CONDENSED CLASSICS

QUO VADIS

By HENRY SIENKIEWICZ

Condensation by Prof. William Fenwick Harris of Cambridge Mass

Henry Sienkiewicz, so great a name in Poland that he has been coupled with Copernicus and Kosciuszko as the three Poles to whom Americans are most indebted, was born in Opreya in Russian Poland in 1846. He studied philosophy at Warsaw university and soon afterwards, in company with Helen Modjeska and other radical Poles, established a socialistic community in California. It was somewhat like the earlier Brook Farm experiment made by Hawthorne and his friends. It was no more successful and Sienkiewicz returned to Poland where he wrote a series of articles for a Warsaw newspaper about his American experiences.

Then he turned to novel writing. He wrote brilliantly and rapidly, turning with the utmost ease from realistic pictures of contemporary life to stories of romance and to historical novels. "Children of the Soil," which he called his best book, is a simple story of Polish life which won more favor with his own countrymen than it did abroad.

In the 80s he completed his tremendous trilogy, "With Fire and Sword," "The Deluge" and "Pan Michael." There was an epic quality about these historical novels that made many people in many lands hail him as a new Scott or a new Dumas.

His international reputation, however, came with "Quo Vadis," his masterpiece of ancient Roman life. It was quickly translated into English and into nearly every tongue. Then it passed to the stage, not only in America and England, but also in France and Germany. Since that success Sienkiewicz had traveled widely, visiting England, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Africa and the Far East. He received the Nobel prize for literature in 1905. From the outbreak of the war to his death in November, 1916, he devoted himself to the relief of Polish war victims.

"I DO not know of a certainty her name even—Lygia or Callina? They call her Lygia in the house, for she comes of the Lygian nation; but she has her own barbarian name—Callina. It is a wonderful house—that of those Plautiuses. There are many people in it: but it is as quiet there as in the groves of Subiacum. For a number of days I did not know that a divinity dwelt in the house. Once about daybreak I saw her bathing in the garden fountain; and I swear to thee by that foam from which Aphrodite rose, that the rays of dawn passed right through her body. I thought that when the sun rose she would vanish before me in the light, as the twilight of morning does. Since then I have seen her twice; and since then, too, I know not what rest is, I know not what other desires are, I have no wish to know what the city can give me. I want not women, nor gold, nor Corinthian bronze, nor amber, nor pearls, nor wine, nor feasts; I want only Lygia.'"

Thus did Vinicius, young Roman patrician of the time of Nero, announce his love for Lygia, daughter of a king, beautiful hostage from her nation, forgotten in the turmoil of the world empire and brought up as a Roman girl.

Vinicius was speaking to his uncle Petronius, known to his own time as Arbiter Elegantiarum, trained in all the art and beauty of Greece, wise, witty, and learned, gayly staking his life in his daily battle of wits with Tigellinus, who provided for the grosser desires of the tyrant Nero as Petronius did for his finer and more artistic ones.

It was a time when the conflicting tides of a pagan age, sadly degenerate from the sturdy days of pristine Roman virtues, mingled with those of a new era in the world, only recently heralded from Judea. In the complicated threads of the picture of Rome, capital of the world, appear the figures of Peter and Paul on their mission of spreading the new religion of Christ; Poppaea, wife of Nero, beautiful as a dream, but wicked as a nightmare; Eunice, the charming slave of Petronius; Chilo, wily Greek who can be Christian or pagan as profit leads him; Ursus, prodigious in his strength, simple as a child in his faith in Christ and his devotion to Lygia (from whom G. B. S. may have drawn a suggestion in "Androcles and the Lion"), and many minor folk who help to make the story stand out as unusually human among the numerous tales of Greco-Roman times.

When Vinicius told his uncle Petronius of his passion for Lygia, the latter thought nothing was easier than to provide his nephew with what he regarded as a new plaything; a word to Nero, who as emperor had all hostages in his care—summon the maiden to the palace, hand her over to the young patrician as her guardian—what more could be needed to satisfy any one's desires, especially as the maiden manifestly was pleased with Vinicius? But Petronius and his nephew reckoned without a new force that had entered into this Roman world. They could not understand a girl who fled from Nero's court and all its magnificence, fled even from the lover whom she loved. But "finally he understood this, which he and Petronius had not understood, that the new religion, engrafted into the soul something unknown to that world in which he lived, and that Lygia, even if she loved him, would not sacrifice any of her Christian truths for his sake, and that, if pleasure existed for her, it was a pleasure different altogether from that which he and Petronius and Caesar's court, and all Rome were pursuing. Every other woman whom he knew might become his mistress, but that Christian would only become his victim. And when he thought of this, he felt anger and burning pain, for he felt that his anger was powerless. To carry off Lygia seemed to him possible; he was even sure that he could do so, but he was equally sure that, in view of her religion, he himself, with his bravery, was nothing, that his power was nothing, and that through it he could effect nothing. That Roman military tribune, convinced that the power of the sword and the fist, which had conquered the world, would command it forever, said for the first time in his life that beyond that power there might be something else; hence he asked himself with amazement what it was."

It is a definite and concrete way that the author has chosen to show the power of the new religion over human lives. Struggle as he would, backed by birth, by wealth and all the beauty, charm and allurements that wealth could bring, by the ingenuity and wit of Petronius, by the strong-arm methods of Croton, champion bruiser of his time, even by the force of the known world in Nero's sway, Vinicius could accomplish nothing if all he could win to himself was a mere unwilling body, while soul and spirit were beyond his grasp. And the maddening part to him was that he owed all his troubles to the teachings of a parcel of Jewish fishermen or their likes, or slaves or humble folk who had never before entered into serious consideration in the thoughts of a patrician like himself. It was a long struggle with him, and as the reader follows the various people of the story through their part in the action, he gets an admirable picture of Rome—Nero, tyrant, actor and artist, with all his magnificence and all his debaucheries; the poor and humble in their crowded quarters of the great city; the delight of all the senses in the life led by Petronius; the lawless streets of Rome by night; the pursuit of Lygia by Vinicius and his hirelings, resulting in the death of his professional bruiser Croton at the hands of the faithful Ursus, and the disaster to Vinicius which led to his nursing back to health by the Christians; his meeting with Peter and Paul; the gradual opening of his eyes, physical and spiritual; his discovery of Christians everywhere, among the people, among his own slaves, among soldiers and officers, even in the very court of Nero. And the growing worry and astonishment of Petronius:

"'Vinicius, thou art losing sense, judgment, moderation,' exclaimed Petronius.

"'I love only her in the world,' responded Vinicius.

"'What of that?'

"'This, that I wish no other love. I have no wish for your life, your feasts, your shamelessness, your crimes.'

"'What is taking place in thee? Art thou a Christian?'"

And then the great fire of Rome, set by Tigellinus that Nero might not lack the experience of Priam, who had seen Troy burn; of rescuing Lygia from the flames; the persecution of the Christians with the thought of throwing on them the rage of the people at the burning of the city; the singling out of Lygia by the hate of Poppaea because Vinicius had spurned the empress' proffered charms; the final rescue by a miracle of strength on the part of the ever-faithful Ursus, and the words of Vinicius to Peter:

"'What thou commandest I will do.'

"'Love men as thy own brothers,' answered the apostle, 'for only with love mayest thou serve Him.'"

Copyright, 1919, by the Post Publishing Co. (The Boston Post). Printed by permission of, and arrangement with, Little, Brown & Co., authorized publishers.

BROOMS FROM PINE NEEDLES

Said to Be an Excellent Substitute for the Bristles Now Used, and Will Last Longer.

One of the latest discoveries is a new use for pine needles. It has been found that the needles of the pine make a fair substitute for bristles in brushes and brooms. They are found in great quantities on the ground in fir forests, and, owing to the large amount of silica in them, they are hard, and do not decay rapidly.

The pine needles are dealt with in two ways. Where they are long they are simply bunched together and tied firmly, and a stick is pushed down the center as a handle.

The other plan is to insert clusters of smaller needles in holes in a thickish piece of wood. These holes are filled with hot pitch, and when this material has set hard and dry the pine needles are held firmly in place.

Elaborate tests have shown that pine needles wear well. They are not more easily broken than much of the material which has been commonly used in broom-making, and, owing to their hardness, they can withstand a great deal of friction.

EAT LESS AND TAKE SALTS FOR KIDNEYS

Take a Glass of Salts if Your Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers.

The American men and women must guard constantly against Kidney trouble, because we eat too much and all our food is rich. Our blood is filled with uric acid which the kidneys strive to filter out, they weaken from overwork, become sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and the result is kidney trouble, bladder weakness and a general decline in health.

When your kidneys feel like lumps of lead; your back hurts or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment or you are obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night; if you suffer with sick headache or dizzy, nervous spells, acid stomach, or you have rheumatism when the weather is bad, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys; to neutralize the acids in the urine so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive; cannot injure, makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water beverage, and belongs in every home, because nobody can make a mistake by having a good kidney flushing any time.—Adv.

Lover's knots do not always result in wedding ties.

"CARRY ON"!

If Constipated, Bilious or Headachy, take "Cascarets"

Feel grand! Be efficient! Don't stay sick, bilious, headachy, constipated. Remove the liver and bowel poison which is keeping your head dizzy, your tongue coated, your breath bad and your stomach sour. Why not get a small box of Cascarets and enjoy the nicest, gentlest laxative-cathartic you ever experienced? Cascarets never gripe, sicken or inconvenience one like Salts, Oil, Calomel or harsh pills. Cascarets bring sunshine to cloudy minds and half-sick bodies. They work while you sleep. Adv.

England drinks more milk than water.

FRECKLES

Now Is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots.

There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as Othine—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots.

Simply get an ounce of Othine—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion.

Be sure to ask for the double strength Othine, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.

Easy.

"I wish I knew how to make a barrel of money?" sighed the little man.

"That's easy," replied the big man. "Spend a half barrel of money in advertising and you'll soon have a barrel of money."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

USES OF ASPIRIN

Bayer Company, who introduced Aspirin 18 years ago, give advice.

Aspirin created a sensation when introduced by Bayer over eighteen years ago. Physicians at once proved its wonderful efficiency in the relief of pain. The genuine, world-famous Aspirin, in "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin" is safely taken by millions for Colds, Headache, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Earache, Toothache, Aching Joints, Neuritis, and Pain generally.

Be sure the "Bayer Cross," which is the mark of true "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," is on each genuine package and each genuine tablet.

Boxes of 12 tablets cost but a few cents and contain proper directions. Druggists also sell larger "Bayer" packages. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid.—Adv.

A woman forgets all her troubles when she is wearing her new spring hat for the first time.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County—ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

(Seal) A. W. Gleason, Notary Public.

HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System.

F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

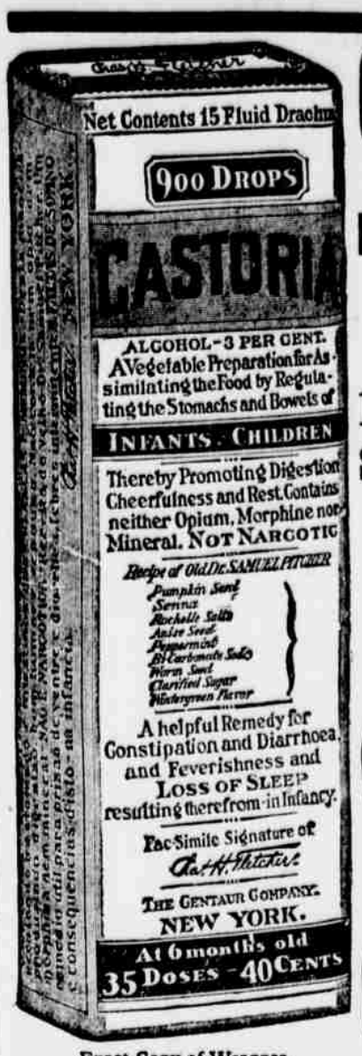
F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

The Result.

"Some of the brethren, I am sorry to say, are falling by the wayside."

"Then aren't they hitting the trail?"

The harvest acreage of 1919 in the United States was 2,654,311 acres greater than in 1918.



Exact Copy of Wrapper.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

Mothers Know That Genuine Castoria Always Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

In Use For Over Thirty Years

CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Still Married.

Gerald—I tender you my hand.

Geraldine—It isn't legal tender. You are not divorced yet.

Cuticura Soothes Itching Scalp

On retiring gently rub spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Make them your every-day toilet preparations and have a clear skin and soft, white hands.—Adv.

Eight Dull Years.

A French writer says that a girl is a person we stop kissing when she is twelve and begin to kiss again after she is twenty.—Boston Transcript.

Health is the mother of wealth.—Sir Kingsley Wood.

An egotist is the center of an admiring crowd—and he's the crowd.

Lots of grown folks are as hard to amuse as a baby.

THAT FADED FROCK WILL DYE LIKE NEW

"Diamond Dyes" Freshen Up Old, Discarded Garments.

Don't worry about perfect results. Use "Diamond Dyes," guaranteed to give a new, rich, fadeless color to any fabric, whether it be wool, silk, linen, cotton or mixed goods,—dresses, blouses, stockings, skirts, children's coats, feathers—everything!

Direction Book in package tells how to diamond dye over any color. To match any material, have dealer show you "Diamond Dye" Color Card.—Adv.

A woman derives more satisfaction from the things she suspects than from what she is sure of.