# THE GOLDEN AGE OF ENGLISH PROSE

THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE ment of the letter-writer, the gayety and briskness of chal, it obsyed the laws of literary art
and was chaped and guided by a sense of literary
ary beauty. Its humor, too, became a subslut
and more exquisite thing. Instead of the mere

PROSE AND REASON.

and more exquisite thing. Instead of the more will of the coffee-house, men found themselves smilling with a humorist who came nearer line, any man before or since to the humor of Ehnkespeare. It was thus that Addison pectan-that typical representative of the revolution which passed in his day over English litera-ture. BY JOSEPH VILLIERS BENNEY, A. M.

Addison was born in Wilishire in 1872, his father being dean of Lichfield. In schooldays, at Charter House, he began the long friendship with Steele, of which Thackerny writes so charmingly: "Dick Steele, the Charter House gownboy, contracted such an admiration in the years of his childhood and retained it faithfully through his life. Through the school and through the world, whithersever his strange fortune led this erring, wayward, affectionate creature, Juscia his fire. wayward, affectionate creature, Jussia Addison was always his head boy. Addison wrote his exercises. Addison did his best themes. He ran on Addison's messages; fagged for him and blacked his shoes; to be in Joe's company was Dick's greatest pleasure, and he took a sermon or canting from his monitor with the most boundless reverence, acquiesence and af-

From the Charter House Addison passed From the Charter House Addison passed to Oxford, at the age of 15, distinguished as a boy scholar. His residence at Oxford as student, scholar and fellow lasted 19 years; in fact, he did not resign his fellowship until 1511. During his university career he attracted the attention of Montagu, afterward Earl of Hallfax, by indicating in poems that he wrote his admiracating in poems that he wrote his admiracating in poems that he wrote his admira-tion for Whig leaders and doctrines, Montagu dissuaded him from entering the church, and induced him to fit himself for statesmanship. Pro-curing a pension for Addson, Mon-tagu sent him to travel in France, Italy and Holland. He remained abroad three years studying political institutions, meet-ing famous men of letters and observing ing famous men of letters and observing the manners and tastes of the peoples he visited. The chief literary results of his travels were a metrical letter to Hallfax in which he expresses delight at finding himself in places made dear to him by he studies in the class cs-and the famous

"When all thy mercles, O my God, My rising soul surveys, Transported with the view I'm lost In wonder, love and praise."

This clings to the memory like the lines of another hymn of his, written of the

"Forever singing as they shine,"
The hand that made us is divine."
Addison's work as an essayist appeared in the Tatler, Speciator, Guardian and Procholder, periodicals which followed one another in rapid succession during the years from 1709 to 1716. The Speciator contains his best work. The first number was issued March I, I'll, and the paper appeared every weekday. It was cagerly read at the clubs and coffee houses, as well as in the homes, and when the essays were collected into volumes numerous editions were necessary to supply the de-mand. Nearly one-half of the Spectator papers were written by Addison. The va-riety of topics treated is very great, but the professed purpose of all the essays was to improve the public taste, to make lit-erature attractive, to instruct while enerature attractive, to instruct while entertaining, "to bring philosophy out of closets and libraries to dwell in clubs and coffee houses." Party politics was ex-cluded. The first Speciator says: "I never espoused any party with violence, and am resolved to observe an exact neutrality between Whigs and Tories, unless I shau be forced to declare myself by the bostil-ties of either side. In short, F have acted in all the parts of my life as a looker-on, which is the character I intend to pre-serve in this paper." The Speciator hoped "to bunish vice and ignorance out of the territories of Great Britain"; if attacked with good-humored satire the minor vices and follies of the time and made them To women readers the Speciator gave the first hearty recognition ac-corded them in the history of our litera-ture. It brought a new interest into their ves by its minute observation on mannors and quiet ridicule of extravagant fash ons. Addison's humorous satire is seen at its best in the descriptions of Sir Roger de Coverley, the typical country gentleman of the time. In the por-traits of Sir Roger and the other members of the famous club contemporary life is pretty completely described. Tains finds in these sketches the beginning of the realistic novel which appeared full-formed realistic novel which appeared full-formed before the lith century was half over. The critical papers in the Spectator are char-acterized by great moderation of judgment, the moral essays put forward a reasonable and cheerful view of duty, and the influence of both is plainly to create a sentiment against narrowness and rancor in the discussion of subjects on which men are likely to differ most strongly. It has been said that Addison's greatest work was a work of reconclitation. Macaulay refers to this when he speaks of Addison as "the great satirist who alone knew how to use ridicule without abusing it; who, without inflicting a wound, ef-fected a great social reform, and who reconciled wit and virtue after a long and disastrous separation, during which wit had been led astray by profilgacy and fanaticism." The Spectutor did not speak in denunciation of intelerance;



John Dryden.

it spread abroad a spirit of urbanity and good humor, instead. It created a healthy and sensible public opinion on matters of religion, literature and life. The mistake Is sometimes made of assuming that Ad-dison entertained no intense convictions because in his character of Spectator he wrote without intensity. But Addison had a higher art than argumentation and intense diction by which to effect his purposes. There had been more than enough controversy on all the subjects which Ad-dison touched with evident calmness in the Spectator. There was need of a rethe Speciator. There was need of a respite from fierce contention, and Addison's prose came as a relief. The prose of the preceding century shows two extremes. That of scholars like Milton, writing for scholars, was based on the Latin model and was characterized by long, involved and comprehensive sentences. That of the journalist, whose number greatly increased toward the close of the century, was coarse, colloquial and intentionally was coarse, colloquial and intentionally slovenly. It is caricatured in the Tatler for September 28, 1720, from which a sen-tence or two will serve to illustrate:

'Tis said the French King will bamboon us agen, which causes many speculations. The Jacks and others of that kidney are very up-pish and alert upon 't, as you may see by their phinz's."

Addison's prose is free from scholasticism, but in becoming popular it remains pure. It loses no dignity by its sim-

"In Addison's hands," says the historian

"last great day"? If not, why did no God sent him among mankind immediately after the fail of man?

It may be asking too much of you to answer these questions: If so let some

of the learned theologians furnish the reply.

E. L. THORP.

FIGHTING THE FROSTS.

Secretary of Agriculture Issues Booklet on Subject-Free.

The Secretary of Agriculture, through the Sectionry of Agriculture, infough the Weather Bureau, has recently issued a farmers' bulletin, called "Notes on Frost," It is a free publication, and may be had by applying to Porecast Official Blais, of the Portland Weather Bureau, as soon as he gets in a new supply, his free being exhausted.

fret being exhaustel.

A frature of the book which should be of sepecial interest to Oregon farmers are the hister on protection from frost. These if e direct ors low to prevent rap'd rad a-tion; low to add moisture to the air, and a m, how to charge the air with mos-

The use of glass cloth, lath screens and BY CHARLES P. M'CLUMPHA, PH. D.
Addison and Steele builded greater than
they knew. It was certainly impossible
for those two essayists, from their point
of view, to understand the latent forces

The use of glass conti, and series and
the use of glass conti, and series and
the use of glass conti, and series and
the citizen for preventing the rapid
radiation of heat are recommended.

Smudge fires made of damp straw and
stable manure, sacks of damp manure,
bales of wet straw and prunings are the



J. V. Denney .

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY.

centered in that new project about to be centered in that new project about to be issued in the columns of the Spectator. For our point of view we can explain why the Spectator was given to the world in March, I'll. We can understand why the half-century preceding the reign of Queen Anne resulted in the great political atruggle between two radically opposed parties, one desiring government by constitutional methods, the other government by an absolute monarch; and why the periodical under such conditions became a powerful weapon in the hands of party leaders. We can also unravel the social fabric and study the influence of the political struggles on the social life. of the political struggles on the social life of the times. We know that party spirit, yea hatred, ran high. Society was actually at war. Tories attacked Whigs; the satiablished church, the dissenter; the Moderate Tories, the Non-jurors, and the Catholics were hated by all parties. Such religious and political animosities caused religious and political animosities caused social divisions, and it was necessary for something to step in and reason with and ridicule such an impossible state of so-clety. This was the Speciator. This allneeded something was the Sir Roger de Coverley papers. Those papers served the age of Queen Anne in that capacity; they served all time in a much higher degree. They contained the germs, kindly germs, of the novel of the eightsymbh century.
The Spectator was started as a distinctively literary periodical, and it adopted a distinctly personal ion. Around "Mr. Spectator" the imaginary members formed themselves into a club, and it was their dally-reflections and actions that were to be immarted in a tete-a-tete fashion to the public. This personal intimacy is the

keynote of the literary tone of the jour-mal. This note is struck with the very first article on "The Spectator's Account-of Himself," and it is sounded in the second contribution where Steele describes
"Sir Roger and the Club."
The Sir Roger de Coverley papers, 23 in
number, do not form a novel, according
to the accepted definition of the word; but they do contain many qualities that afterward, in the work of Richardson, in 1500, became the definitive characteristics of the full-fledged novel. This series of of the thi-neeged novel. This stress of creasy, while possessing all the traits of the essay, gradually unfolds the life, hab-its and environments of Sir Roger, a per-sonage fettition, yet incorporating the easily recognized characteristics of a country knight. Associated with this familiar figure are other lesser figures, deficately, yet definitely, traced, such as Will Wim-ble and Will Honeycomb. Moreover, this character sketch is not without a plan. It is devoid of plot, as the word is employed in defining the novel. The plan is simple in defining the novel. The plan is simple enough. It is as unnecessary to the characterization as the tracery of scaffolding is to Michael Angelo's conception of the biblical scenes. Sir Roger's presence in the club, his household, his ancestors neighbors, country life, etc., are so many separate convases on which are depicted the manners of the man and his rural surroundings. Sir Roger in London, furthermore, presents the manners of the man against the perspective of city life, and the writer has the opportunity of contrasting country with city life. Sir Roger in London means a series of views of London's show places in the last century—to wit. Westminster Abbey, the theof London's show places in the last cent-try-to wit. Westminster Abbey, the the-nier, Vauxhell, etc. And this plan con-tained one further opisode that pained many a reader besides Dr. Johnson-Ad-dison had to kill Str Regor "that nobody else might murder him." In this simple exposition of a noble character was hid-den the reed from which should spring the mighter reader; this literature has the mightlest product that literature has ever known—the noval. It was the im-mediate begetter of Richardson and Fielding: the ancestor of Dickens. Thuck-

eray and George Ellot. C. The Blumgha. University of Minnesota.

Not for the Oregonian to Answer. GRESHAM, May 2—(To the Editor.)— The covenant of redemption, as inter-preted by Calvin, provides for the redemp-tion of lost manking through the crucifixton of Christ. You have explained a great deal about this matter in your excellent editorial on the Westminster revolt in the Sunday Oregonian, and now will you kindy answer the following questions suggest

ed by its perusal?

1. Why did God decree some angels and men into everlasting life while others were foreordained to everlasting death? What has become of those who were thus foreordated into everlasting death who died during the period between the fall of Adam and the crucifixion of Christ? 2. Was Christ's mission retroactive or "In Addison's hands," says the histo; an earth and had he the power to save those Green, "this popular writing became a part of who died before he came? If so, why did literature. While it preserved the free more he not postpone his coming until the

suggestions given for adding moisture to the air. An excellent method of making portable smudge fires is described. This method has won much favor in various parts of the United States.

The air can be charged with moisture by spraying and sprinkling. Irrigation a also successfully employed for the same

In conclusion the book says: "It is important to remark in this con-nection that none of the artificial advices described should be employed during the g owing season, except on the immediate eve of threatened frost. The necessity for chserving this precaution becomes appar-ent when the fact is considered that any appliance for protecting plants from cold will maintain absormally high tempera-tures when average weather conditions prevail. The effect of this process would be to force the growth of the plants and sender them the more susceptible age by the late frosts of Spring."

#### DAILY CITY STATISTICS.

Real Estate Transfers. Carrie Beckman and C. J. Beckman to Charles Ericsson, 4 acres, section — T I N., R. 2 E.; March 39. ... \$ 200 The Alnaworth National Bank to Mrs. M. M. Bingham, lots 1, 2, 5, 5, 7, block 2. Orchard Homes; May 1. 500 South Portland Park Company to Anna M. Cremen, trustee, 14 acres. Tice D. L. C., section 29, T. 1 R. 1 E., also I acre; October 28, 1839.
Emma Q. Daugherty to O. W. Daugherty, '4 acre, section 22, T. 1 N., R. 2 E.: April 17
Frank M. Moore to Mount Hood Poultry Co., 14 acres, section 24, T. 1 N., R. 2 E.: May 1.
E. R. Glisan to J. C. Veazie, lot 12, double block 207, Couch Addition: April 30 April 30
3. H. Van Houten, trustee, to Mag-gle Miller, lot 6, block 12, Good Morn-ing Addition; April 27
5. C. Harlow to Lou C. Harlow, part of First Addition, Troutdale: April 4 T. A. and M. L. Ward, to Addle E. Kerns, undivided ½ lot 8, block 2, Lochinvar Addition; April 15, 1888...
N. P. Olsen and Nettie Olsen to Jane Jamieson, 30x30, lots 1, 2 block 7, Elizabeth Irving's Addition; May 1, Henry Rosenfeld and wife to Jane Jamieson, N. 66 feet lots 1, 2 block 7, Elizabeth Irving's Addition; April 20, 100 and 100 an 29. ichard Cheadle et ux. to Henry W. Borchers, W. ½ lot 6, block 6, Albina: April 18.

De Weber to Henry Lensch, lots 28, 29, block 2, Tabasco Addition; April 25. block 2. Tabasco Addition; April 25.

Lizzie Coyle to William Denholm, lots 1, 2, 3, block 16. Riverside Addition, Albina; also lot 5, block 2. Brainard Tract; April 18.

W. Galloway to trustees. Portland Lodge, No. 142. B. P. O. Eliks, W. 4. NW, 5, of section 22. T. 2 N. R. 2 W.: May 1.

Elizabeth Laura Beck and George A. Beck to J. A. Strowbridge, parcel land, Frush's Square, East Portland; also N. 25 feet lot 1. block 12. Stephens; Addition; also parcel land, Gideon Tibbetts' claim; April 28.

Emily Thomas and G. W. Thomas to Grace E. Robinson, W. 65 feet lot 14. block 18, Albina; April 28.

Building Permits.

M. C. Dammier, two-story house, Esternic Country of the control of the

M. C. Dammler, two-story house, East Pifteenth street, between Hancock and Tillamook, 1969.
M. C. Dammler, 14-story house southwest corner East Sixth and Prescott streets, 1960.

Births. April 12, girl to the wife of George W. Newbury, 1054 East Taylor street. April 25, girl to the wife of C. F. Peteron, 460 Twenty-second street.

April 30, boy to the wife of S. E. Havere. 706 East Yamhiil.

706 East Yamhill.

April 18. girl to the wife of Jens Jorgensen, 305 Raleigh street.

April 23, boy to the wife of Fred Pox, 305 Arthur street.

April 7. girl to the wife of Charles N. Ducett, 356 East Tenth street.

April 28. boy to the wife of Julius Mayer, 372 Grand avenus.

April 7. girl to the wife of John Schmidt, 433 Davis street.

Deaths.

April 30 Mary A Danguegers are 36

April 30, Mary A. Danguenger, age 20 years, 306 Stark street, oedema of lungs. May I. May Jacobs, age 48 years, 135 Sixth street. May 1. Henrietta Reimer, age 1 year corner East Water and Stark,

Contagious Diseases. Peter Brush, pesthouse, smallpox. Bessle Block, 516 Clay street, diphtheria J. Block, 516 Clay street, diphtheria. Marriage Liceuses.

William G. Smith, aged M. Nellie W. Baker, aged 19; J. J. Jones, B. Stevens County, Wash. Edith G. Chater, M; Hen-ry Wilbern, & Eliza Jaques, G.

Positions in the Philippines. PORTLAND, Or,, April 30 -(To the Ed-

ltor).—Are there any clerical positions to be filled in the Philippines at present by civilians, not under the civil service? If so, what are they and to whom should one apply for appointment? Second—Are there any positions to be had there under the civil service now or

soon? An answer to the above through the columns of The Oregonian will be greatly appreciated. J. O. G.

The headquarters of this department has no information of whether men are needed in the civil service of the Philippines or whether there are any positions to be filled by other than civil service employes. The Philippine Islands have been created a separate department, and its needs are of departments in the United States. This information could be had only at the office of the Quartermaster-General, or the War Department, Washington, D. C.

BIG SEASIDE TRAVEL,

North Beach Looking for Largest Crowds Ever Known.

L. A. Leomis, of Hwace, who is large'y interested in railroad and steambeat property at that point, is at the Perkins. He expects a heavy Summer traffic this year, as indications already point that way. He says there are already nearly 100 neat Summer cottages strung out along the pen-insula between Hwace and Nahroita, and that more are to be built this season. that more are to be built this searon, showing that interior people realize the necessity of a few weeks' change for themselves and families during the heatrd term. He thinks, however, that more beautiful. healthseekers should remain at the sca-side through the month of September, as that month is the most glearsant of all on Long Beach and vicinity, while in the interior towns it is still hot, dry and

The fishing season, which has begun so auspiciously, he thinks will be of great benefit to liwaco this year, as the run a fine, while the prices paid fishermen—65/ cents a pound—will enable that class of laborers to make good wages. The same price is paid for steelheads as for Chinooks, though there are not man' of the former being caught at present. A few years ago, he says, it took four steelheads years ago, he says, it took four steelness to represent one chinook, at the canneries, but this season all discrepancy has disappeared. He remembers when he bought chinocks by the boatload at 15 cents each and sold them to the Indians at Nahcotta for 50 cents each; but these same fish would run as high as \$3 % each this sea-

"If the present 25-cent rate is kept up Portland and Astoria, Loomis says, "we will see such a rush to the coast this year as has never been approached before. The railroad and steamboats cannot afford to carry people so cheaply, but as they do so without complaining, the public has no cause to kick."

Carnegle's Contribution.

NEW YORK, May 2.—Andrew Carnegie, who refused to contribute to the Dewey was recused to contribute to the Dewey arch fund, has given \$1000 to the fund for the widow of Sergeant Douglas, who was killed at Croton Dam during the recent strike. In sending the check, Mr. Carnegle wrote: "Sergeant Douglas fought not for foreign conquest, but for peace and order at home."

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