

Library Browsings

Edited by Glen F. Burch

F. P. ADAMS: A BARE COLUMNIST

The leaves, my love, are gold and red,
As are your lovely eyes;
And the deep azure of your head
Is fairer than the skies.

Your lips are like the driven snow;
Your cheeks are like the sea.
But oh, my love, you cannot know
The way you look to me.

The above poem, entitled "The Color-blind Poet to His Love," is one of the many sparkling bits of humorous verse which appear in "So Much Velvet." Franklin P. Adams' latest "book of fun." Nearly everyone at all familiar with the world of columnists has read something of the work of "F. P. A.", who for years has regaled millions of readers of the New York World with lively squibs, snatches of poetry, and pertinent aphorisms. Adams is not only a humorist par excellence, but he is also something of a poet on his own account, with a taste for the classical. His "translations" from Ovid and Horace, while light in content are admirably constructed, and bear the evidence of being written by one who thoroughly understands the form in which the verses were originally composed.

The great majority of modern composers of "jingling rhymes" content themselves with more or less rhythmic doggerel. Not so with F. P. A. His verses, it is true, are verses of everyday life, calculated to appeal to the many, but he manages to present them in a spontaneous manner which borders on the classic. This knowledge of the great and the near great in poetry has given Adams an uncanny insight into the mood of the poet which he translates into clever burlesques which are fairly irresistible.

THE MONTH AMONG THE MAGAZINES

"Is crime preventable?" Journalists debate this subject, using the same authorities in part. Neil Clark, in the current FORUM, blames heredity for the making of criminals. There is, he asserts, a definite criminal type and psychologists will soon make it possible to detect potential criminals and segregate them before they actually become criminals.

Walter Pitkin's reply is unique. The wrong-doers who get into court, he believes, are the failures. The intelligent criminal eludes the police and has never been examined by psychologists. His type, if it at all exists, is unknown to science. A rather surprising conclusion, that maintains that the tens of thousands of men examined, and furnishing the basis of the affirmative stand, there were no intelligent criminals, at least not enough to learn anything about the class.

Henry Fairfield Osborn comes to the conclusion that pure mechanism and materialism fail to give an interpretation that satisfies reason. The study of science has not made him a doubter, but has increased his faith in God, he says. "Living nature is purposive," is the theme of the article.

The fourth article in a series on "What is Civilization," finds Professor Paul Shorey, of the University of Chicago, speaking for the age of Pericles. Nowhere, is the writer's assertion, has civilization reached a higher pinnacle than it attained at Athens in the Age of Pericles.

Elizabeth Pennell, wife of James Pennell, the famous etcher, has returned to America after a stay of some 30 years in England, only to find that the golden rule of her native land is "be rude to one another." Her article, entitled, "Our Democracy of Bad Manners," seems to find a serious social problem here. But with all the other problems in America it is doubtful that much worrying is going to be done, even if we agree that an autocracy of bad manners is being established here.

Aaron Burr carries on a series of interesting conversations with a number of equally well known characters. From Napoleon, with whom he converses in the Tuileries, to Ben Butler, with whom he talks in Hell, Burr engages in a witty game of give and take. Gamaliel Bradford is the author of the article.

The American who has just returned from Europe is never quite in style unless he has spent a goodly portion of his time telling how the transatlantic countries have it all over America in this and that respect, and how much he would like to live there permanently,—although he invariably returns to his home in America. Robert H. Lowie, an American born in Europe,

speaks his mind and asks, "Is America So Bad After All," in the current CENTURY.

Aptly he says that the American sees in his own land only Main street smugness, puritanism and hypocrisy,—seeing a trans-Atlantic resting place "with his soul." Ridicule might be sufficient, but Mr. Lowie does not depend on this. He compares literary tastes and shows that while William James, and Edith Wharton, among many others, are unknown in Europe, Mary Roberts Rhinehart and Robert Chambers are known throughout the lands the American regards as superior to his own country. Not only are they known, but eagerly read. At some length Lowie also shows, and his conclusions are surprising, that even academic life in Europe is on no higher scale than in America.

Charles Edward Russell believes that Mussolini is gradually awakening to the fact that "democracy is still the way of progress." The Italian people, he says, entrusted their rights to the dictator, expecting prestige. They have now found that whatever prestige they do get,—and are they getting it?—is only attained at the sacrifice of the land's finest ideals.

Irwin Edman discusses morals and ethics of the younger generation with his protege, Richard Kane. Richard asserts that "Every art and achievement is a god in our own minds." Work, he declares, is religion enough for him. We question whether Mr. Edman is sure he speaks the mind of the younger generation when he says this,—but anyway we are finding Richard Kane quite a bore.

Spring means travel, and two good articles, dealing with travel are included in the issue, together with a short story by Zona Gale.

MANY OREGON ALUMNI RESIDE IN LOS ANGELES

S. Eisman, Graduate Journalist, Tells of Reunion

Oregon alumni are constituting a large part of the Los Angeles population, according to a letter received by George Turnbull from Stanley Eisman, '22, school of journalism, in which he told of an Oregon alumni reunion held recently at the home of Glen McGonegal, '24.

Eisman gave short paragraphs concerning those graduates who by virtue of one year or more residence in the "Sunny South" have earned the right to listing in the "native son" catalogue.

"Fred Howard is practicing law in Hollywood and is already listing as his clients a number of well known picture stars.

"Wally Cannon is with a refrigerating company and lists his residence as South Pasadena, California.

"Allan Carncross is with the Los Angeles Evening Herald. He and his wife, Irene (Compton) Carncross are living in Long Beach.

"Harold Atkins is with the General Petroleum corporation. During the "boom" he is reported to have cleaned up a bit on California real estate.

"Gene Bowen is with a large packing company in Los Angeles.

"Claire Keeney has decided to forsake the theatrical business. He is now with the Western Wholesale Drug company.

"Walter Cofoid is at present in the general insurance business."

Among other familiar faces, wrote Eisman, were Carl Vonderahe and his wife, Betty Robinson Vonderahe, Clare Ryan, Wanita Jackson Moore, Alice Stockman, Claire Keeney, Vern Fudge, and Warren and Willis Kays. During the evening Glen McGonegal read a number of his own poetical compositions, and Claire Keeney received several comic selections. Oregon songs were sung at the close of the "get-together." Eisman is in the advertising business in Los Angeles.

DANCE TO BE GIVEN BY CRAFTSMEN CLUB

An informal dance, the second of the year, will be given by the Craftsmen club, campus organization of Masons, on May 2, to which all Masons and DeMolays will be invited. Plans for the affair were formulated at the monthly dinner of the organization held Thursday at the club house and a committee was appointed, headed by Landa V.

Gillette, to make all arrangements and supervise the sale of tickets. Proceeds are to go toward the laying of a sidewalk at the clubhouse. Professor Frederick Dunn, head of the Latin department, who is deputy grand master of the Oregon Grand Lodge for this district, addressed the organization on the history and symbology of Masonry. Landa V. Gillette was elected secretary to serve for the remainder of the term of Jerry Crary, who is not in school this term. About fifty members were present.

PAPER ON TEXTBOOKS READ AT HISTORY CLUB MEETING

"History Textbooks," was the topic of discussion at the monthly meeting of the history club, held Wednesday evening. The controversies that have arisen over investigations made by various patriotic societies were explained to the members, by Oscar Winther, senior in the history department.

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