BOOKS

"The love of books is a love which requires neither justification, apology nor defence."
—LANGFORD

SIMON GERTSMAN, AUTHOR OF "POEMS OF THE WEST"

GYMNASIUM SCENE FROM "THE MAKING OF BOBBY BURNIT."

The Making of Bobby Burnit. By George Randolph Chester. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. The Bobbs, Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Ind.

Ocean sands, snow-capped mountain heights, the talk and laughter of an idle but merry crowd hurrying to board a week-end train—these thoughts are in the air. In a word, it's vacation time, and with it comes a demand for summer reading, something that will not work the brain too hard but will tickle the imagination, something that has all the moments to amuse. "The Making of Bobby Burnit" fills the bill. It is American, of the present day, and possesses the smartness that readers instinctively associate with all that George Randolph Chester writes.

The name of the city where the events recorded take place is hidden, because probably if a name had been printed some of the pictures of "graft" might cause some eminent citizens to tear their hair and otherwise damage their personal appearance. But it seems to me that the city meant in the novel is San Francisco, Cal. Oakland is mentioned as being in close proximity, and two of the newspapers are the Bulletin and Chronicle.

"I am profoundly convinced that my son is a fool," read the will of old John Burnit. "I am, however, also convinced that I allowed him to become so by too much absorption in my own affairs and too little in his, and, therefore, his being a fool is hereditary; consequently, I feel it my duty, first, to give him a fair trial at making his own way, and, second, to place the balance of my fortune in such trust that he cannot starve. The trusteeship is already created and the details are nobody's present business. My son Robert will take over The John Burnit Store and personally conduct it, as his only resource, without further question as to what else I may have left behind me. This is my last will and testament."

That is how cheerful Bobby Burnit, with no thought heretofore above healthy amusements and Agnes Elliston, suddenly became a business man, after having been raised to become the idle heir to about three millions. Of course, having no kith nor kin in all this wide world, he went immediately to consult Agnes. It is quite likely that if he had been supplied with dozens of uncles and aunts he would have gone first to Agnes anyhow, having a mighty regard for her keen judgment, even though her clear gaze rested now and then all too critically upon himself. Just as he came whirling up the avenue he saw Nick Allstyne's white car, several blocks ahead of him, stop at her door, and a figure which he knew must be Nick jump out and trip up the steps. Almost immediately the figure came down again, much more slowly, and climbed into the car, which whizzed away.

"Not at home," grumbled Bobby.

It was like him, however, that he should continue straight to the quaint old house of the Ellistons and proffer his own card, for, though his alms could seldom be called really worth while, he invariably finished the thing he set out to do. It seemed to be a sort of disease. He could not help it. To his surprise, the Cerebus who guarded the Elliston door received him with a smile and a bow, and observed:

"Miss Elliston says you are to walk right on up to the Turkish alcove, sir."

While Wilkins took his hat and coat Bobby paused for a moment to figuratively hug himself. At home to no one else! Expecting him!

"I'll ask her again," said Bobby to himself with determination.

So much for the start. In other words, the novel pictures, the odd adventures of an idle-rich young man who has had no business training, at first lacks common sense, and who at the death of his father suddenly finds himself heir to $3,000,000. He had been reared to live foolishly and spend money. But the wise father, just before death overtook him, placed a band of steel around the Burnit fortune, and vigilant trustees had so much power over the money that even Bobby could only fool it away by degrees. Sharpers, get-rich-quick folk, business men who were wolves in sheep's clothing—these and other schemers fairly hunted young Burnit and helped him to spend his money. He was "angel" for a boxing school and an opera company, was sued by an actress—who secretly had a husband living—for breach of promise of marriage, and was spoiled of several hundred thousand of dollars by Silas Trimmer and Sam Stone. The latter is political "boss" of the city.

Every now and then, just when trouble looms darkest for the young millionaire, either Johnson, his father's confidential clerk, or Miss Agnes Elliston, gives Bobby a written message left by his father, who in life seemed to anticipate every emergency. The idea is a most original one in fiction. Thus, when Bobby placed gorgeous new furniture, carpets, etc., in the shabby old office where his father had worked, old Johnson procured an oblong gray envelope, which he handed to Bobby. It was inscribed:

To My Son on the Fitting Out of New Offices.

I have seen a business worked up to success, and afterward add velvet rugs and dainty flowers on the desk, but I never saw a successful business start that way.

In spite of young Mr. Burnit's pleadings, Miss Elliston refuses to marry him until he is what he calls "a successful business man," and in trying to act his part he loses many, many dollars. At last, Burnit learns wisdom just as Sam Stone and his crowd of politicians about crush him. Burnit determines to ruin Stone as a corrupt politician, and drive him out of town. Toward this end, Burnit buys the Bulletin newspaper for $300,000, "for plant, good-will and franchises," and from this on "The Making of Bobby Burnit" is an exciting, rattling newspaper story.

Grant, the Man of Mystery. By Colonel Nicholas Smith. Price, $1.60. Illustrated. The Young Churchman Company, Milwaukee, Wis.

Many "lives" of General Ulysses S. Grant have been published, and some of the books have been quite pretentious—so much so that the impression exists that even at this late day the hero has been discussed exhaustively from probably every point of view. The need of a "popular" edition, however, is open, a book that will within the space of say 400 pages give a fair, appreciative estimate of the life of one who in the language of Emilio Castelar, was "the humblest of the humble before his own conscience, the greatest of the great before history."

Such a convenient book is the one now under review. It is the work of one in love with his subject, and whose observations extend to 381 pages. Colonel Smith deals specially with "the silent, the mysterious," element in General Grant's character, and paints historical pictures, for accuracy of fact and love of truth, that is very effective, and one that ought to be brought to the attention of young people.

It is a human, likeable, modest Grant who appears in these pages—the one who was shy, few of words, embarrassed in company, in love with the plain people, a hater of music, but a brave doer of deeds. Grant's Western life is not made much of, and the period when he left the United States Army in 1854 is handled with tact and sympathy. Yet Colonel Smith is not a blind hero-worshiper, and he shows Grant's faults as well as his good qualities.

The Smith view of Portland, Or., should be corrected. On page 48 we are told:

"When the Fourth Infantry reached San Francisco it occupied the Benicia Barracks for a few weeks, and was then ordered to Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia River, opposite Portland, Oregon." This is a geographical lapse.

Colonel Smith first knew General Grant in the year 1856.

Poems of the West. By Simon Gertsman. Illustrated. Price, 75 cents. The J. K. Gill Company, Portland, Or.

Sixteen well-written home poems, printed on thick, creamy paper, between brown paper covers, tied with green cord. The little book has an attractive appearance and will appeal specially to Oregon pioneers, those who desire to send a gift "back East," and tourists. It should have been reviewed last week, when it would have attracted Rose Festival notice, but was crowded out because of lack of space.

Mr. Gertsman is a resident of this city, and his home is at Eighteenth street and Killingsworth avenue. His poems breathe peace and quiet, and have the right Western ring. Many of them picture this city, and the most meritorious of them are "From the Heights," "The Pioneer's Reverie," "The City of Roses," "The Plowman," and "Toilers of the Sea." Mr. Gertsman's "Greeting" consists of four verses, one of which reads:

The West to the East gives greeting,
And opens the portals wide;
To her sister from over the mountains
She sends a welcome for her to abide—
In the land of nature's splendor
And with her enjoy the gifts
The land of God hath showered
And where his works man's soul uplifts.

The pictures shown of river activity and natural scenery are excellent.

A Man Without Principle? By Retsel Terreve. Price, $1.50. The Hocking Publishing Company, Norfolk, Va.

A novel that provokes one's curiosity, considering the question mark at the conclusion of the title and the odd name of the author, a name which, if spelled backward would reveal "Lester Everett." Besides an accompanying circular shows that the story has already received quite a bristling number of unusually favorable book reviews from Southern newspapers and clergymen. I wish to speak in the kindest fashion about this book, but cannot help noticing that the reviews, although laudatory to an extreme, are not to a large extent quoted from newspapers noted for literary discrimination. More than one review hints that the hero is an American edition of Jean Valjean in Victor Hugo's celebrated novel. This may be so, but not in the way the story is told, for the storyteller is not accustomed, evidently, to high-class fiction, although possessing the ability to create a plot marked by boldness and vigor of outline. His charm lies in rapid groupings of sensational incidents belonging to the realistic school, and in this direction he is a success.

In the concrete, "A Man Without Principle?" is the story of Anson Van Anholt, a criminal, who, after his prison life is over returns to the society that practically sent him to jail, and conquers it. Chapter two opens with a description of a meeting of the men's Christian League, of New York City, December 24, 1898, and Stanley Hope, a man of wealth interested in the submerged tenth, makes an impassioned appeal for monetary aid to help an unnamed young man about to be released from jail to again earn his living. This man, oppressed by poverty caused by unfortunate speculations in Wall Street, seized a questionable opportunity for raising money. There was fire and food and medicine. Whether you or I would have done the same isn't here or there. Nor is it in our province here to pass judgment on him. Today he is in one of our state reformatories, awaiting release on parole, while his wife is living among her friends. His record is the cleanest in the history of the institution; his stay the shortest.

A generous response was made. The man referred to is Van Anholt, and what follows is largely his life story, how bravely he fought to regain his lost name and how he very soon became a useful member of society. Many of the speeches could be "boiled down" and the book wouldn't suffer, and some of the language on pages 321, 325 and 327 could with profit be altered.

The Governors. By E. Phillips Oppenheim. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass.

Another of Mr. Oppenheim's high-class and rapidly-manufactured novels, for he turns out two such each year. "The Governors" shows up a group of millionaires who control the leading American trusts and manipulate the money markets of the world. Then there are girls, love and plot—all seasoned with that spice which denotes the Oppenheim brand. The fine illustrations are by Will Grefe and Howard Somerville.

Salt Lake City, Past and Present. By E. V. Fohlin. Illustrated. Price, 75 cents. E. V. Fohlin, Salt Lake City, Utah.

A well-written, illuminative book of 208 pages giving the history of the historic city of the Mormans, its business values and prospects and what it generally stands for in matters of public concern. The fine illustrations represent old landmarks, public buildings, churches, schools, places of amusement, representative citizens, etc.

Homespun. By Lottie Blair Parker. Price, $1.50. Henry Holt & Company, New York City, and the J. K. Gill Company, Portland.

Lottie Blair Parker is known widely as the author of the play "Way Down East." This book is a lively story of New England life, well told. The publishers forbid extracts, so I can't tell what the plot of the story is.

Mind Over Body. Price, $1. James H. West Company, Boston, Mass.

Eleven letters, expressed charmingly and with poetic beauty of thought, on Christian Science topics. The name of the author isn't given, as he modestly confesses he has sometimes borrowed the ideas of others.

Morals in Modern Business. Henry Frowde, Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn.

Illumines the question of right conduct in business matters. The book consists of six lectures delivered by experts in the Page lecture series, 1908, before the senior class of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

Miss Eagle, the Suffragette. By Mary Dale. Price, 50 cents. Illustrated. Aberdeen Publishing Company, New York City.

Forty-six pages of fun, in which are pictured the uproarious doings of the raven, owl, eagle and other birds, as they investigate suffrage.

The Lady Without Jewels. By Arthur Goodrich. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. D. Appleton & Co., New York City.

Tom Duncan, American and bridge-builder, is the hero in this likeable novel and makes good from start to finish.

JOSEPH M. QUENTIN.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

Red Horse Hill, by Sidney McCall, $1.50. (Little-Brown).

The Woman, the Man and the Monster, by Carlton Dawe, and After the Pardon, by Matilda Serao, each $1.50. (Stuyvesant Press, N. Y.).

A False Position, by Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, $1.50. (Brentano's).

The Long Gallery, by Eva Lathbury, $1.50. (Holt & Co.).

God's Flowers

By Gilbur D. Nesbit

The Wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them—Isaiah xxxv. 1.

I think they are God's flowers that blossom year on year
Deep in the silent places where no man knows the way,
Far in the tangled thickets, in countries lone and drear,
On the unconquered hilltops where vagrant breezes play;
They bud and bloom and wither, they grow and droop and die,
They quaver in the raindrops, they laugh back at the sun—
We call them wasted flowers, such folk as you and I,
But the good God who makes them, he sees them every one.

The vines are more than patient, they wake to living green,
When comes the call of Summer their banners are unfurled,
They stop not for complaining because they are unseen,
They only know their duty within their silent world—
But one day when, unnoticed, they have done all their task
There comes a pilgrim faring on his unending quest
And he finds shade and comfort wherein to lie and bask,
Finds soothing shade and shelter, and quietness and rest.

Uncounted roses echo the redness of the dawn
Store in their hearts the sweetness of all the honey dew;
The winds catch up their petals and bear them on and on
Down trails and over pathways that no man ever knew;
But one day some wayfarer comes on the perfect rose
And marvels at its sweetness and wonders at its grace,
And all that day thereafter whatever way he goes
The blessing of God's flower illumes his wearied face.

So then they are God's flowers; they nod along the rill,
They gaze upon the prairie in carpetings of gold,
They march in Summer's phalanx across the frowning hill
Until their hidden message the silent places hold;
A simple thought they foster: The kindly word or deed
May seem to be forgotten in days of stress and strife,
But every heart-born kindness will find your fellows' need
And blossom—a God's flower—in someone's desert life.

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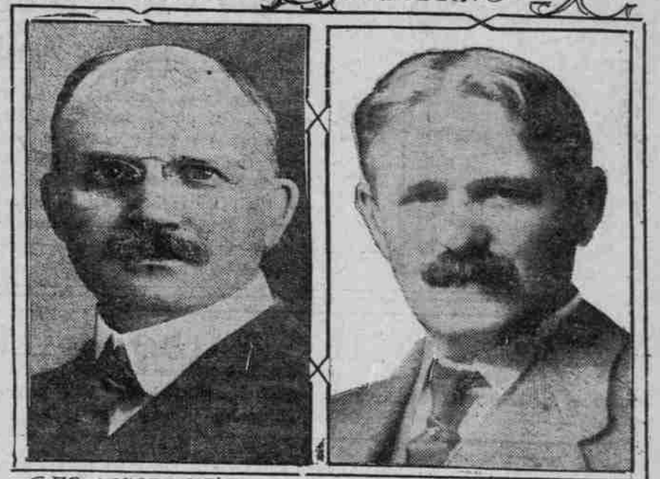
Men Who Are in the Front Rank of Public Affairs at Home and Abroad

DUKE OF NORFOLK

CHAS. P. NEILL — HON. J. M. COX of OHIO

E. DANA DURAND — P. M. SALADILOF — W. F. KING



GEO. WOODRUFF — F. E. McMILLIN

NEW YORK, June 19.—(Special.)—England is almost as angry at the Duke of Norfolk for selling Holbein's famous painting of Princess Christina, Duchess of Milan, which has hung for nearly three decades in the National Gallery, as it is over the new budget. The Duke received $350,000 for this painting, but as the Duke is one of the richest peers in England, the public is anxious to know to what use he intends to put this money. It is said the picture may come to America, and if it does, according to Sir Philip Burne-Jones, it will be lost to the world, as he says no painting on a wooden panel can survive for many years in the overheated atmosphere of American rooms and galleries. The Duke is the 15th Duke of Norfolk and was born in 1847. He was Postmaster-General 1895-1900 and served in South Africa in 1900. He owns 49,500 acres of land.

Charles P. Neill, United States Commissioner of Labor, was born at Rock Island, Ill., in 1865 and has been Commissioner of Labor since 1905. He recently took a stand that the Georgia railroads must submit to arbitration in the anti-negro strike.

Hon. J. M. Cox, of Ohio, has the record of being the most precocious "new Congressman" in the history of the House of Representatives. It is customary for new members to sit back and listen for many months after they come to Washington. Some remain silent all through their first session in the House. Mr. Cox was not unfamiliar with Washington when he came there. He had done newspaper work in the city some years before. So he was not in the least awed by his surroundings, and when he discovered, 14 days after he became a member, that he had something to say to the House, he got up and said it. No new member ever made a speech 14 days after his initiation, and Mr. Cox's record will probably remain long unbroken. Mr. Cox is the publisher of two of Ohio's liveliest newspapers—the Dayton News and the Springfield News. He is just putting up at Dayton a new home for his paper, in which he will introduce some unique ideas in sanitation. Mr. Cox will have even sanitary desks in his office and every reporter and editor will be required to keep his desk clear of all rubbish. Each night the men who clean the editorial rooms will throw into the waste everything found on top of the desks—even one of Mr. Cox's editorials if it happens to be overlooked. In addition to editing two newspapers and being a member of Congress, Mr. Cox is chairman of the committee having the Wright brothers' celebration in charge. Dayton is going to be a center of aeronautic interest for the whole world this month.

E. Dana Durand is the new Census Commissioner. He succeeds Mr. North, whose recent controversy with Secretary Nagel on the subject of his subordination to the head of the Department of Commerce resulted in his resignation. Mr. Durand has been Deputy Commissioner in the Bureau of Corporations. He comes from California.

P. M. Saladilof has presented to the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences a memorandum of an international calendar. In explaining his scheme to the George Grantham Bain News Service, Mr. Saladilof said: "As time is measured by the revolution of the earth, it ought to be common to all mankind. Besides, as the international relations of the peoples draw closer, the inconveniences caused by different methods of counting time should be avoided. A new calendar should be adopted by international agreement. It should be strictly scientific and thus equally acceptable to all peoples. The calendar should not only be unified, but simplified. It is especially important that the month and week days should correspond, so that every year the same date should fall on the same week day. This being done, each people can arrange its religious and civil holidays and memorial days invariably according to the common calendar. My scheme is as follows: The year begins at the Spring equinox of the Northern Hemisphere. Three years in succession have 365 days, the fourth 366. Each 128th year is not bisextile, but has 365 days. Under this system the error, taking into account the secular changes of the tropical year, is but slightly above one day in 10,000 years. The first day of the year in ordinary years and the first two days in bisextile years are counted neither as week days nor as month days, but are designated simply as 'The Day of the New Year,' or 'The Two Days of the New Year.' The Spring equinox can come only on these days. The other days of the year equal exactly 52 weeks and are divided into four seasons of 91 days or 13 weeks each. The first two months of each season have 30 days, the last 31 days. Thus each month day will fall on the same week day every year. The scheme requires that the first meridian should be common for the whole world. It should also be internatinally agreed that the last day of the week should be a day of rest, to which each nation should give its own name—Sunday for Christians, Sabbath for Hebrews, Selamik for Mohammedans, etc. As there are no scientific reasons for the selection of a common era, this year could still be A. D. 1909 for the Christians, while the Mohammedans could count it still as 1339 years from the birth day of the prophet."

Dr. W. F. King, representing Canada on the International Boundaries Commission, is in New Brunswick demarking the boundary at the St. Croix River and in Passamaquoddy Bay. This involves some intricate operations. The United States member of this Commission is Mr. Tittman.

George W. Woodruff has been named by President Taft to be United States District Judge for Hawaii, but some objection having arisen, the appointment is being reconsidered and may be withdrawn. Mr. Woodruff was a noted football player at the University of Pennsylvania and his strenuousness in athletics recommended him to President Roosevelt so greatly that he was appointed to a position in the Bureau of Forestry and later became Assistant Attorney-General for the Interior Department. When the Department of Justice was reorganized, President Taft appointed someone to take Mr. Woodruff's place. But Mr. Woodruff's friends brought pressure to bear and the President named him to the judicial position in Hawaii. The appointment met with strong opposition on the ground that Mr. Woodruff had not had sufficient judicial experience to fit him for the place. The fact that many of Mr. Woodruff's rulings in the Interior Department had been overruled by the courts was quoted and the President suspended action for the time, and it is thought may transfer Mr. Woodruff to some other position or withdraw his name entirely.

F. E. McMillin is now Chief Inspector of the Postoffice Department—that is, head of the secret service of that department. It is reported, in postal circles that Mr. McMillin is in line for promotion and may be raised to the place of Assistant Postmaster-General in the near future.

Books Added to Library

BIOGRAPHY.

Eve.—Heraldry as art; an account of its development and practice, chiefly in England, 1907.

Richelieu.—Lives of the Cardinal de Richelieu, Count Oxenstiern, Count Olivarez and Cardinal Mazarin; by G. P. R. James. 2 v. 1836.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Brehm.—Tierleben. 2 v.

Bremen—Verein furder deutsche Nordpolarfahrt. Die zweite deutsche Nord-polarfahrt in den jahren 1869-70. 4 v.

Hackel.—Aus Insulinde.

Huxley.—Manniskokroppens byggnad och forrattningar.

Nansen.—Eskimoleben.

Polenz.—Das land der zukenft.

Treitschke.—Deutsche geschichte im neunzehnten jahrhundert. 5 v.

Zimmerman.—Illustrierte gesschichte des deutschen volkes.

DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL.

Klein.—An American student in France. 1908.

Moore.—Weimar, the Athens of Germany. 1908.

Shelley.—Untrodden English ways. 1908.

FICTION.

Bellamy.—Equality.

FINE ARTS.

Durer.—Albert Durer; by T. S. Moore. 1905.

Forman.—Guess work; 101 charades. 1908.

Marzo, comp.—Songs of the people; Neapolitan songs. 1904.

HISTORY.

Stenton.—William the Conqueror and the rule of the Normans. 1908.

Wallington.—Historic churches of America. 1907.

LITERATURE.

Blake.—Sonnets. 1898.

Brackett & Elliot, eds.—Poetry for home and school. 1904.

Bridges.—Practical works. 6 v. 1898-1905.

Lear.—Book of limericks. 1888.

Swinburne.—The Duke of Gandia; a drama. 1908.

PHILOSOPHY.

Joyce.—Principles of logic. 1908.

RELIGION.

Kent.—The founders and rulers of United Israel, from the death of Moses to the division of the Hebrew kingdom. 1908.

SCIENCE.

Halsted.—Rational geometry. Ed. 2, rev. 1907.

Schultze & Sevenoak.—Plane and solid geometry. 1908.

SOCIOLOGY.

Griggs.—Moral education. Ed. 4. 1906.

Hardie.—From serfdom to socialism. 1907.

USEFUL ARTS.

Armagnat.—The theory, design and construction of induction coils. 1908.

Dowse.—Lectures on massage, and electricity in the treatment of disease. Ed. 5, rev. 1908.

Hasluck.—Cabinet work and joinery, comprising designs and details of construction. 1908.

Read.—How to cook fish; by Olive Green (pseud.). 1908.

Schoch.—The complete dictator (Ben Pitman shorthand). 1907.