few real novels written nowadays...

Georgia Fraser's "Crow-Step" follows a previous book, "The Stone House at Gowanus"...

To the quaint Dutch architecture and interior Colonial architecture of "Crow-Step"...

Sophie is the elder of the two girls. She is one whom the burden of housewifely cares has fallen upon...

Under a mask of innocence and youth, this mental revolt of Annetta's, this ever-increasing desire to break the trammels of what she considers a narrow, stupid circle...

Annetta, as far as she can be, is faithful with her return to Long Island, and a big wedding which she has always longed for...

"Crow-Step" is a simple enough bit of fiction in its way.

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Ballad of the London Wind

Concerning the inspiration which led to the writing of this first poem in Mr. Bruce's twenty-five years of authorship...

O, wind, that breathes against my pane, O, voice, as low as sweet, What message is this you bring me, Up from the darkened street?

Have ye come from the woods of Burnham, Or Warwick's verdurous shade, To say that the cuckoo is calling From his haunts in the glade?

Or came ye from the moors of Haworth, That kiss the stooping sky, To say that the blithe lark is singing In the blue depths on high?

Or came ye from the hills of Dorset, From commons all o'errun, To whisper that the gorse is yellowing In the light of the sun?

Or came ye from the storied river, Where Chloë's woodland dream, To lure me with the sparkling oar, As it dips in the stream?

Or from the showery Windermere, Or dark Helvellyn's side, Or where the kingly Snowdon looks Across the Marches wide?

Or from the silver Solent's wave, Where the wild gulls career, And scream about the burly ships, As on they westward steer?

Impelled by thee, my thoughts have flown Far from this alien scene, To where there looms the ancient State Named for the Virgin Queen.

Ringed by primeval oak and pine, My native towers stand in snow, It is night, and the howling snow Enswathes the silent land.

Around the lone and darkened house A low wind steals and sighs; And, voiceless, now it seems to swell, And now it sinks and dies.

It is the Long Ago, that plays With hands I cannot see, On trembling chords invisible, A dirgelike melody.

With melting ear, I list the sound, Once more I seem to hear The silenced voices of the Past, Resound both strong and clear.

Once more familiar faces rise From out the sombre grave; Once more to me they seem to smile, Once more their hands to wave.

O wind, that sighs against my pane; O voice, as sweet as low; Thou, too, o'er dreaming London breathest A dirge of Long Ago.

A requiem for the countless dead Of all the centuries past, Whose ghosts, unseen, unceasing, troop Above the city vast.

Far from these cold walks of crime, Far from these haunts of pain, To where unsmiling Nature smiles, Return, O Wind, again.

Thy home is by the lucid stream, And on the mountain's side, And in the daisy woodland shade, And in the meadow pied.

Thy friends are dew leaves and grass, And vagrant birds of air; There is no tie to bind thy heart To things that shed a tear.

Go daily with the wayside rose, And aid the plover's wing, To circle upward far and free; And to the harbor bring

The tardy ship, that, homeward bound, Signals for the evening breeze, And waves towards the land the showers That vex the vernal seas.

Thy place is on wild Nature's breast, Not in the seats of men; True to the hours from whence ye came, Return, return again.

Philip Alexander Bruce

close to realities. The Dutch settlers of Manhattan were primary owners of the soil and lovers of it. They were individual, and as such, interesting in their home life, their habits and their social customs.

"Elizabeth Koett." By Rudolph Hans Bartsch. Translated by Ludwig Lewitohn, M. A. Desmond Fitzgerald Publishing Company, of New York, \$1.50 net.

Women of genius are exempted from ordinary judgment and criticism. This truth must be fully accepted before the reading of Bartsch's book, which has been characterized as something big, like George Moore's "Evelyn and Hauptmann, plus de Hauptmann."

It is always a doubtful experiment when an author undertakes the analysis of the inner life of a great artist along any lines. Elizabeth Koett was a tragic actress, and the record of the development of her emotional and spiritual nature through the stress of work and the exigencies of her life is, in detail, a record from which the mind recoils as if invading the inner shrine of another soul without warrant and without right.

When Elizabeth had wearied of the adulation of men whom she had found totally inadequate, and when she had long enough masqueraded as the Countess of Zieborn in a marriage

Founder of New Cult and His Disciples



MILDRED BRIDGES, the seventeen-year-old priestess of the "Absolute Life" cult, who was given into the care of the Juvenile Court.



EVELYN ARTHUR SIMS, Founder and exponent of "Absolute Life," arrested and awaiting prosecution by the authorities in Chicago.



MONA REES, High priestess of "Absolute Life" cult, now under police investigation.

of the wounded deer here shadows forth so great a thing as the return of an erring child of the world into the eternal kingdom.

With the carrying out of her plan, a time of pain and fame alike began for Elizabeth, Exiles from the motherland among the Magyars and the Slavs "honored her as in angel bearing to them a brief immortal draught, And the whole German world followed, with love and anxiety, her apostolic mission."

The mission continued for two and a half years. Then, in a remote Slavonic town, by the ethereal waters of the Save, on a day of merciless summer heat, the stricken actress turned her face away, "like a tired child whom the light hurts," and fell into the sleep of death.

The author finishes his book with an eloquent reference to a work which occupied the mind and thoughts of that one friend of Elizabeth Koett who justified her faith always. The reference says: "His work should be completed in these our days. It sings in irresistible strains of beauty that dark impulse, throughout all our erring ways, after the rest which God, whose name is Eternal Yearning, has prepared for us."

After such an ending, what? Not ordinary words of praise or blame, for everything about Bartsch's book, including the conception and its carrying out, must be recognized as extraordinary, and as such stands apart from criticism.

"The Slow Coach." By Edward Verrill Lucas. The Macmillan Company, of New York, \$1.50.

A story about the Avory boys and girls of The Gables, in Chiswick, England, and their friends, which other boys and girls will take great pleasure in reading. The Avories had a caravan sent them anonymously, or at least they thought the gift was intended for them, and for a while it served their purposes.

The caravan was most completely furnished and united all the requirements of bed-room, sitting-room, kitchen, except in case of rain, meals were prepared and partaken of out-of-doors.

Caravanning proved to be full of pleasant experiences. The girls of the party showed themselves to be equal to the task of getting good meals ready, of doing their share of walking, and of entering into the pleasures of sitting around the camp fire in the evening after the dinner had been disposed of and the dishes washed and put away.

There were some sore feet before the trip was ended, but on the whole, especially in the visit to Stratford-on-Avon, it was a delightful out-of-door holiday, one calculated to promote the utmost friendliness and good feeling between a party of juveniles, each of whom is a distinct agent in promoting the easy running of Slow Coach, as the caravan was named.

The funny part of the whole story was that when the Avories came home they found out that Slow Coach did not really belong to them at all, but to two little boys who lived near them. These boys' uncle had sent the caravan anonymously and it had been brought to the Avory home by mistake. But it had been the occasion of much enjoyment to some girls and boys and had really done them a good deal of good for others to read. So the Slow Coach was a great success in its way and deserved immortalization.

LOYD MAY BE NAMED AS BISHOP COADJUTOR

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lynchburg, Va., January 15.—A strong belief is growing in Episcopal circles here, although not connected with that diocese, that when the council of the Diocese of Virginia assembles in Richmond on February 15 to elect a successor to Bishop Coadjutor Arthur S. Lloyd, the selection will fall upon his brother, Dr. John J. Lloyd, formerly of this city.

There were several who, high in the Episcopal councils of the States and expressed the belief that Dr. Lloyd will be called to that high church position. Dr. Lloyd, who was for many years rector of Grace Memorial Church here, has for several years been archdeacon of the Southern Diocese of Virginia. He is located at Big Stone Gap, from where he directs the mission work of his church in southwestern Virginia.

Bishop Coadjutor Tucker, of this city, who asked about the report, said he would not be surprised that Dr. Lloyd's selection, but, said he, it would be a distinct loss to this diocese to lose him from his present splendid work.

BROADER SYSTEM OF PUBLICITY NEEDED

Commissioner of Corporations Tells What Has Been Accomplished by His Bureau and the Necessity of Further Extension.

Washington, January 15.—A broader Federal system of publicity for all interstate corporations is urged in the annual report of Herbert Hoover, Smith, commissioner of corporations to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, which was made public to-day.

The report recites the good work that has been accomplished during the last seven years through the present system of publicity, referring especially to the cancellation by the railroads of the discriminatory rates enjoyed by the Standard Oil Company; the improvement in the methods of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange; the abandonment by the American Tobacco Company of certain questionable methods of doing business, and many other reforms.

"Such," says the report, "have been the practical results of official publicity even within the narrow range which the bureau has been able to cover. It can be extended to all important corporate business."

But, although this system is effective as far as it goes, it is as yet incomplete as to scope, according to the report, and the one step that remains to be taken is to create by statute a system which shall apply these effective methods to all important corporate businesses, and give a recognized and permanent standing to proven principles. The report says in this connection:

"In outline this system should be one where, first, all important interstate industrial corporations shall regularly make reports to a Federal office; second, where that office shall have the further right to verify such reports and get additional facts; third, where business transactions of public interest shall be made public, safeguarding at the same time as the bureau always has, all properly private business secrets; fourth, where there shall be a permanent opportunity for co-operation and adjustment between the government and business interests; and fifth, whereby those corporations should deal fairly and openly shall receive positive recognition of that principle. The system must be a national one. Our great businesses have become national in scope; they have no relation whatsoever to State lines. This system will greatly extend the same kind of corporate reform which has already resulted from the work of the bureau; the same kind of public enlightenment, it will tend toward the removal of unfounded prejudice, toward uniformity in corporate accounting, and the establishment of industrial securities on a basis of open administration; it will give a central agency

of financial and economic information, and a practical meeting place for business interests with the government. It will be a program without any drastic change in business conditions, or disclosure of purely private affairs; with comparatively small cost; with an effectiveness of business reform that no penal legislation can approach. It will be a program on business efficiency, business honesty, and commercial service to the public, to the benefit of that increasing class of modern business men who are endeavoring to deal openly and fairly, and who regard their commercial power as at least in part a public trust."

RAILROADS SUED BY FOREIGN FIRMS

They Seek to Recover Money Lost in Fraudulent Bills of Lading.

Birmingham, Ala., January 15.—The first suits against the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company and the Southern Railway Company, brought by English and German creditors of Knight, Yancey & Co., were given yesterday by the filing of a complaint against the railroads by Alexander Eccles & Co., of Liverpool, and by Knopp and Fabarius and seven other merchants, of Bremen, Germany, in the Morgan county Law and Equity Court of Alabama, at Decatur, Ala. The other English creditors of Knight, Yancey & Co. are expected to file similar suits within the next ten days. The total sum for which actions will be brought against the railroads by English creditors is more than \$2,000,000. That of Germany is about \$200,000.

The papers are voluminous, but the gist of the actions is found in these allegations: The firm of Knight, Yancey & Co. had been in the habit of obtaining money on drafts secured by spurious bills of lading similar to those upon which the present actions are brought, for the past five years. A month or two after each bill of lading was issued, Knight, Yancey & Co. would buy cotton similar to that called for by the bill and ship it forward under the same marks as those described in the bill of lading. When the cotton arrived at its destination abroad, it would be delivered upon the surrender of the spurious bill of lading, despite the fact that the spurious bill differed in date and number and in other respects from the shippers' manifest.

It is further alleged that this practice of Knight, Yancey & Co. was well known to the shippers, and was condoned at that upon questions arising as to the propriety of a delivery of cotton upon a draft secured by a spurious bill of lading the matter would be referred to the railroad concerned, and the railroad would direct delivery, thus preventing the discovery of the forgery and enabling Knight, Yancey & Co. to continue the course of dealing which led to their subsequent failure. It is alleged that more than 400,000 bales have been thus delivered under forged bills, and that when the failure came there was outstanding forged bills of lading for over 50,000 bales of cotton upon which no cotton had ever been shipped.

The creditors suing maintain that this condonance on the part of the railroads, renders them equally liable with Knight, Yancey & Co. for the loss sustained by the latter's customers.

Many Attend Reclinal. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Charlottesville, Va., January 15.—The organ recital, the second of a series being given during January on the Carnegie organ in Cabell Hall, at the University of Virginia, attracted nearly 1,000 people this afternoon. The program included selections from the following composers: Bach, Haydn, Wagner, Debussy, Beethoven, Handel, Gullistan and Flagler. The next recital on Sunday, January 22, will be given by Dr. S. Adams of Lynchburg. The series will close with a recital on Sunday, January 29, by Professor Harold Phillips, of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore.

AUTHORIZE REBUILDING OF SCHOOL AT MARION

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Marion, Va., January 15.—The board of trustees of Marion Female College held an enthusiastic meeting at this place yesterday and authorized and instructed the building committee to proceed at once to tear down the old buildings and erect on the same site a new and modern school building to cost not less than \$25,000, exclusive of the materials in the present building, which are to be used in the construction of the larger buildings. As a considerable fund has been subscribed, it is expected active work on the building will begin early in the spring, so as to have the buildings ready by the beginning of the fall term of 1911.

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DR. VANDYKE TELLS WHY HE RESIGNED

Left Princeton University Because He Felt He Was Not Wanted.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] New York, January 15.—Dr. Henry Van Dyke's recent decision to sever relations with Princeton University as Murray professor of English literature, which has been the subject of conjecture among his friends, was in part explained by himself last night in Princeton. He resigned because he felt he was not wanted, and much as he liked the work, he chose to break with associates who failed so far in respect for him as to deny him a voice in faculty affairs.

Three years ago he became so resentful of this treatment that he tendered his resignation, but was induced to withdraw it. The provoking cause for last night's statement was that, having again resigned in November, his letter got no official attention until last Thursday, when the trustees laid it on the table.

"I have been sitting on the back porch with my boys," Dr. Van Dyke said, "and I have been doing it long enough to guess if I pack up my grip-sack and get out it will not make any difference."

"As to future plans, I have none, except to go on writing for a living and preaching for love, in an atmosphere favorable to that kind of work." When Dr. Van Dyke went to Princeton upon invitation of the trustees, friends of his among the alumni gave the university \$100,000 for the endowment of the chair he was to occupy. The reason he went to Princeton was that literature was his hobby. He had there also a sentimental aspect, as he had been graduated from the university in 1873 and from the Princeton Theological Seminary three years later. Princeton conferred on him the degree of D. D. in 1881, and was afterward followed by Harvard and Yale. Union, Washington and Jefferson, Wesleyan, the University of Pennsylvania and Geneva University in turn made him LL. D. He was preacher and lecturer at Harvard, Yale and the University of Paris, and moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1902.

CHAUTAUGUA FOR METHODISTS

Incorporators of Southern Assembly Company Elect Officers. Asheville, N. C., January 15.—What may be regarded as the first definite step toward the establishment of the Methodist Chautauqua at Waynesville, this State, as authorized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was taken yesterday at Waynesville, when the incorporators of the Southern Assembly Company elected officers.

Asheville, N. C., January 15.—What may be regarded as the first definite step toward the establishment of the Methodist Chautauqua at Waynesville, this State, as authorized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was taken yesterday at Waynesville, when the incorporators of the Southern Assembly Company met and organized with the election of the following officers: President, Bishop James A. Atkinson; Vice President, John R. Pepper, Memphis, Tenn.; Secretary, S. C. Satterthwaite, Waynesville, N. C.; Treasurer, B. J. Sloan, Waynesville; General Superintendent, Dr. J. J. Cannon, Hot Springs, Va.; Superintendent, Bible Conference, Dr. F. W. Tillot, Vanderbilt University; Superintendent, Evangelistic Work, Dr. George E. Stewart, Cleveland, Tenn.; Superintendent, Missionary Training School, Rev. J. E. McCulloch, Nashville, Tenn.

The assembly has purchased 1,000 acres of land near Waynesville, at an elevation of 2,600 feet, and plans have been formulated to develop and beautify the property at once.

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