

"THIS FREEDOM"

A REVIEW BY DR. KARL R. STOLZ

Delivered at the First Methodist Church, November 5.

Mr. A. S. Hutchinson, the author of "This Freedom" was born in India about forty-three years ago. He sprang from military stock. The family intended him for the British army, but when he presented himself for enlistment he was rejected on account of defective eyesight. Persisting in their determination to identify him with the army, his parents sent him to college to prepare himself for military medical service. The course of study in medicine was distasteful to the young student, and he abandoned it, resolving to follow his inclinations to become a writer. He wrote an occasional poem or short story and did newspaper editorial work for several years before he came to the fore as a widely recognized novelist. His "The Winter Comes" greatly enlarged his circle of readers and gave him a conspicuous place in the field of contemporary fiction.

To the lover of lucid and dignified English "This Freedom" is a sore trial. The style is lush and hectic and feverish. It is jerky and ejaculatory. Repetition is ridiculously employed as an effective rhetorical device, but Mr. Hutchinson repeats himself to the utter weariness of his readers, striking at the same point time and again in identical phrases. The excessive use of the exclamation mark frequently diverts the attention and interest of the reader away from the characters of the book and the particular circumstances and the author himself and his mood or convictions. He is guilty of sentimentalism in the first degree. He lacks emotional restraint. But so can forgive Mr. Hutchinson almost anything except his many sins of both omission and commission against the first essential of a good story which is transparent clarity. Much of the syntax is muddled. It is impossible to parse some of his sentences. Many of the sentence structures, like the human frame, are fearfully and wonderfully made. Now the reader encounters a group of words which seem here assembled for the express purpose of mystifying him. Despite its sophomoric style, "This Freedom" will be widely read and hotly discussed, for it centers in a question which is the outcome of the new status of womanhood. "Is it possible for a woman to be a housewife and to have an outside career at the same time?" Mr. Hutchinson's answer is an inflexible "No."

The House of Men. The novel is divided into four parts. Part one is called "The House of Men." Rosalie Aubyn, the leading character, is impressed by the man-made and man-dominated world in which she lives. It is the lot of the woman to do the ordinary things of life. It is the lot of the man to do the extraordinary and mysterious things. The masculine status of affairs was each morning dramatized in the personal services rendered to the members of the household at breakfast by the women. For instance, it took the combined efforts of the entire female population of the home to push her into the bathroom of the house in time for school. Robert would shove porridge into his person against the clock, one of his legs would stand in a position as if he were on a bent knee, would mend his hole in his stockings, the other leg would repose in the lap of the cook who would lace a shoe, one sister would stand in the doorway, another neck, in front of him a maid would be trying to put a clean collar on him. Two other women would hover about dining his way into his responsive Robert finally disposed of Rosalie's older brother Harold and after him her father would be surrounded by the ministering female household slaves. The housewife men cast a spell upon the impressionable child and shaped her dreams and ambitions. But her father, wonderful as he was, was an impetuous clergyman, laboring in a sterile rural parish. Life in the rectory was a mad race between the coat of living and the income with the result never in doubt. Finally the rector subdued his pride and dispatched letters to his more prosperous relatives, disclosing his financial embarrassment and intimating that his children were deprived of the opportunities which they ought to have. Among those who responded was Aunt Belle of London. She visited the rectory in person and resolved to take Rosalie back to London with her and to give her an education. Aunt Belle was a generous soul, albeit one of those persons who expect a whole world to admire their many and valuable possessions. It was characteristic of her that when she saw that kerosene lamps were used in the rectory she could not forbear to call attention to that fact and to volunteer the information that her home in London was electrically lighted.

"The House of Women." Part two is called "The House of Women." By the grace of Aunt Belle Rosalie entered a private school for girls. It was exactly what she needed, for she was preparing to earn her bread by teaching. But the prospect of teaching did not allure her. She discovered a bent for business and ex-

the evidence in the case. In desperation he has resorted to the melodramatic. The tragedies he introduces are not necessarily the inevitable outcome of the home life he portrays. They do not have the ring of reality. In some respects Mr. Hutchinson's treatment of his theme is exceedingly conscientious. Harry is a good man. If he had been repulsive to Rosalie, she might have had at least a large excuse for following her commercial inclinations at the cost of her family. The author has kept his problem unclouded by domestic complications. He has isolated the factor he wants to illumine and interpret. He wants to discuss the issues upon the unincumbered ground of principle. On her part Rosalie is a woman of character, of blinding charm and brilliant abilities. Had she been a woman of moral instability and minor attainments, her collapse would not have been so significant. Where the capable fall the ordinary can not succeed. Mr. Hutchinson is laudably determined to submit his theory to the strains of unusual testing. He teaches that it is the duty of the wife to make the home and that it is the duty of the husband to maintain the home. Mr. Hutchinson, one who is abundantly justifiable, is an amount of shirk of whining can free the woman from her responsibility to her home. No outside career however, can atone for her failure as the only indispensable personality in civilization.



THE RECONCILIATION. John Seuberg is a prince, by jing, he is a duke, an earl, a king, a man if he is anything! "I was back in eight-ninety-nine hungry wanton pig of mine went strutting when the day was fine. I wandered into Seuberg's wheat in search of something good to eat and tramped around with ruthless feet for half an hour. No 'Missouri Dick' let fly a wicked looking brick and killed the pig—a wretched trick! Then John came home, saw pig and grain, his wheat laid down at his feet, he went at me with might and main! With all the dictum of a boss he told me I should come across and reimburse him for the wheat I tramped on." "Providing you inform me what you mean to do about the pig that fellow slew." "Slow nothing! Listen!" Seuberg cried. "My man has never seen the pig. He says, 'ate till he died.' 'Enough!' said I. 'Have your own way! Whenever you come round and pay, I'll square with you that very day.' Our friendship ended; both were sore for three long years or more we never passed each other's door! But say, today down on the road I met John riding on a loan. He stopped his team and then 'Hello—ad!' 'I have a wire,' said he, 'from Dick, who's in Brazil and deathly sick, confessing that he ate the wheat I tramped underneath his feet!' 'Agreed!' said I. 'Upon my life! Come down some day and play your wife!' 'You, too,' said I, 'and bring your wife!'" "Bill Would Make Marriage More Difficult.—Headline. You're on the wrong track, Bill! It's difficult enough as it is!"

A Grand Forks woman asks, "To what law in America does this Honor Law in England correspond?" That is hard to answer, but the Honor Law of England corresponded at times with the Blarney Stone of Ireland. A farmer set out a tomato plant and a cabbage plant to see which would grow the faster. The cabbage got a head. The Hatton Free Press editor, in commenting on Villa's latest plan that of going into the banking business, remarks, "We thought that fellow Villa was trying to reform." Not at all, not at all; he is simply trying to improve his methods. "A small leak will sink a great ship," said Franklin. Yet will you ever have a friendship, if the leak happens to be a mutual secret.

motherhood if the human race is to continue and she to achieve the fullest self-realization. The author mightily condemns the repeated defense of Rosalie that she is a woman with privileges and gifts which enable her to support her obligations as a wife and mother. It goes without saying that it is the man's duty to support his family. But Mr. Hutchinson's line of demarcation between the duties of the wife and the duties of the husband is altogether too sharp and divisive. While the segregation of function which he stresses actually exists, there is also an overlapping or rather a supplementing of the parental spheres of responsibility. The child has two parents, and both are under obligations to contribute to his upbringing. The educator's dictum, "Let us live with our children as well as by the mother." While Harry constantly deprecates Rosalie's failure as a mother, he is equally frank in his obligations to his children. The shortcomings of Harry, the father, appear never to occur to Rosalie as a vulnerable point for a counter attack. Again, Mr. Hutchinson teaches that the way to life abundant is the way of creative sacrifice. Motherhood entails the highest form of self-giving and that fact ought to be frankly faced and intelligently accepted. After all the most important factor in the modern world is the home-builder, in fact she is the only indispensable personality in civilization.

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happens because so many men in dying try to take their dough with them! A Bemidji paper advertises for rent "a room nicely furnished, in the outskirts." Possibly the man who installed the furnishings was well-off. The Herald reports "a baby shower" at one of the local hospitals. How modern we are! When we older fellows were babies we bathed in mother's wash-tub! Notes from Hannah, N. D. mention a man interested in the Hannah paper as having "stuck in the Moon." One good thing about the proposition is this: that kind of stock will never be watered. If "consistency is a jewel," most of us need more jewelry. An ad in the Minneapolis Journal offers space "on the ground floor" in the Glass Block. A former St. Paul banker admits that he "spanked his wife on the third floor of a Naples hotel." That's better than dad's old method, at any rate! Question: When is a kitchen range like Seattle? Why, when it has a water front, of course. Don't tell that to Tacoma, however, or the people there will mob all of the stove dealers.

A man in Walsh county has a name that's quite a study in verb conjugation.—Will B. Wood. If you don't get the drift, ask your teacher. An up-state paper, employing a cross-eyed linotype operator, had a queer mix-up last week when the fellow put a "u" in place of an "i" in the word "car." The story read like this: "Two girls driving a large black car equipped with a winter top and a new hood collided with a gray runabout car driven by a young man on the Roosevelt Trail Sunday. The big car struck the small car amidships, relieving it of its spring and smashing its lights. The big car was able to run on its own power, so the crowd all rode it to town dragging the small car behind."

Counterfeiters in Japan Are At Work Tokyo.—While the Japanese government is doing its utmost to withdraw from circulation the 50 sen notes issued as a war measure, re-

WOMAN COULD NOT WORK Made Strong and Well by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound St. Paul, Minn.—"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for a tired, worn-out feeling, and painful period. I used to get up with a pain in my head and pains in my lower parts and back. Often I was not able to do my work. I read in your little book about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I have taken it. I feel so well and strong and can do every bit of my work and not a pain in my back now. I recommend your medicine and you can use this letter as a testimonial."—Mrs. PHIL. MASER, 801 Winiflow St., St. Paul, Minn. Just another case where a woman found relief by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Many times these tired, worn-out feelings and pains about the body are from troubles only women have. The Vegetable Compound is especially adapted for just this condition. The good results are noted by the disagreeable symptoms passing away—one after another. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a Woman's Medicine for Women's Ailments. Always reliable.

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British Land Owners Told To Mend Ways London.—The big land owners of England have been told, in substance, that as a class they have made a bad mess of the land business and that if they did not do better in the future the country would take the land from them and turn them adrift. The speaker was Lord Bledisloe, himself a big land owner who, during the war, helped the government manage the food supplies of the country. The occasion was an address before the British association. "The British agricultural land owner today is on his trial," Lord Bledisloe asserted. "Unless he justifies himself as such, the nationalization of the land is inevitable. Public opinion will demand his extinction, and parliament will endorse the demand."

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placing them with silver coins, there are some Japanese adopting an opposite course. The country has been flooded with counterfeit 50 sen notes. Some counterfeit 10 yen bank notes also are in circulation, which, being more cleverly made, are harder to distinguish from those issued by the Bank of Japan. The police also have discovered some counterfeit silver coins. EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED. Cincinnati, O.—J. L. Rice, an electrician employed at the Ivorydale plant, near here, has been elected to represent local employes on the board of directors of the Proctor & Gamble company. Employes of this concern have, for several years, been given a voice in management of affairs, concerning working conditions.

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