"The Man Shakespeare" ~ by Frank Harris ~

Book Page of The Sunday Call • Conducted by Una H. H. Cool •

"The Man Shakespeare"

By Frank Harris. Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York. Price $2.50.

This is a personaly conducted tour through the works of Shakespeare, wherein Mr. Harris introduces us to creations of Shakespeare's genius, but which the author points out to us is not at all the case, but that each character is simply Shakespeare himself masquerading in different frames with differently regulated lighting and color effects. It must be admitted that Mr. Harris has worked out a very ingenious theory, but how far it is conclusive is not wholly apparent.

There is nothing new in declaring that an author puts much of himself in his writing, and, surely, as Shakespeare matured, it is but to be expected that the product of his life should reveal itself in many ways by the dialogue, sentiment or soliloquies of his plays and poems, but that part of life which a man learns by experience, observation or expedience may often be no part whatever of the individual himself. The world is full of people who, through the buffets and rewards of fortune, have been shaped all awry from the original temperament and aspiration in which nature conceived them. Hence we have cynics, misers and spendthrifts, and each speaking from his mouth what is denied by his heart. Yet if each one were to write a play or a story it is but to be expected that each would put into his work what he has observed or experienced, coupled indeed with part of his own individual self.

How, then, are we to separate the parts of his writing by analysis or classification so as to reveal where the limit is drawn from the man as he appears to himself and the man as he appears to those about him? This question Mr. Harris has solved most satisfactorily to himself and to some others by a close study in comparing the lines, wording, philosophy and sentiment in many parts of Shakespeare's works, and thereby endeavoring to draw a true deduction of exactly what manner of man, in his heart of hearts, Shakespeare really was.

Hamlet is the basic principle. Wherever in any of the plays there occurs a line or thought such as Hamlet might have uttered there does Mr. Harris fall upon it at once and, having captured it, he labels it "Shakespeare." Romeo is Hamlet in love. Jacques is Hamlet a little older, with his melancholy more intensified in greenness and yellowness. Macbeth is Hamlet married to a wife who is ever at his elbow with an invigorating dose of nervine.

So it goes right along the line. Antonio, Duke Vincentio, Posthumus, Prospero, Orsino. Then, having drawn from the graceful characters what seems to Harris a very strong analogy, he chooses a set of most dissimilar protagonists to prove by converse that his theory is correct. Thus, in the Bastard, Arthur, Richard II, Hotspur, Henry V, Henry VI and even Richard III, wherever one of these men of action pauses to express a thought of kindness, introspection or mercy, "Aha!" says Mr. Harris, "Hello, Shakespeare! You can't disguise yourself from me!"

Now, then, in the course of running down one Shakespeare in this manner, we are shown that he was a weak, hesitating fellow, who was seldom stirred to energy unless abnormally moved; he abhorred the sight of blood; he was most indifferent to the worth of money; he was a violent lover for love's sake; he was abandoned to the sense of beauty; he delighted in contemplating the human body. he had a wonderful imagination; he hated misers, for acquisitiveness was no part of him, hence he never drew a miser in any of his plays; he was gentle, passionate, yet impulsive; at times he had a capacity for sunny gayety and delight in life; he avoided fights and brawls; he had an unusual perception of humor; at times was very jealous and had a most unfortunate habit of pleading his love by proxy; and, added to this, he was greatly troubled with insomnia.

Mr. Harris, having nailed down his theory good and tight, then clinches it by a chronological comparison of the events of Shakespeare's life and the motions and passions that he evolves through his work written contemporaneously. Thus, when Shakespeare loved we have "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "Romeo and Juliet" and the sonnets. When he raged in jealousy he gave us "Othello" and "Antony and Cleopatra." When he felt the futility of effort we have Brutus and Lear. If critical, Iago. Tender, Antonio and the other ladies. A good, hearty humor, Falstaff and Sir Toby Belch. Moods, virtues and vices all have their expression.

Now, what has Mr. Harris proved? Simply that Shakespeare was the truest type of "poet man." He was spiritual and of varied moods; physically rather frail; sensuous and careless; he loved luxury at the expense of others; truly a genuine type of poet.

Would it be difficult to deduce an exactly opposite result from what Mr. Harris has done? Indeed, it would seem to be an easy thing to do.

First, Shakespeare wrote for a playhouse. He had to give what his audiences wanted. If similarity of expression or duplication of sentiment occurs, may it not be because it pleased the people? Then, too, has any one character a monopoly on any one emotion or any set of emotions? If Hamlet is slow to action beeause of his frail nature and he hesitates to murder the king, must he be therefore a disguised Romeo, because Romeo, out of love for Juliet, hesitates to slay upon the word her cousin Tybalt? If Jacques moralizes in the forest, is he the same man as Macbeth, who soliloquizes on the inevitability of fate?

Indeed, so often does Mr. Harris wander far afield in his efforts that if one wished to following his precedent it would not be a heavy task to arrive at most surprising results. For instance, might it not be shown that Shakespeare was very fond of livestock, for he has Juliet say:

"Gallop apace, ye fiery steeds."

And then the grave digger observes:

"Your dull ass will not mend his pace with beating."

Hence the corollary: Juliet and the grave digger are one and the same person; argal, Shakespeare

It used to be an amusement to couple biblical texts to warrant extraordinary. Thus: "Judas hanged himself. Go thou and do likewise." Really, much of Mr. Harris' deduction is of a similar order of logic.

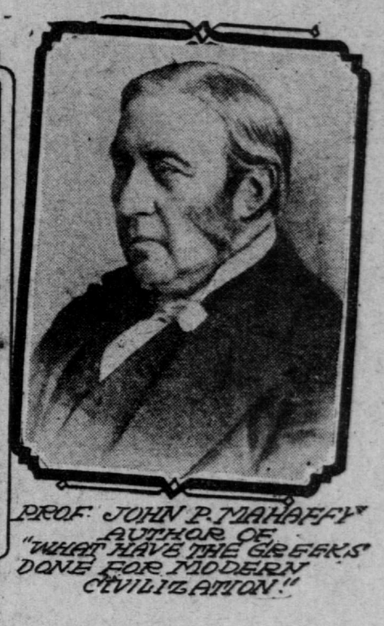
Shakespeare, "the intellectual ocean whose waves touched every shore of thought," must have described himself perforce from time to time, even though unconsciously; and yet again he may have avoided purposely all attempts of personal revelation as far as possible. The true self of a sensitive soul is very shy and seldom flashes itself into public gaze; so Shakespeare may have hidden back of his writings, and no one may know the true heart which is concealed within the works.

It is all conjecture, all speculation. Three hundred years is a long time ago, too far to establish an intimate friendship or to go calling. How is it possible to look back through the sphinx-like vista of the past and to sense the myriad influences of Shakespeare's environment? How is it possible to understand innumerable effects upon his personality by his immediate friends, friends whose peculiarities may have been reflected and embodied again and again by Shakespeare in his plays? How may we know the demands in detail of the theater for which the plays were written. May not much of his play writing have been done hurriedly and under order from some stage manager, powerful nobleman, or, indeed, written to fit the style or attribute of certain actors? Nay, is it not possible that much interpolation was done by the players themselves or suggested by some wight. wag or wit in the audience?

No, there is nothing conclusive in Mr. Harris' labors. What he has done is to stimulate closer study of Shakespeare's wonder world of words. To have added a worthy volume to the many already inspired by Shakespeare's works is well worth doing, and that Mr. Harris has done. He has pointed the way for intellectual rambling and enjoyment. His work is well done, well written, and will undoubtedly be of permanent interest.

EDWARD HOWARD GRIGGS
AUTHOR OF
"HUMAN EQUIPMENT"

MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
AUTHOR OF
"WHEN A MAN MARRIES."



PROF. JOHN P. MAHAFFY
AUTHOR OF
"WHAT HAVE THE GREEKS DONE FOR MODERN CIVILIZATION."

NOEL WILLIAMS
AUTHOR OF
"THE WOMEN BONAPARTES"
AND OF "MADAME DU BARRY."

"Human Equipment"

By Edward Howard Griggs ("Art of Life" series). Published by B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York. Price 50 cents.

"All earnest thinking men and women who love their fellows are driven to a greater or less degree of reaction against the glaring injustice of our social and industrial system, and the crowning struggle of our time is to find the way out. If a way out is not found, in time the accumulated injustice becomes so intolerable that the sufferers, having nothing to lose but a meaningless existence of intolerable toil, rise up in the blind madness of despair, and the social structure crumbles into revolution."

Mr. Briggs is so forcible and dramatic and uses such big words that he rather frightens the reader at first, but when the balance is found again he sees that nothing so startling has really happened after all. Mr. Briggs does not tell us anything new—he tells us we need sober, industrious labor, simple living, sane managing of expense to fit income and eliminating of useless and demoralizing luxuries. Thoreau, Tolstoi, Pastor Wagner and numbers of others have said all that, in simpler, more pleasing fashion, too, and Mr. Briggs does not tell the one great thing—how to begin to attain this desired condition.

Says Mr. Briggs: "One family in the midst of a luxury loving materialistic society, living steadily to an ideal of simple and earnest life, is a moral lesson of incalculable import." That appears to point to the women, who are the home makers, after all, and if the author thinks the first move should be made by the women it may help some if they read this book.

"The Struggle for Missouri"

By John McElroy. Published by the National Tribune company, Washington, D. C. Price $2.

The contest as to which side the great border state of Missouri should take was of momentous importance at the beginning of the civil war.

The weight of that great commonwealth in men, money and resources and commanding geographical situation thrown to one side or the other might determine the result. The struggle was a grand world drama, with rapidly shifting scenes of startling vicissitude, and the leading actors were General Nathaniel Lyon and Colonel Frank P. Blair on the union side and Governor Claiborne F. Jackson and General Sterling Price on that of secession. Later Generals John C. Fremont, H. W. Halleck, Franz Sigel, S. R. Curtis, John M. Schofield, J. H. Lane, John Pope and U. S. Grant entered the stage from the union side and Generals Ben McCulloch, Earl Van Dorn, Daniel S. Frost, M. Jeff Thompson, J. O. Shelby, J. S. Marmaduke and Albert Pike from the confederate. These men played with the highest skill and courage a mighty game for stupendous stakes.

The contest began as soon as Lincoln was elected, with maneuvers to get possession of the great St. Louis arsenal, with its priceless store of arms and ammunition and the control of which involved that of the city of St. Louis and ultimately of the state of Missouri. This was secured in spite of the sympathies and efforts of the state authorities, by the high courage and skillful management of Blair and Lyon, backed by the splendidly loyal union element.

At the presidential election of 1860 the great mass of the people of Missouri had voted for union candidates—Stephen A. Douglas and John Bell. This was also true of many other southern states, the people of which were finally carried over to secession by the skillful and audacious maneuvers of the secession leaders. It required tactics of consummate boldness and skill on the part of the union leaders to prevent this being done with Missouri, and the history of how it was accomplished is more thrilling than any romance. Camp Jackson, Wilsons Creek, Springfield and Pea Ridge were the great incidents in this mighty play for a state bigger and richer than some European kingdoms.

A careful analytical presentation—never before attempted—is made of the way the people, at first reluctant or indifferent, were finally arrayed into two great opposing camps.

There are vivid pen pictures of all the leading actors in this great drama, with fascinating descriptions of the eternal play of cross-purposes among the radical secessionists, the radical abolitionists, the conditional union men, the southern sympathizers, the states' rights men and the uncompromising nationalists.

The story is told with the swiftness of narrative of a novel, with events big with the keenest human interest on every page.

John McElroy, the author, has a very high reputation all over the country for accuracy and impartiality in his specialty as a historian of the civil war, and this work has received the strongest commendations from those who participated in the great struggle.

Mr. McElroy attracted much lively attention last year by his monograph, "The Economic Functions of Vice."

"Madame du Barry"

By H. Noel Williams. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price $2.

H. Noel Williams has made a specialty of memoirs, no less than six other volumes about famous French women being easily recalled. The author is a deep student of French history, and these volumes by him are correct as to dates and dry historical facts. Aside from that, however, which any student can discover by reading, he offers us a wealth of intimate and personal details that makes every page full of charm. No other work in English is so complete and no biography of this famous king's favorite is so sympathetic. Never before has an author attempted any defense of this woman, and the author himself may not have so intended his work to be taken, but the picture he constantly draws of her humanity, the lack of selfishness, the general sweetness of her disposition, present an entirely new view of her character.

The scenes of the times are not exactly new, but Mr. Williams has made them richer in detail. This is especially to be noted in some of the descriptions of the vice and profligacy which are positively sickening in their vividness. The book contans a frontispiece portrait of Madame du Barry from an engraving by Condi after a miniature by Cosway. It is attractively printed and bound.

"Rhoda of the Underground"

By Florence Finch Kelly. Published by Sturgis & Walton company, New York. Price $1.50.

So many novels of the days just before and during the civil war have appeared during the last year that it seems some sort of a conclusion should be drawn from it. What it is, however, is not quite clear. This latest book is from the pen of Florence Finch Kelly, author of "With Hoops of Steel" and "The Delafield Affair." For an experienced writer the work in this book is singularly uneven, being almost, if not quite, amateurish in places.

The scene of the story is laid in Ohio in 1856-61. The hero is Jefferson Delaven, a young plantation owner and slave holder of Kentucky, while the heroine is Rhoda Ware, the daughter of a northern father and a southern mother. Her father is an abolitionist and has talked of his beliefs and reasons to Rhoda and she has become as ardent a sympathizer as he. Now she comes to be his assistant in the work of running the "station" of the "underground railroad," that strange association with no president or officers of any kind, composed of men and women who aided and abetted runaway slaves to get to Canada and freedom.

Rhoda and Jeff fall in love and it is a true and lasting love, too. Here the author is at her best, making us see the love they feel, and at the same time their decided stand in regard to slavery. They are kept apart throughout the book, but a hint at the last lets us hope that they may be united when the war is over.

The work Rhoda lays out for herself in the underground railroad affairs is strenuous, and many dramatic situations result, not the least of which is her arrest and trial. Little need be said of the other characters in the story. They are all hopelessly ordinary. The sister, Charlotte, is a vicious, selfish little beast, and it is an evidence of Rhoda's weakness, not to be expected, that she should always love her.

And yet the story itself interests one. The difference in the point of view between the north and south is shown plainly, and even with all the years between one finds one's self heartily sympathizing with the honorable young hero.

In "The Helter Skelters" George Daulton offers a capital story of the adventures of a group of thoroughly likable children whose imaginations lead them into wonderful fun and occasional mischief. In the pleasant fields about their homes some very astonishing things happen. A search for hidden treasure and a mystery of a lost grandson among other unusual occurrences furnish a great deal of excitement. A real sailorman invents unrivaled amusements for these children and the book is filled with humor and pathos. Eight full page illustrations by Miss Maria Kirk are well reproduced and express finely the imaginative quality of the book. (Frederick A. Stokes company, New York; $1.25.)

"The Education of the Will," by Jules Payot, has run through 30 editions and has been translated into many foreign languages, but this translation, by Smith Ely Juliffe, M. D., is the first one in English. It is a scientific yet popular work, giving valuable suggestions and exercises for a judicious training of the will. "The Education of the Will" is both theoretical and practical, and promises to have a wide number of readers in the medical profession and to prove of vital interest to every one interested in psychology and mental therapeutics. (Funk & Wagnalls company, New York. $1.50.)

"When a Man Marries"

By Mary Roberts Rinehart, author of "The Circular Staircase," "The Man in Lower Ten," etc. Published by Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. Price $1.50.

We refuse to be surprised any more by Mary Roberts Rinehart. We simply accept her as she is; one of the most versatile writers in America today; one of the very few women with a keen sense of humor and such a master of clever and witty dialogue that she rivals the king himself in that—Anthony Hope Hawkins. Readers who enjoyed "The Circular Staircase" and "The Man in Lower Ten" will of course expect a mystery from their author's pen, and they will not be disappointed; there is a mystery here and its solution is saved until the very end. There is a charming love story, and humor—every page is filled with humor.

Jimmy Wilson and his wife are divorced, though why in heaven's name it would be difficult to determine, for they are still hopelessly in love with each other. On the anniversary of the divorce he meets his old friend "Kit," who tells the story, and she tries to cheer him up by suggesting that he collect a few congenial spirits at his house for dinner. No sooner said than done. The party is assembled when suddenly Jimmy is plunged into cold terror by the fact that his "Aunt Selina" is passing through the city and is coming to him for four hours between trains. Jimmy is dependent upon his aunt for everything—his house—his luxuries—and he has carefully kept his divorce from her, for she wouldn't stand for it for a minute.

Jimmy in despair begs her to play "Mrs. Wilson" before Aunt Selina, to save him, and finally gains a grudging consent.

During dinner the Japanese butler, who has been behaving queerly, is suddenly taken ill and is removed as a smallpox suspect and the house and its inmates placed under quarantine. The most extraordinary complications ensue, not the least of which is the discovery of Bella, the divorced wife. She has come to the house perhaps to seek a reconciliation, but can not escape any more than the real guests. A policeman is also found asleep in the cellar and he, too, for all his star and brass buttons, must stay. Strange thefts occur—a pearl necklace, a diamond bracelet and other things disappear and the guests fall to suspecting each other.

This remarkable party of society people, deserted by servants, must take care of themselves for a week. There are 11 of them and they almost hate each other before that time is up. One can not but remark how successful such a story would be dramatized, and news has just come from New York that under the title "Seven Days" it has just been produced at the Astor theater.

Harrison Fisher has made for the book five full page illustrations in his usual good style, reproduced in color, and Mayo Bunker contributes pen and ink sketches throughout the book which add much to the pleasure of reading.

"Marie of Arcady" is a pleasing little romance, the main events of which take place in Bayou Bienvieu, a basin on the lower Mississippi. The people are the simple Cajan tribe, the descendants of a band of French peasants, exiled from Arcadia years before by the English. There is scarcely any plot to the little tale. It is a rather sketchy account of these simple people, a people of "small farms and large loves." Marie drifts into the settlement from no one knows where, and is taken care of by Felicie Sauterre. Quite unintentionally she wins the love of Aluin Moise, who has loved Felicie until Marie's advent. The author, F. Hewes Lancaster, makes it all come out right in the end, but the chief enjoyment is the delightful French flavor given to the whole story. The dialect even is fascinating and the author has made a charming picture for the gallery of unusual American types. The author is known by short stories, but this long one gives him an assured place in the literature of the day. (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. $1.25.)

Frances M. A. Roe, the wife of an army officer who spent the years from 1871 to 1888 in one post or another of what was then the western frontier, wrote during that time letters to her friends and relations in the east. These she has now collected and selected the best and it makes an interesting story of life on the plains in those exciting days. In a brief foreword she says the scenes she pictures are quite true, "of a life that has passed—as has passed the buffalo and the antelope—yes, and the log and adobe quarters for the army." Apart from the historic value of these letters they are interesting and exciting from a purely narrative standpoint. They are well written and a fine "out of doors" spirit breathes through them all. They are decidedly worth publishing and reading. ("Army Letters From an Officer's Wife." D. Appleton & Co., New York. $2.)

"What Have the Greeks Done for Modern Civilization?"

By John P. Mahaffy. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

Professor Mahaffy of Trinity college, Dublin, is recognized by all scholars as the greatest student of Greece now living. During the winter of 1908-09 he delivered a series of lectures, the Lowell lectures, which he has now collected in book form, giving it the title "What Have the Greeks Done for Modern Civilization?"

This book now sums up in eight splendid brilliant chapters the influence upon the modern world which has been and is exerted by Greek poetry and prose; by Grecian architecture, sculpture, printing and music; and by the science and politics of Greece. The book is too big in theme to be fairly discussed in the limited columns of a newspaper review, but it is not too big a statement to say that it should be read by every teacher, every publicist and especially by every editorial writer. Peace is its great message, and calmness or poise, the characteristics lacking in American civilization.

The casual reader may be interested in this quotation:

"The Greeks did not think any polity civilized till men had wholly abandoned the habit of carrying weapons, and if Aristotle or Thucydides had been told that in America a number of respectable citizens of free states still go armed, they would have said, 'That was once the habit in Greece also, but now we are civilized and regard such practice as essentially barbarous.'"

Professor Mahaffy has a charming style—one feels the personality of the man through all his writing. Some captious critics will censure him occasionally for too much enthusiasm, but it is a quality of his race and temperament and to most readers will be an added charm. He closes this absorbing book with the following fine passage:

"There are probably few men who have lived longer and more intimately with the old Greeks in more phases of their life, ever probing and seeking for deeper and better knowledge of their vast legacy to mankind, of which the rodent tooth of time, the sacrilegious hands of man, have lost or destroyed so much. The farther I seek, the wider the vistas I see opening before me. So now, when my part in the race is nearly run, there remains to me no higher earthly satisfaction than this, that I have carried the torch of Greek fire alight through a long life; no higher earthly hope than this, that I may pass that torch to others, who in their turn may keep it aflame, with greater brilliancy, perhaps, but not with more earnest devotion, 'in the parliament of men, the federation of the world.'"

"Men and Manners of Old Florence"

By Guido Biagi. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.

A large, thick volume entitled "Men and Manners of Old Florence" consists of five essays by Guido Biagi, librarian of the Laurentian and Riccardi libraries, Florence. In the preface the author says they now appear in book form for the first time. Two of them have already appeared in English; the remaining three have been translated for this edition. No translator's name appears anywhere, though acknowledgment is made for "invaluable assistance received from Miss Mary G. Steigmann in translating and revising proofs. My thanks are also due to Commendatore Vittorio Alimari and Cavaliere Carlo Brogi for the permission given to reproduce photographs from their collections."

The essays are not in the least historical in character, but are rather sketches of the social life of Florence during the different periods of which the author writes, from the thirteenth to the eighteenth century. The author has had access to the wonderful Laurentian and Riccardi libraries and has thus been able to collect all sorts of data not used before for literary purposes of like nature, and, however true to life the sketches may be, they are of certain interest.

"Florence Within Her Ancient Boundary" is an attempted reconstruction of the "Florence of the Thirteenth Century." Not only is a picture of the city, its suburbs and environs given, but a sketch of the manners and customs of the day, which is even more interesting. The next most interesting essay is "Tullia of Aragon." She was the companion and even adviser behind the scenes of Felippo Stroggi. She was the acknowledged leader of a clique of the gentlemen, scholars and litterati of the day, and such people as Muzio, Ercole Bentivoglio and Bernardo Tasso found pleasure in her society. The immorality of the times is pictured in this sketch unpleasantly, but accurately, and one gets a clearer view of the life of the period than in any other paper.

The book is profusely illustrated with reproductions of antique paintings, frescoes and drawings which are in themselves valuable. The book is beautifully printed and bound.

The busy book reviewer nearly passed over "The Loving Cup" and would have never ceased regretting it if the mistake had not been discovered in time. It is a book of original toasts by original folks and is edited by Wilbur D. Nesbit. So many books of toasts have appeared that one more did not excite much interest until it was examined. Most collections are culled from quotation books and the contributors are as well known as the quotations. These sayings were almost all written by living writers, speakers and good people generally, and many of them were done for this book. They are clever, snappy, serious and humorous and fit all occasions. Every well known name in the country will be found in the list from George Ade to Myrtle Reed and Jack London to Mrs. Leslie Carter. The book is artistically printed and bound in stiff paper. (P. F. Volland & Co., Chicago; 50 cents.)

Brief Reviews

The Boy Explorer series receives a new addition this week in "Dick in the Everglades" by A. W. Dimock. It is an excellent book of its kind, good for any boy, for it bears the stamp of truth. The author tells of the experiences of two boys hunting and fishing in the Everglades of Florida and he says that all the episodes actually occurred and are in no particular exaggerated. The book is simply and clearly written, and not the least interesting part are the 32 admirable half tone illustrations from interesting photographs taken during the trip. (Frederick A. Stokes company, New York.)

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"Elsie and the Arkansaw Bear" is the title of Albert Bigelow Paine's latest book for children. It is a quaint conceit and will be of sure interest to little readers. Elsie is a little orphan girl who runs away with a fiddling bear, Horatio, who proves more than a friend in need. After many marvelous adventures Elsie becomes queen and schoolmistress of a colony of bears. The book is a companion to the author's "The Arkansaw Bear" and should stand beside it in the nursery. The illustrations in tint by Frank Ver Beck, the animal painter, deserve special mention. (Henry Altemus company, Philadelphia; $1.)

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"Honk, Honk!" is a new adventure of Shorty McCabe's by Sewell Ford. It tells of his being lured into buying an automobile and very much against his will being taught to run it. He is not the most expert chauffeur in the world by the time the little booklet is finished, but he has at least a fair appreciation of his own shortcomings and looks with less scorn and derision on other amateurs. The book contains a few illustrations by F. Vaux Wilson and is daintily bound. (Mitchell Kennerley, New York.)

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The Jack Lorimer stories have long been popular boy stories and this one, "Jack Lorimer's Substitute," about the acting captain of the team, tells of the sports—football, wrestling, tobogganning and all the sports a boy is interested in. Jack is a fine type of high school boy, and no boy can read these stories and not be benefited. Winn Handish, the author, writes of boys as if he understood them and sympathized with them. This book is more of a school story than its predecessors. (L. C. Page & Co., Boston; $1.50.)

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"Back to Hampton Roads," by Franklin Matthews, aims to describe and narrate the leading events that marked the homeward cruise of the United States Atlantic fleet from San Francisco to Hampton roads, by way of New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the Suez canal, a cruise that extended from July 7, 1908, to February 22, 1909. It is intended to supplement the author's account of the cruise of the Atlantic fleet from Hampton roads to San Francisco, in "With the Battle Fleet." These two books complete the story of a naval cruise without parallel. They form a story every patriotic citizen will want to read. (B. W. Huebsch, New York. $1.50.)

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Under the title of "Critical Essays of the Seventeenth Century," J. E. Spingarn, professor of composite literature at Columbia university, has assembled all of the material necessary for a thorough study of the development of English criticisms for that time. He has already issued two volumes, the first includes the period from 1605 to 1650, the second 1650 to 1685 and this one, the third, contains all matter from 1685 to 1700. The work is of value not only for reference but for general and even entertaining reading. (Published at Oxford by the Clarendon Press, and imported by the Scribners.)

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The story of "Captain Jinks" and his faithful dog friend, Billy, their quaint conversations and their exciting adventures will be eagerly read by thousands of boys and girls. The story is beautifully written by Frances Hodges White and will take its place alongside of "Black Beauty" and "Beautiful Joe." The story is the autobiography of a Shetland pony. The book is full of illustrations of more or less interest by Frank Vining Smith, and the binding and cover lining are particularly artistic. (L. C. Page & Co., Boston; $1.50.)

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"Sweet Nancy," by Marion Ames Taggart, contains further delightful adventures of the doctor's little girl whom thousands of little readers have grown to love. She is just as attractive as on her first appearance in "The Doctor's Little Girl," and the children who loved her then will welcome this book like an old friend. Nancy is a character, and it is difficult to think of her as a story book creation she seems so real. The book is illustrated by Ethelred B. Barry and is beautifully printed and bound. (L. C. Page & Co., Boston. Price $1.50.)

Books Received

"The April Fool Doll," by Josephine S. Gates; the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

"Almost Fairy Children," by Caleb Lewis; the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

"Humphrey Bold," by Herbert Strang; the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

"The Gold Hunters," by James O. Curwood; the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

"The Poems of Oscar Wilde"; John W. Luce & Co., Boston.

"Lays of a Lazy Dog," by D. K. Stevens; John W. Luce & Co., Boston.

"Rip Van Winkle," by Washington Irving; John W. Luce & Co., Boston.

"The Airship Alamanac," Lewis Allen; John W. Luce & Co., Boston.

"Did Your Child Say This?" a collection of sayings by the little ones, compiled by the late George H. Preble, rear admiral, U. S. N.; John W. Luce & Co., Boston.

"Why the Chimes Rang," by Raymond Macdonald Alden; the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

"History of the Great American Fortunes," by Gustavus Myers; Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago.

"Socialism for Students," Joseph E. Cohen; Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago.

"The Bridge Fiend," by Arthur L. Bruce; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.

"When Mother Lets Us Give a Party," by Elsie Duncan Yale; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.

"The Florentine Frame," by Elizabeth Robins; Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.

"Vehicles of the Air," by Victor Lougheed; the Reilly & Britton company, Chicago.

"Evolutionary Socialism," by Edward Bernstein; B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York.

"The Substance of Socialism," by John Spargo; B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York.

"The Song of Songs," by Hermann Sudermann; B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York.

"The Marvelous Year," introduction by Edwin Markham, drawings by Gertrude Huebsch; B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York.

$1,000 in prizes for writers. $1,000 each for best novel, best poetry, best serious book, etc. Write Literary Bureau, 5 S. Elliot Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"Letters From G. G."

Anonymous. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. Price $1.

One can not but suspect the reality of these letters. There is a feeling of genuineness that would be well nigh unattainable in even the best literary composition. Little references to passing events, slow developments in character and changes of opinion all point to the passing of real time in their composition.

G. G. is the girl. She meets R. F. at a pension during two weeks' stay in Paris. He snubs her at first, and, though infuriated, it makes him interesting to G. G. After the acquaintance is fairly begun they separate, but agree to write to each other. In an anonymous prologue we are told that: "They wrote * * * of what did they not write? They wrote of love and life and death; of dogs, of themselves, and one another; of mice and men and modern instances; of trifles light as air; of all that one does and hears in the course of the day's work and hands on because it means a laugh or a tear; of all that goes to make people and their lives."

G. G. is not a commonplace person. In the first place she is an artist, a miniature painter, and the man is a rich person; not just idle rich, but seems to have some ambitions politically; at the last he is on his way to San Francisco to help rebuild the ruined city; whether with money or in a political sense, we are not told, but he is here doing something.

G. G. has her ups and downs of health and finances, but one must confess to a distinct feeling of disappointment in the conclusion of the book. One expects something more from a young woman who has entertained us through 223 pages of charming cleverness with enough nonsense to make them distinctly human. The little book is a delightful holiday book—a pledge of friendship—nothing more; and to pass an idle hour it would be difficult to find one more satisfactory.

"Priscilla of the Good Intent"

By Halliwell Sutcliffe, author of "Mistress Barbara," etc. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Price $1.50.

The moors and fens of West Yorkshire are close to the heart of Halliwell Sutcliffe, one can see by the story of "Priscilla of the Good Intent." The tale itself is not exciting; it is not one to be read through at a sitting. It is to be read for the fine pictures of the people and the country and its keen appreciation of the types which the author has selected to people his pages.

Priscilla is a winsome lassie of the north country; she lives with her widower father, old farmer Hirst, on the "Good Intent" farm. (It sounds like a ship, but it is not.) Priscilla has two suitors; one is the village blacksmith, David Blake, and she is half in love with him, but he is slow of speech and does not understand the ways of women, so neglects his opportunities and loses his chance. The other suitor is Reuben Gaunt, the son of the squire. He has been seeing the world for five years and returns full of experiences and tales and fascinates little Priscilla. Reuben had given his heart to Peggy Matthewson, so there are the usual complications.

Peggy falls ill of a dreadful contagious disease and Reuben insists upon nursing her until she dies. This nobility seems to purify him and then he and Priscilla can begin again where they were before. The story itself is unsatisfactory in spots, especially in regard to fine, manly David Blake, but the picture of humble English country life indoors and out compare favorably with the best of Thomas Hardy, and the book is decidedly worth reading. The inconspicuous bits bringing in the nature life of that country are particularly well done and one finds more and more to commend in it when compared to the light and frothy output of fall novels.

BOOKS REVIEWED

"The Man Shakespeare," by Frank Harris
"When a Man Marries," by Mary Roberts Rinehart
"Human Equipment," by Edward Howard Griggs
"Madame du Barry," by H. Noel Williams
"What Have the Greeks Done for Modern Civilization," by John P. Mahaffy
"Men and Manners of Old Florence," by Guido Biagi
"Priscilla of the Good Intent," by Halliwell Sutcliffe
"The Struggle for Missouri," by John McElroy.
"Rhoda of the Underground," by Florence Finch Kelly
"Letters from G. G."

BOOKS
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