

# Book Page of The Sunday Call

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## BOOKS REVIEWED

- "Kilo," by Ellis Parker Butler.
- "Dan Beard's Animal Book," by Dan Beard.
- "Janet of the Dunes," by Harriet T. Comstock.
- "The Stem of the Crimson Dahlia," by James Locke.
- "The Sorceress of Rome," by Nathan Gallizier.
- "Twenty-Three Tales," by Lyoff Tolstoy.
- "The Exaltation of the Flag," reported and compiled by Edward H. Murphy; edited by Robert B. Westcott.



"Kilo" By Ellis Parker Butler, author of "Pigs Is Pigs." Published by the McClure company, New York. Price \$1.50.

This latest book by Ellis Parker Butler tells all about the love story of one Eliph Hewitt, book agent; and, though the book agent has for years been legitimate "copy" for the funny man, one may safely predict that nothing like this has been written about him before.

Mr. Butler is essentially an American humorist. In this instance he presents to us not only a type but an individual. Eliph Hewitt is a born salesman. He combines all the well known traits of the book agent, in addition to believing absolutely in the book he is selling.

Butler's tale is really a collection of detached sketches about the various experiences of Eliph Hewitt, but they have been woven together with so much skill by the author that one never sees the machinery. He has a ready wit, as witness the following description Hewitt gives of the book he is selling:

"Jarby's Encyclopedia and Compendium of Literature, Science and Art," a book in which are ten thousand and one subjects, fully treated by the best minds of the nineteenth century. One subject for every day in the year, for 27 years, and some left over. Religion, politics, literature—every subject under the sun, gathered in one grand, colossal encyclopedia, with an index so simple that a child can understand it. See page 768; texts, Biblical, "Hints for Sermons," "The Art of Pulpit Eloquence." No minister should be without it. See page 1046; "Pulpit Orators—Golden Words of the Greatest," comprising selections from Spurgeon, Robertson, Talmage, Beecher, Parkhurst, etc.—a book that should be in every home. Look at P—Poets, Great; Poison, Antidotes for; Poker, Rules for; Poland, History and Geography of, with map; Pomeroy, Brick; Pomatum, How to Make; Ponce de Leon, Voyage and Life of; Pop, Ginger, etc. The whole for the small sum of \$5; \$1 down and \$1 a month until paid."

And so the cheerful and most winning optimist goes on; he can always quote a page and interest the poor victim to whom he is talking and, in the language of the street, he finds many "suckers." One of the inhabitants of the small town of Kilo, in Iowa, where the scene of the tale is laid, says, in a burst of enthusiastic admiration of Hewitt:

"He is a red hot one at book agenting, he is. He's got a record for sellin' more copies of that encyclopedia book of his than any one man ever sold of any one book, an' he's a sort of hero of the book agenting business. Eliph's sowed literature pretty general all over Iowa an' Iowa is now a grand state, an' as full of culture as a Swiss cheese is full of holes, an' I give Eliph his share. Hotels help to scatter the seed, but literature scatters more."

Eliph relies implicitly on the book for any information wanted in the everyday affairs. Particularly does he seek help when he falls in love with "Sally." He has all sorts of experiences, grave and gay, during his courtship and not the least of them is trouble with her father. A passage giving an account

of a sample interruption by the father is worth quoting, as it is such a good example of Butler's humor. A small boy rushes up to the couple, who are at a picnic, with the news that Sally is wanted.

"What is it?" Sally gasps.  
"Well," says the small boy, "my dad was in the postoffice just now and the telephone bell rang and he looked around to see where Julius was, and Julius he had gone outside to see what Mr. Fogarty from up to the corners wanted. I don't know what he wanted; pap didn't tell me. I don't know as pa knew, anyway, but I guess he wanted something or else he wouldn't have motioned Julius to go out, unless he just wanted to talk to Julius. Mebbe he just wanted to ask Julius if there was any mail for him. So pa answered the telephone."

"You've got a pa, haven't you?"  
"Yes," said Miss Sally.  
"Well, has he got false teeth?"  
"Yes."  
"Well, that's all right then. Pa couldn't tell exactly whether it was false teeth or not, the telephone in the postoffice works so poor, and pa ain't no hand at it, anyway. He said it sounded like false teeth. So your pa wants you to come right home to Kilo. Mebbe he's dying."

"Dying!" cried Miss Sally, as white as a sheet.  
"Yes, mebbe he is. He ain't right sure, but he says you'd better come right home, so if he is dying you'll be on hand. And if he ain't you can help him hunt for them. He says he went to bed last night, same as always, but he don't recall whether he took out his false set of teeth or left them in, and he ain't sure whether he swallowed them or put them down somewhere and lost them. He says he's got a pain like he'd swallowed them, but he ain't sure, and, anyway, he wants you to come right home."

That is surely a breath taking interruption and it is one of many, but in the end the persistency, which is the trait that makes the successful book agent, wins Miss Sally and the reader rejoices with Eliph.

### "Dan Beard's Animal Book"

By Dan Beard. Published by Moffat, Yard & Co., New York. Price \$1.00.

At last, after more than 20 years of promises, Dan Beard has written his animal book, and it is worth the impatient while we have had to wait. The book is packed from cover to cover with information about the birds and the beasts, the reptiles and the insects that every American boy knows; but every fact is so sugar coated with story, anecdote or adventure that the ordinary boy thinks he is being entertained instead of instructed. Dan Beard is anything but a nature faker, yet some of the things he tells in this book will make even grownups sit up and take notice. All sorts of foolish old beliefs and superstitions are exploded and interesting anecdotes given of the origin of some of them. The chapters on bats, musk ox, deer, buffaloes, whales, bears, dogs, fishes, snakes, bugs, birds and all sorts of living animals are wonderfully illustrated—both by camera and by sketches on the spot by this remarkable author. The chapter on rats and mice is of especial interest; not a detail is missing, and if that chapter alone were printed and scattered broadcast over our city it would be read by all with advantage as well as interest. Mr. Beard's chapter headings, a few of which may be quoted, show the variety of subjects he writes about:

"Alone in a Room Full of Rats," "Hairy Tailed Pack Rats," "A Tribe of Gnawers and Their Food," "The Bats I Have Had," "Do Men Think?" "Birds and Insects That Will Take an Artificial Fly," "The First Live Musk Ox Ever Seen in New York," "The Deer I Should Not Have Killed," "Charged by a Herd of Buffalo," "Bears I Have Met," "A String of Dog Tales," "Fish Sketches and Fish Stories," "Snakes and Snake Stories."

When it is added that even without the stories the volume would be interesting for its pictures, you may see what a valuable animal book it

I RECOGNIZED HER IMMEDIATELY AS THE PRETTIEST GIRL OF MY ACQUAINTANCE FROM KILO BY ELLIS PARKER BUTLER

really is. The preface to Mr. Beard's volume is not the least interesting part of it. A few words may be quoted to show the seriousness of his object in writing:

"If this book succeeds in awakening a love for wild nature in even a small portion of American youth it will be counted a success. Well barbered and manicured nature, closely shaven lawns and neatly trimmed hedges are perfectly proper in yards to suburban houses, but contact with nature without a haircut and unshaven is what gives strength to one's muscles, brightness to one's eyes and makes the red blood dance in one's veins. Unfortunately there are many who cannot appreciate mountains destitute of summer hotels, unbridged streams or solemn dark woods, any more than the deaf can enjoy music or the blind the beauties of a sunset; but even the deaf can enjoy seeing mountain and forest and the blind feeling the fresh, stimulating air of the wilderness, and this book of random notes is not intended for people unable to appreciate the handcraft of the Creator."

Let us only add to that that this book will do much to make the dullest and most unobserving appreciate the handcraft of the Creator.

### "Janet of the Dunes"

By Harriet T. Comstock, author of "Tower or Throne," etc. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Price \$1.50.

The weary reader of problem stories will welcome this charming seascape romance, "Janet of the Dunes," by Mrs. Harriet T. Comstock. It is a fine, clean story with as healthy a tone as its own delightful setting—the eastern end of the south shore of Long Island.

A little community of simple island folk is being overrun by summer boarders. A colony of artists have also established a little settlement in the hills of Quinton, back from the dunes, and this fact becomes quite important to Janet, who leaves her home to pose for one of the most famous of the painters. Janet is a waif. She does not know she is a waif, but thinks Captain Billy is her own daddy and loves him devotedly. Gradually her own romance is developed, and toward the end of the book the mystery of her birth is cleared.

Though Mrs. Comstock says in her preface that she has made no attempt at character drawing, she has drawn some strong types—Mark Tapkins, Mrs. Jo G., Susan Jane and Davy. Susan Jane and Davy are exceptionally well done; Davy and his close friend Captain Billy are delightful. The constant changes from comedy to almost tragedy are handled with much skill and show the best work done so far by this author.

Janet is the type of forsaken, long lost daughter which delights the young novel reader, but her story as developed by Mrs. Comstock has nothing trite about it and wins abundant sympathy.

A remarkably good description of a rescue in a storm by the hard working, poorly paid members of the life-saving crew makes a fitting climax of this stirring tale.

### "The Stem of the Crimson Dahlia"

By James Locke. Published by Moffat, Yard & Co., New York. Price \$1.50.

One of the first requisites of a "seller" is a catchy title. Mr. Locke certainly has it in "The Stem of the Crimson Dahlia." The title really means something, too, for the whole story is written about that same stem. To be sure there is a love story, but the flower stem is the main thing. Mr. Locke has not done anything very original or very new in his story; it has a Zenda flavor, with a suggestion at times of Stanley J. Weyman. The stem of the crimson dahlia is a token—a sign—which certain con-



JANET FROM "JANET OF THE DUNES" BY HARRIET T. COMSTOCK

spirators are using, and they take seemingly unnecessary precaution in passing it along. Of course it gets everybody into trouble and it takes some 340 pages to straighten out the tangle and extricate the American hero and heroine from their dangerous position. Novelists nowadays consider no country nor government too sacred to be used for the purpose of fiction, and in this tale Russia and Bulgaria are mixed up in a political intrigue to remove a princeling and put a certain Zemoff on the throne. Austria, too, has a finger in the pie, and the characters of the various conspirators are so thoroughly blackguardly that one does not want to belong to any country mentioned in the book, save only England or America.

The story is better written than the majority of such tales, but no melodramatic possibility is forgotten. There are kidnappings and duels, disguises and all night journeys against time, mountain fastnesses and surprising peasants. It is a story to kill time for a few idle hours and is exciting enough to hold the interest through to the end. The love affair, like most of them in tales of this sort, is a first sight capitulation, and thereafter the hero is ready to sacrifice his reputation and his life for a single word from the heroine—but it all comes right in the end, which is comforting, though lacking in novelty.

### "The Sorceress of Rome"

By Nathan Gallizier, author of "Castel del Monte." Published by L. C. Page & Co., Boston. Price \$1.50.

Mr. Gallizier's book of 443 pages is mechanically a work of art, beautifully bound and printed and containing some excellent pictures in color by The Kinneys. But it was entirely unnecessary for the author to go out of his way to make a howling "blood and thunder" melodrama of his tale of Rome in the tenth century. Even the almost dark ages of which he writes are more pleasing if some few gory details are glossed over a bit. It is a story of the vice and intrigue which surrounded young Otto III of Germany, the then sovereign of Rome. A young commander of troop, one Eckhardt, is sent to Rome to look out for his emperor's interests. Benlilio, the grand chamberlain of Rome, is planning to overthrow the Germans and himself seize the government. Crescentius, a famous Roman senator, is secretly plotting the same thing. Crescentius sends his young and beautiful wife, Stephanie, to lead King Otto's interests from gov-

ernment to love; and Benlilio, the grand chamberlain, attempts to accomplish the same result with Eckhardt by employing a wanton, one Theodora, to ensnare him.

For the searcher after the lurid there is enough and to spare of every sort of horror, from murders and sorceries and grave robbing to battles and poisonings. It is a long horror.

### "Twenty-Three Tales"

By Lyoff Tolstoy. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York. Price 75 cents.

"Twenty-three Tales," by Tolstoy, translated by L. and A. Maude, is a compact little book that will interest the reader from start to finish. The volume is divided into seven parts. "Tales for Children," "Popular Stories," "A Fairy Tale," "Folk Tales Retold," "Stories Written to Pictures," "Adaptations From the French" and "Stories Given to Aid the Persecuted Jews (1903)." These stories were written, almost without exception, for some purpose, humanitarian, educational or to delight homely lovers of folk lore tales. The importance Tolstoy attributes to literature of this kind is shown by the following passage in "What is Art?": "The artist of the future who will understand that to compose a fairy tale, a little song, which will touch, a lullaby or a riddle which

this book that has crossed the ocean. The text consists of the proceedings of the patriotic mass meeting held by the Americans of the Philippine Islands in the city of Manila on the evening of Friday, August 23, 1907, after an anti-American demonstration on the afternoon of August 11. It is an interesting historical record. A large photograph of the vast audience in the grand opera house, standing during the rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the Twenty-sixth Infantry regimental band adds to its value.

### New Books Briefly Noted

"The Lady of the Decoration," rated by the Bookman from carefully gathered figures as the best selling book in 1907, exhausted 17 editions in the 12 months just passed and has been sent to press for the twenty-fifth printing. "Donald and Dorothy," one of Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge's earliest works, has had an interesting history. It was taken over by its present publishers from the firm originally publishing it in September, 1893, 10 years after issue; and has been reprinted 16 times in the 14 years since, with every indication that the present yearly sale of 2,900 or more copies will continue indefinitely.

The return of Miss Maud Adams to New York to play her annual Christmas

engagement in "Peter Pan," and the enthusiasm with which the play was welcomed, indicate that Barrie's masterpiece is already to be numbered among the classics. Another sign pointing to the same truth is the appearance of "The Peter Pan Picture Book," one of the most charming of the year's books for children. In it the story of the play is retold, briefly by Daniel O'Connor as an accompaniment for the series of charming pictures by Miss Alice B. Woodward, reproduced in color.

### Cossip of Books and People Who Make Them

Besides the preparation of "Chance" and "The Duel," tales of sea and army, respectively, Joseph Conrad, perhaps with the success of "The Secret Agent" in mind, is, in his own words, "thinking of a big novel with London for its background." There are other plans of his which would occupy some younger men a lifetime. Mr. Conrad a few weeks ago celebrated his fifty-second birthday.

The Glasgow Herald, having discovered that "Miss" Kate Douglas Wiggin has written a book about Scotland, "Penelope's Experiences," to wit, publishes an editorial, which, after touching lightly upon Hakluyt's "Voyages," Samuel Johnson, Kingslake, Kingsley and half a score of others who have written books about Scotland and other places, gravely says that it is "characterized by a strong literary personality," and that it is "the truest book about Scotland that has come from an alien hand."

In his lively book for boys, "Buck Jones at Annapolis," Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson "is evidently living over again his life at the naval academy," according to the Brooklyn Citizen. Like the author himself the hero is born in a small town in Alabama and goes to Annapolis, where he distinguishes himself not only in classes, but in athletics, courage and even in those mischievous pranks which belong to youth.

### Books Received

- "Women and Other Women," by Hildegard Hawthorne; Duffield & Co., New York.
- "The Stem of the Crimson Dahlia," by James Locke; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.
- "The Wife of Narcissus," by Annet Andrew; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.
- "The Cry of the Children," by Mrs. John Van Vorst; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.
- "The Man in the Basement," by Barce Palla Rosenkrantz; Empire book company, New York.
- "The Iron Lord," by S. B. Crockett; Empire book company, New York.
- "Hill Rise," by W. B. Maxwell; Empire book company, New York.
- "The Politician," by Antonio Fogazzaro; Loce & Co., Boston.
- "An Introductory Course in Exposition," by Francis M. Ferry; American book company, New York.
- "Another Fairy Reader," by James Baldwin; American book company, New York.
- "A Laboratory Manual of Zoology," by Mar-



"THE TWO MEN WHO STOOD SPELLBOUND BEFORE THE EASEL" FROM "THE EXALTATION OF THE FLAG" BY EDWARD H. MURPHY

will entertain, a jest which will amuse or to draw a sketch such as will delight dozens of generations or millions of children and adults, is incomparably more important and more fruitful than to compose a novel or a symphony, or paint a picture of the kind which diverts some members of the wealthy classes for a short time and is then forever forgotten. The region of this art of the simplest feelings accessible to all is enormous, and it is as yet almost untouched."

### "The Exaltation of the Flag"

Reported and compiled by Edward H. Murphy. Edited by Robert B. Westcott. Published by John E. Edgar & Co., Manila. Photographic illustration.

"The Exaltation of the Flag" is an attractive, patriotically decorated little volume that comes as a message from Manila to give assurance that Americanism is being systematically and loyally advanced in the far away islands. It is the second edition of



"WE MUST NOT BE SEEN TALKING TOGETHER" FROM "THE STEM OF THE CRIMSON DAHLIA" BY JAMES LOCKE



"THE FARMER'S SONS, THE MILKMAN AND THE GROCERMAN, ALL ENVIED THE BEAR" FROM "DAN BEARD'S ANIMAL BOOK"

garetta Brunet; American book company, New York.

"The Ancient Law," by Elyon Glasgow; Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

"The Sanity of Art," by Bernard Shaw; Doubleday, Page & Co., New York.

"Anacritism," by Paul Eltzbacher; Berry R. Tucker, New York.

"The Art of Pulpit Eloquence," by James H. Thompson; American book company, New York.

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