

Here is the largest and most varied issue of the News Letter to date. For this there are two reasons: the generous response of various Victorian specialists to the editor's direct requests for information, and the increase in the number of unsolicited, but equally welcome, items. While the editor will continue to follow up occasional leads by writing to the individuals concerned, he hopes that the number of voluntary contributions will keep on growing.

As has been observed before in these pages, the News Letter's value depends on the extent to which its readers consider themselves a corps of correspondents—a large. The following kinds of contributions are especially desired:

1. News of English X members: changes of position, appointments to fellowships or visiting lectureships, other honors.
2. Library notes: information about strong collections of interest to Victorian scholars, especially in relatively out-of-the-way or unpublicized libraries; news of important recent acquisitions.
3. Reports on research in progress and appeals for assistance.
4. Brief statements of opinion on matters relating to Victorian literature, whether in research, interpretation, or teaching.

THE ENGLISH X PROGRAM FOR 1954

The Program Committee for the 1954 meeting of the Victorian Literature group at New York consists of Carl Woodring (Wisconsin), Robert H. Super (Michigan), and Lionel Stevenson (Southern California), chairman. Professor Stevenson writes: "For several years past the group has had a unified topic for the program. In 1952 it was Arnold (who can be regarded as primarily a writer of expository prose); in 1953 it was Browning, a poet. It is therefore desirable that the 1954 program be centered upon a novelist, and Dickens has been selected. The committee feels, however, that an outstanding paper in the Victorian field ought not to be excluded because it does not conform to the proposed topic. Members of the group are therefore requested to submit either (a) a paper on some subject connected with Dickens or (b) a paper on any Victorian subject if of noteworthy significance. The committee will feel free to include one paper belonging to the latter category along with two or three on Dickens." Papers must reach Professor Stevenson (Department of English, University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7) not later than 15 September.

REFERENCE BOOKS TO COME

1. Supplement to the Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature

It is good news indeed that the supplement to the CBEL, promised when that work first appeared some fifteen years ago, is in preparation and, if all goes well, will appear in 1955. The general editor, George Watson (24 Norham Gardens, Oxford),

is being assisted by a large corps of British and American contributors. Those responsible for the Victorian section of the supplement include John Bryson, H. W. Donner, W. H. Gardner, Gordon N. Ray, Humphry House, Roger Lancelyn Green, Ernest Reynolds, Francis Townsend, Graham Pollard, G. B. Parks, and E. F. Shannon, Jr.

The supplement, writes Mr. Watson, "aims at listing according to the original arrangement of the CBEL books and articles of scholarly interest which have appeared in the last twenty years. We are not concerned in the present supplement with extending the scope of CBEL (which stops short with writers who were established by the year 1900) or with making good imperfections in the original work

"It would be of great assistance to us," he continues, "if your readers could send us copies of books and articles which have appeared since CBEL was prepared twenty years ago, especially general works which may deserve to be recorded more than once, e.g. works of literary history and collections of essays. It is with such works that our chief difficulties in compilation are concerned." Since all scholars have a large stake in the fullness and accuracy of the forthcoming supplement, it is to be hoped that Mr. Watson's request will be heeded.

2. A new cumulation of the annual Victorian Bibliography

Officers of the Victorian group of MIA have made tentative arrangements with the University of Illinois Press for the publication of a second cumulative volume of the annual Victorian bibliographies published in Modern Philology. The first volume, containing bibliographies for the years 1932-1944, and edited by William D. Templeman, was published by the University of Illinois Press in 1945. Publication of the second volume, to be edited by Austin Wright (Carnegie Institute of Technology), will be delayed until the bibliography for 1954 is completed, so that the volume will cover the ten years 1945-1954. It is expected that because of the prohibitive cost of any other method of publication, the photographic offset process will be employed.

3. The English Victorian Poets: A Review of Research

The latest news of this volume (for details see the Victorian News Letter, April, 1953) is that because of unavoidable circumstances in the lives of several contributors, the deadline for manuscript, originally set for January 1, has been moved to April 15. Frederic E. Faverty, the editor, reports that three of the nine chapters are in his hands and several others are nearing completion. A number of publishers have expressed interest in the volume.

4. A new edition of DeVane's Browning Handbook

In the November, 1952 issue of this News Letter, regret was expressed that DeVane's Browning Handbook was out of print and virtually unobtainable. The publishers, Appleton-Century-Crofts, now announce that a revised edition of this valuable book will appear next fall, probably in October. (Aside to readers with depleted pocketbooks and elastic consciences: Copies of the Handbook now command between ten and fifteen dollars on the second-hand market. They will be worth little, of course, when the new edition comes out--or even when the news of the revision gets about. As the author of PMIA's "For Members Only" is fond of remarking, Verbum sap.)

RELIGIOUS TRENDS IN VICTORIAN POETRY

(In response to a query by the editor of the News Letter, Hoxie N. Fairchild (Hunter College) has reported as follows concerning his progress on the fourth (Victorian) volume of his well-known series, Religious Trends in English Poetry.)

I find myself quite a bit ahead of the tentative time-table I had set for myself. A half-sabbatical has enabled me to complete a first draft of the entire book. Some chapters will require no more than a little verbal polishing; others demand more fundamental revision; two must be re-written from the ground up. My guess is that if I am sufficiently nimble in eluding committee chores I shall have a final typescript by a year from now. How much later than that the book actually appears will depend upon the publication schedule of the Columbia University Press, but probably it will be out late in 1955 or early in 1956. The world can wait that long very comfortably.

My terminus for this book is 1880 -- about which time, it seems to me, the complex of tendencies which we have in mind when we say "Victorian" begins to disintegrate and to enter into the new turn-of-the-century combinations which I hope to treat in a fifth volume which would run from 1880 to 1920. Of course I do not truncate the careers of poets who flourish before 1880 but continue to write for some years thereafter.

Even thus limited, Victorian poetry of religious pertinence is so torrentially abundant that the problem of selection, scale, and organization has been difficult. Obviously a few major figures deserved close individual attention. It seemed unwise, however, to devote this volume, like its immediate predecessor, entirely to the familiar mountainpeaks; for many minor figures of the calibre of, say, R. H. Horne, H. S. Sutton, Robert Buchanan and Roden Noel are deeply interesting in themselves and useful for an understanding of the greater men. My solution has been to intersperse separate chapters on the major poets among 'omnibus' chapters on groups of minor writers whose work illustrates some general trend such as Evangelicalism, Broad Churchmanship, the Catholic Revival, the Religion of Beauty, Frustrated Romanticism, and so on. But of course no approach to exhaustiveness in the treatment of minor figures has been attempted, and doctoral candidates should not reproach me for ignoring the heroes of their dissertations.

The prospect of appearing before a largely new bench of judges is formidable but not altogether unwelcome. Since the twentieth century has no reason to feel itself superior to any earlier period in recorded history, the Stracheyan manner of sneering at the Victorians has deservedly become unfashionable, and I have no wish to revive it. Probably, however, no contemporary student of the Victorians worships Arnold, Browning, or Rossetti with that quasi-religious prophetic fervor which some eminent specialists in the romantic period feel toward Wordsworth, Shelley, or Keats. In the court of Victorian scholarship there will probably be no outcry of horror if I confess to some lack of enthusiasm for the religious thought of Swinburne, who rightly regarded himself as the spiritual heir of Blake and Shelley. On the other hand I fear that my failure to express unalloyed admiration for the poetry of the Catholic Revival will alienate some readers who have hitherto agreed with me. But one must say what one thinks. At all events I have greatly enjoyed my rash invasion of a period in which I have not previously been a specialist. The adventure has certainly been good for my personal education others must decide whether it has been good for anything else.

NEW LIGHT ON RUSKIN

(For many years, Helen Gill Viljoen (Queens College) has been working on research in Ruskin. In view of the revolutionary implications of her discoveries, the News Letter is especially pleased to be able to give its readers the following foretaste, written especially for them, of Mrs. Valjoen's book.)

I am engaged on a biography based on wide study of Ruskin manuscripts and consequently upon two premises which are almost as simple as they are, it seems to me, far-reaching in their implications. The manuscripts have led me, first, to conclude that Ruskin's Praeterita account of his life, and of his parents and their backgrounds, should not be used as a chief basis for biography. Second, manuscripts, together with public records, have made amply clear that the work of Cook and Wedderburn in the Library Edition, and of E. T. Cook in the Life derived therefrom, should not be trusted as a source for biographical information or for interpretation of main events and characters. Unquestionably Cook and Wedderburn performed an indispensable service in assembling an accurate text of Ruskin's work, with the invaluable index and bibliographical apparatus; nonetheless, they did grave dis-service by having, in effect, documented through thirty-nine volumes their blind assumption that Praeterita was literally truthful. Thus they prepared a gargantuan trap, primarily by selecting from the manuscripts only material which could be used to support Ruskin's story and by including much misinformation in their extraordinary feat of publication. Their edition got under way in 1902, when E. T. Cook, unprepared by earlier experience for biographical responsibilities, joined Alexander Wedderburn, who seems to have hoped that, more appropriately, W. G. Collingwood would collaborate with him; between 1903 and 1909, thirty-seven volumes of the Works appeared, crowned in 1911 by the two-volume Life in which Cook incorporated all the errors he had made, as editor, in the biographical "Introductions." Cook, the while, was likewise regularly engaged in journalistic writing and in time-consuming editorial work in addition to the biographical. One consequence, I believe, is that, in English scholarship, only Pope has suffered as Ruskin has from such early treatment of his life and manuscripts (the work of Cook and Wedderburn having overwhelmed that of the far more scholarly and perceptive W. G. Collingwood), and from later critics who trustingly accepted their heritage while belonging to an age alien and hostile to the one which fathered the protagonist.

Ruskin, one must note, did not deliberately muddy the waters of biography when he wrote Praeterita, although, as he professed, he recounted only so much as he chose -- frequently with masochistic irony and often no more than symbolically. But above all, he preserved his manuscripts intact, gathering them at Brantwood in abundance. Here his collection remained until it was auctioned off in 1931 and 1932, when some of the most significant items were sold, to unrecorded buyers, without having been so much as listed in the catalogues. I myself was privileged to work with this body of material shortly before it was dispersed: for example, I thus studied Ruskin's Diaries, with freedom to transcribe, before they were acquired by J. H. Whitehouse (who is now editing them in conjunction with Joan Evans); and I transcribed in full an autobiographical diary of Rose La Touche, perhaps permanently lost when those manuscripts were irresponsibly scattered. Ever since, I have been tracing material which I then read, finding much of it in our libraries and some of it in the hands of private owners. As a result of such work I have repeatedly been granted access to new groups of manuscripts -- for example, such acquisitions of the Pierpont Morgan Library as "The Bowerswell Papers," source of Admiral James' partisan account of Ruskin's marriage, James having made his selections from these more than 1,200 documents; post-marital letters of Effie and

J. E. Millais; and, most recently, Ruskin's correspondence with Miss Bell of Winton.

Meanwhile I have likewise been engaged in writing a biography which is unique in that no statement made by Cook and Wedderburn is used until it has been carefully checked; unique, too, in that no autobiographical statement made by Ruskin during later years is accepted as more than evidence of what he thought and felt when he was growing old and was struggling, with courageous insight, against the loss of reason. So viewed, what Ruskin wrote and thought toward the end, not in Praeterita alone, can become deeply moving and also most revealing as contemporaneous evidence about the moods, fantasies, and emotionally colored memories of this period. But before one reaches this point biographically (as I have almost done in manuscript), there has been almost the whole story of his life to tell, in conjunction with the intellectual drama of his work, as that story is revealed through what I suspect to be an unparalleled wealth of contemporaneous documents for every stage of his development. I am still seeking, reading, manuscripts. The upshot is that the more evidence I have gathered, the more confident I have become that until Ruskin biography is thus approached, the confusion which has marked the better part of almost fifty years of Ruskin scholarship will not be overcome.

All statements made above about the folly of founding Ruskin biography and related scholarship upon Praeterita, with uncritical dependence upon Cook and Wedderburn, will soon be substantiated through a book which will appear either as the first volume of the biography or as a "Prelude" to the main body of my work. A chief function of this preliminary book is to demonstrate the validity of my two basic contentions by contrasting facts, culled from primary sources, with the fantasies which Ruskin spun in later years about his parents and the family backgrounds, and by indicating Cook and Wedderburn's unpardonable treatment of such matters. It is highly typical of what has happened that for almost half a century no one has so much as attempted to check the reliability of their work, or to enlarge the scope of knowledge, through investigating public records. As a graphic demonstration of fundamental problems, I include a Family Tree on which more than three-quarters of the entries appear for the first time, either as new information or as corrections of mistakes which biographers have consistently repeated in their opening chapters (by ignorance made brief) and have then interpreted in the light of Ruskin's "memories." The new information provides a probable solution of the mystery of where the English Ruskins came from and an explanation of why nothing has been known about Ruskin's maternal grandfather, who (as Cook and Wedderburn were well aware) was not "Captain Cox" of the Yarmouth herring fishery but William Cock, who kept a Croydon tavern. Then too, there were the Richardsons of Perth and Croydon, though Ruskin had no Uncle Peter Richardson, as he himself well knew. More important, his parents emerge as personalities who were very different from the familiar caricatures of an ogress-mother and a relatively quiescent father. Ruskin's father chose his wife as someone who would be, to him, "subordinate forever" -- like his clerks; he was a man who ruled his household, and Ruskin's life and work, with ruthless egocentricity, destructively finding in his son his alter-ego as he sought to evade frustrations and insecurities generated by his early years in Edinburgh. Late eighteenth-century memoirs, Scottish records, letters of Ruskin's paternal grandmother, and other manuscripts combine to show how the actual characters of the parents were determined by their emotional experiences in the household of Ruskin's unstable Scottish grandfather, who violently opposed their consequently "secret" marriage, and by the suffering of Ruskin's father, particularly at the Royal High School, as the son of a grocer in a city memorable for its class consciousness and social snobbery. Through letters of the father we gain a true account of when he went to London and of how he founded Ruskin, Telford, and Domecq. Ruskin himself, through the cultural heritage transmitted by his parents, emerges as overwhelmingly a product of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Scotland: hence, in part, the title of my preliminary book,

"Ruskin's Scottish Heritage." That there is great need to approach Ruskin's life from the point of view of contemporaneous documents and without preconceptions based upon Praeterita and the work of Cook and Wedderburn I believe it amply shows.

MORE RESEARCH IN PROGRESS: CARLYLE'S LETTERS

Charles Richard Sanders (Duke) writes:

I am gathering the autograph letters of Thomas Carlyle on microfilm and photostats. I began this work in the summer of 1952 by visiting various libraries in Great Britain and by making arrangements with them by which I might receive copies of the letters. The most important collection, of course, is that which Froude and Alexander Carlyle used, almost 4,000 autographs, many still unpublished and many others published only in part, in the National Library of Scotland at Edinburgh. I also found numerous letters in private collections. Some are still on the market. In recent months I have been collecting letters which are in American libraries. Those which are in well-known institutions are easy to find; I shall be grateful for information concerning others. Up to now I have found about 8,500 letters.

My purpose is two-fold: (1) to assemble material for a book making a systematic study of Carlyle's portraits of his contemporaries; and (2) to prepare for an edition of Carlyle's complete letters which eventually I or some one else should see through the press. My primary purpose is the first one; whether or not I undertake the edition will depend in large part on how rapidly the work proceeds and the availability of funds for publication.

I am also making a check list of the published letters to study in relation to the autographs. Dyer's Bibliography was of course my starting point here.

BROWNING: AN APPEAL

The University of Alabama Press is considering the publication of a volume of articles "re-valuating" Browning. Contributions are invited. Send them to William C. Frierson, Box 2012, University, Alabama.

THE MIA CONFERENCE IN MINOR VICTORIAN FICTION

John E. Tilford, Jr. (Emory University) writes:

On Monday afternoon, December 28, 1953, at the MIA meeting in Chicago, some thirty-five members of the English X group gathered for a conference on research problems in minor Victorian Fiction. The discussion leader was Bradford A. Booth.

Mr. Booth opened the conference by reporting on some of the resources of the Sadleir Collection, now at UCIA (ca. 8,500 volumes, 1,000 yellowbacks, and 1,700 novels-in-series, if my notes are correct), and indicating authors who are especially well represented (e.g., Marryat, Frances Trollope, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Wood). Then

Gordon N. Ray told something of the fast-growing collection of Victorian novelists at the University of Illinois. Particularly impressive was his account of the procedures he followed during recent trips to England in acquiring for the library several thousand of the items on his want-list. Some of us were amused, astonished and probably dismayed at Mr. Ray's observation that about 40,000 or more original works of fiction were published in England during the nineteenth century.

Following discussion of these reports, the conference proceeded to examine some of the problems and needs for research in this area. The matters discussed were bibliographical problems--the need for surveys of Victorian fiction, including modes of publication, and for more useful classification of fiction by type and subject; critical problems--the kinds of individual studies that seem most profitable, and the particular need for continuing studies of technique in Victorian novels (form and structure, point of view, narrative methods) and of influences and relationships (notably with continental fiction); and briefly, because of the pressure of time, problems in biography and in background (publishers, reviewers, and audience).

The entire discussion was lively, informative, and altogether rewarding. It was especially valuable to participants who are not only trying to do research themselves but must direct graduate research in this area, and who often find themselves running dry in the face of eager master's and doctoral candidates. Mr. Booth is to be congratulated for begetting and organizing the conference.

There has been talk of making the conference a permanent institution, with next December's topic perhaps being "Methods of Biographical Research." All who participated in the discussion in Chicago, I have no doubt, very much hope that this conference can be included in the MIA program during the years to come.

FROM THE EDITOR'S MEMO PAD

Since the News Letter's editor receives no other recompense for his work, he feels free--in the absence of instructions to the contrary from the sponsors, the MIA English X group--to indulge occasionally a long-standing ambition to be a columnist. Once in a while, like most columnists, he vents an opinion. But he must emphasize that such editorializing never should be construed as reflecting the "policy" of the sponsors. The English X group has no policy (unless it be the scarcely controversial one of stimulating the study of Victorian literature), nor has the News Letter any ax to grind. Nevertheless, as noted on page 1, expressions of individual opinion on matters of general interest to researchers, critics, and teachers of Victorian literature are always welcomed.

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Some months ago a famous American university asked certain members of our group to list the "ten active men whom you consider to have the most outstanding academic ability in your field of specialized interest." (Women evidently were not eligible!) Since respondents were assured that their lists would be held in strict confidence, the results of the poll seemingly will not be affected by the current crusade to vindicate "Man's right to knowledge and the free use thereof." It is hardly uncommon, at least in academic circles, for the left hand not to know what the right hand is doing. But speculation on the identity of the ten men who got the most votes may well occupy Victorian specialists in their idle moments between classes.

The trouble, of course, lies in the weasel words, "academic ability." Effective teaching? If so--on what level, undergraduate survey courses or highly specialized graduate seminars? Prolific publication? If so--of what kind: research articles, critical essays, bibliographies, textbooks, notes in MLN? Regular participation in professional affairs, particularly in English X? These are familiar questions, of course; they come up every time a departmental committee attacks the problem of appointments and promotions in its own precincts. But they are seen in a new light when they are applied to men who enjoy a national reputation in their field. For then one asks, how did they get their reputations? Sometimes, as one weighs a certain name for inclusion in a list of outstanding scholars, he realizes that the candidate has been remarkable not so much for the quality of his scholarly publications as for his sheer persistence in breaking into print; or that he has distinguished himself more by getting named to MIA committees than by publication; or that, while he has done some excellent research in his field, he has a nationwide notoriety as a dreadful teacher.

Setting aside the questions of a man's effectiveness as a teacher and his activity in professional organizations, one feels that the primary element that leads--or should lead--to distinction in a field of literary studies such as our own is range of interest, humaneness of approach, sensitivity to the basic values of literature. The great Victorian scholar is the one who has cultivated both breadth and depth. He refuses to limit his sympathies and enthusiasms to one narrow area or figure. He can be excited by studying Carlyle's rhetoric as well as Tennyson's manipulation of sound effects; by tracing an intellectual attitude through the works of many Victorian writers as well as by steeping himself in the social atmosphere of Victorian England, from the Manchester tenements to the country houses of noble lords; by unravelling a bibliographical problem presented by a Victorian novelist as well as by discerning hitherto unrecognized relationships between Victorian literature and contemporary literature on the continent. He reads Bagehot and Kingsley and E. S. Dallas and Disraeli and Meredith and Wilde, if not with precisely the same gusto in every case, at least with perceptiveness and satisfaction; and he even has a good word to say for Swinburne. He is a demon researcher, tracking down every last extant letter by a great Victorian and cheerfully plowing through volume after volume of the London newspapers of the 'seventies; and at the same time he is a sensitive and eloquent critic, capable of making his readers share his delight in a poem of Christina Rossetti of which nobody, until he came along, had thought very much. He knows the whole of the vast and complex Victorian age, not only its literature but also its politics and religious and philosophical tendencies and its external appearance and social spirit, at least as intimately as he knows his own house. And, what is more important, he puts his store of knowledge to excellent use by interpreting its meaning to his own generation, enriching our understanding of Victorian literature and life.

That, hastily sketched, is the great Victorian scholar. Perhaps, come to think of it, that is the reason why at least one man had so much trouble selecting his nominees.

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This is the age of, among other things, news letters. The latest additions to the growing list of our "contemporaries" are news letters produced by, and addressed to, devotees of Hector Berlioz and Ezra Pound. Our sympathy goes to the already hard-pressed librarians who must catalog and preserve--bound or unbound--these modest little sheets. Not only our sympathy: our admiration, for some librarians, surely the most self-sacrificing of modern men and women, actually invite trouble by asking to be put on our mailing list. We are glad, of course, to oblige. If you want your library to receive the Victorian News Letter, write to the circulation manager (see front cover). But please--NOT to the editor!

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The other day a man in Fine Arts telephoned our office to ask whether the annals of American poetry contained "primitives" analogous to Grandma Moses in the field of painting. Neither of our office mates who specialize in American literature was available, and all we could think of were the names of Lydia Sigourney (who probably can't be called a "primitive," whatever the qualities of her verse), Julia Moore of Michigan, and our own favorite, J. Gordon Coogler of Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Coogler's chef d'oeuvre, Purely Original Verse, published in 1897, was celebrated by Christopher Morley in the Saturday Review of Literature for 16 January 1937. It contained, among other deathless lines, the following:

Alas for the South, her books have grown fewer,
She was never much given to literature

and There's a tide in the affairs of woman
 Which if taken at the eddy,
 Would make her life steady,
 And give her time to get ready.

Which set us to thinking: What about Victorian "primitives"? That the Victorians had a peculiar genius for turning out uproariously bad verse is well known. Tennyson excelled at the art: witness certain passages in "Maud," for instance--to say nothing of "O Darling Room." And Wyndham Lewis and Charles Lee, in their anthology of bad verse, The Stuffed Owl, offer many choice fragments from Victorian times: "Her smile was silent as the smile on corpses three hours old" (the Earl of Lytton); "Will you oftly/ Murrmur softly?" (Mrs. Browning); "When with staid mothers' milk and sunshine warmed/ The pasture's frisky innocents bucked up" (Alfred Austin); "I'd freely rove through Tempe's vale, or scale the giant Alp, /Where roses list the bulbul's tale, or snow-wreaths crown the scalp" (Eliza Cook). These, however, are the lapses of writers who presumably should have known better. Genuine "primitives" don't.

The bibliography of recent publications which follows these notes records a volume of "poetic gems" selected from the works of one William McGonagall, who seem to have been the sort of fellow we have in mind. Edmund Gosse once had a housemaid with poetical inclinations who contrived a quatrain which, as Gosse said, not only was bathos of the purest ray serene, but in addition contained "the statement of a profound astronomical problem"--the very same problem that Browning employs, to fine effect, in stanzas XVI-XVIII of "One Word More." (The text of this quatrain may be found, along with some superb passages from Alfred Austin, in Chapter IX of E. F. Benson's As We Were.)

The spread of popular education in Victorian England encouraged the rise of many unlettered, or at least unsophisticated, bards. Did they have the true gift of bathos, or were they merely dull? Can readers of the News Letter offer some samples of their work?

In fact, let's broaden the contest to include conspicuously bad Victorian verse, whatever its source, from the Laureate down to Joseph Skipsey, the collier-poet, who courted the music when he should have been tending his machinery. What lines do you nominate as the worst ever written in the Victorian period? Your answers will be held in no confidence whatsoever, so long as they are fit for the pages of this family periodical.

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Two other items in the bibliography in this issue deserve special mention, along with a third that was published earlier last year. All three are first-class contributions to the already rich and colorful literature of Victorian social history. One is James Dugan's The Great Iron Ship, the story of the incredible

career of the "Great Eastern" from the time she was built and launched, amid countless vicissitudes, down to her trip to the ship-breaker's. There are vivid portraits of such Victorian celebrities as the work-obsessed engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel; insights into the processes of Victorian speculative finance; suspenseful accounts of Atlantic cable-laying (can they retrieve the end of the broken cable from the ocean floor?); and fine crowd scenes. Parts of the book appeared in The New Yorker several months ago.

In The Reason Why, Mrs. Cecil Woodham-Smith returns to the milieu she exploited so successfully in her biography of Florence Nightingale--the Crimean War. To at least one reader, The Reason Why is a more gripping book than its predecessor. Its biographies of Lord Cardigan and Lord Lucan, martinets both, are masterpieces; in fact, the book is not to be recommended to anyone whose blood pressure has a tendency to rise when he deals with pathologically haughty, egocentric, despicable characters. The writing is as colorful as the battle dress of the cavalymen who dash to their fate at Balaclava. One may question whether the catastrophe of the Light Brigade can in fact be attributed directly to the unbalanced minds of Lucan and Cardigan and the acid enmity that had long existed between them. But that is a cavil which is almost forgotten as one reads Mrs. Woodham-Smith's unusual book.

On the infinitely quieter and more agreeable side is Gwen Raverat's Period Piece, the casual girlhood reminiscences of Charles Darwin's granddaughter. Most such books suffer from either of two weaknesses: dullness arising from the fact that both the author and her characters are utterly conventional, hence uninteresting; or artificiality arising from the author's anxiety to avoid portraying conventional people as conventional people. This book suffers from neither. Its characters, Darwins and their relations, are quite unexceptionable late Victorians. To an outsider they doubtless seemed stuffy. Yet Mrs. Raverat affectionately reveals their little eccentricities and inconsistencies; the moral being, perhaps, that to a gifted and witty observer of human behavior there is no such thing as utter conventionality. The more pervasive and obligatory a set of decorous standards is, the more likely it is to burst at the seams in numberless charming ways.

In any case, these three books, each so different from the others, are virtually required reading for the Victorian specialist. Not only do they help vivify his understanding of the social background against which literature was written: all three are very superior entertainment.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS: A SELECTED LIST

(Compiled by Francis G. Townsend (Ohio State))

GENERAL

Bibliography

Richard D. Altick, "English Publishing and the Mass Audience in 1852." Studies in Bibliography (1953-54), pp. 3-24. An analysis of the market for printed matter in the 'fifties. It was during this decade, roughly speaking, that there began to be a mass market. Serious writers and respectable publishers made little effort to produce for it at reasonable prices.

W. B. Clowes, Family Business, 1803-1953. William Clowes and Sons. Rev TLS (November 6), p. 716.

Kenneth E. Harper and Bradford A. Booth, "Russian Translations of Nineteenth-Century English Fiction." NCF (December), pp. 186-197. In the last century in Russia George Eliot and Dickens were the favorite English novelists, while for some unknown reason the works of Hardy remained untranslated, except for Tess of the D'Urbervilles. Between 1894 and 1944, no less than three million copies of Dickens' novels were printed in Russia. Why some novelists and some titles were translated while others were ignored is totally inexplicable on the basis of our present knowledge.

Ellic Howe, "Printing 'The Times'." TLS (December 18), p. 824. A good condensed account of the changes in newspaper production in the last century and a half, inspired by the second impression of the book Printing The Times Since 1785 (The Times Publishing Co.)

Bernard R. Jerman, "'With Real Admiration': More Correspondence between Melville and Bentley." AL (November), pp. 307-313. With sincere regret Richard Bentley was at last forced to tell Melville that his books, except for Omoo and Typee were not suitable for the English market.

Edward S. Lauterbach, "A Note on 'A Uniquely Illustrated "Cranford".'" NCF (December), pp. 232-234. Points out inaccuracies in an earlier article which described the "Drake Cranford" at the Huntington Library.

(See also under Brownings, Stephen.)

Criticism

Nils Erik Enkvist, "The Biglow Papers in Nineteenth-Century England." NEQ (June pp. 219-236. Lowell enjoyed an enormous vogue in England on the basis of this humorous work. His serious poems were dismissed as echoes of other greater poets.

James K. Robinson, "A Neglected Phase of the Aesthetic Movement: English Parnassianism." PMLA (September), pp. 733-754. In the early 'sixties only Morris, Swinburne, and Arnold were defenders of contemporary French literature. By the end of the 'seventies, French influence had contributed significantly to English Aestheticism, thanks to the poetry of Austin Dobson, the translator of Lang, Payne and Henley, and the criticism of Stevenson, Gosse, Saintsbury and Besant.

Ruth Zabriskie Temple, The Critic's Alchemy. Twayne Publishers. Rev VQR (Winter), pp. 158-160, by Arthur Kyle Davis, Jr. How Arnold, Gosse, Swinburne, Symons, and Moore reacted to French Symbolism, and what they did to acquaint their compatriots with it.

History

James Dugan, The Great Iron Ship. Harper & Bros. Rev NYTBR (January 24), p.7. The story of the Great Eastern, the ship which enthusiastic Victorians called "The Crystal Palace of the Sea."

Select List of British Parliament Papers, 1833-1899. "Parliamentary Papers Series." Vol. II. Compiled by P. Ford and Mrs. Ford. Blackwell. Lists 4500 papers selected for their importance.

Cecil Woodham-Smith, The Reason Why. Constable. Rev TLS (November 6), p. 703. The story of the charge of the Light Brigade, told in a double biography of Lords Lucan and Cardigan. A keen study of the relationship between the British army and British society.

Philosophy and Theology

- C. K. Francis Brown, A History of the English Clergy, 1800-1900. Faith Press. Rev TLS (January 1), p. 13.
- L. E. Elliott-Binns, The Early Evangelicals. A Religious and Social Study. Lutterworth Press. Rev TIS (November 13), p. 730.
- F. M. H. Markham, ed. and tr., Henri Comte de Saint-Simon (1760-1825). Selected Writings. Blackwell. Rev TIS (November 13), p. 719.
- Leslie Paul, The English Philosophers. Faber and Faber. Rev TLS (November 27) p. 765. Includes Beethoven, Mill, Darwin, Huxley and Carlyle; also J. H. Newman, F. D. Maurice and William Temple.
- J. S. Reynolds, The Evangelicals at Oxford, 1735-1871. A Record of an Unchronicled Movement. Blackwell. Rev TLS (January 8), p. 28.

Politics and Economics

- J. D. Bernal, Science and Industry in the Nineteenth Century. Routledge and Kegan Paul. Rev TLS (January 22), p. 61.
- Margaret Cole, Robert Owen of New Lanark. Batchworth Press. Rev TIS (January) pp. 1-2.
- S. Maccoby, English Radicalism, 1886-1914. Allen and Unwin. Rev TIS (September 25), p. 611.
- H. D. Schmidt, "The Idea and Slogan of 'Perfidious Albion'." JHI (October), pp. 604-616. The stereotype is traced from its beginnings in France during the Hundred Years War, to its systematic exploitation in Napoleonic propaganda, and then into the Völkische Beobachter. In the first half of the nineteenth century, Europeans remembered the term as a key part of Napoleon's propaganda, but by the end of the century it was in use as a bit of "common knowledge."
- Elisabeth Wallace, "Goldwin Smith, Liberal." TQ (January), pp. 155-172. A short account of the way in which a liberal of the old school came to seem an enemy of progress. Smith was born in England, 1823, emigrated to Canada in 1868, and lived to see George V take the throne. He contended that he was the last of the Philosophical Radicals.

Social

- Sir Ernest Barker, Age and Youth. "Memories of Three Universities" and "Father of the Man." Oxford University Press. Rev TIS (November 27), p. 758. This review contains a list of dons' autobiographies.
- E. Moberly Bell, Storming the Citadel. Constable. Rev TIS (September 18), p. 591. An account of the first efforts of women to enter the medical profession.
- Ronald Clark, The Victorian Mountaineers. Batsford. Rev TIS (January 15), p. 4

Percy Cradock and others, Recollections of the Cambridge Union, 1815-1939.
Bowes and Bowes.

William S. Dix, "The Hunting Library of Laurence Roberts Carton '07." PIC
(Autumn), pp. 43-45. The collection of 875 volumes includes many notable
nineteenth century items.

Leonora Eyles, The Ram Escapes. The Story of a Victorian Childhood. Peter
Nevill. Rev TIS (January 22), p. 55.

G. E. and K. R. Fussell, The English Countrywoman. A Farmhouse Social History,
A. D. 1500-1900. Andrew Melrose. Rev TIS (December 18), p. 820.

James Grant, Penny Theatres. From Sketches in London, 1838. Society for
Theatre Research. Members only. Rev TIS (October 30), p. 693.

Lady Emily Lutyens, A Blessed Girl. Memoirs of a Victorian Girlhood,
Chronicled in an Exchange of Letters, 1887-1896. Rupert Hart-Davis. Rev TIS
(October 23), p. 678.

Charles S. Sanders, The Strachey Family, 1588-1932. Their Writings and Literary
Associations. Duke University Press. Rev TIS (January 29), p. 73.

AUTHORS

Arnold

W. H. G. Armytage, "Matthew Arnold and T. H. Huxley: Some New Letters 1870-80."
RES (October), pp. 346-353.

Merle M. Bevington, ed., Matthew Arnold's England and the Italian Question.
To which is appended "Matthew Arnold and the Italian Question," by James Fitz-
james Stephen. Duke University Press. Rev TIS (January 1), p. 10.

Francis G. Townsend, "A Neglected Edition of Arnold's St. Paul and Protestantism.
RES (January), pp. 66-69. The second edition is more important than has been
generally recognized.

Arnold, Thomas

Norman Wymer, Dr. Arnold of Rugby. Robert Hale. Rev TIS (November 13), p. 719.

Austin, Alfred

Norton B. Crowell, Alfred Austin: Victorian. University of New Mexico Press.
Rev TIS (November 13), pp. 717-718. See also V. G. Milner in TIS (November 27)
p. 761, and C. Clive Murray in TIS (November 20), p. 743.

Barham

William G. Lane, "A New Letter and Poem by 'Thomas Ingoldsby'." BRIQ (October),
pp. 218-221. Publishes a letter from Barham to an unknown correspondent, which
contains the complete text of a poem hitherto known only as a fragment.

Borrow

Brian Vesey-FitzGerald, Gypsy Borrow. Dennis Dobson. Rev TIS (September 11),
p. 583.

Brontë, Emily

Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, Emily Brontë. Her Life and Work. Peter Owen.
Rev TIS (November 20), p. 739.

Brownings

Leslie N. Broughton, Clark S. Northup, and Robert Pearsall, Robert Browning: A Bibliography, 1830-1950. Cornell University Press. The fullest bibliography of the poet. The "biography and criticism" section alone contains 4,538 items. Over 2,000 letters are calendared.

James Patton McCormick, "Robert Browning and the Experimental Drama." PMLA (December), pp. 982-991. It is usually said that Browning failed at drama. It would be more proper to say that Victorian drama failed Browning. No company in existence in the 'forties could have produced Pippa Passes, which was the play that might have established a new drama.

Elizabeth Nitchie, "Browning's 'Duchess'." Essays in Criticism (October), pp. 475-476. Briefly traces the motif of the first person singular through the poem.

Johnstone Parr, "The Date of Composition of Browning's Love among the Ruins." PQ (October), pp. 443-446. Rejects January, 1852, as the date of composition, and suggests that the poem was written not earlier than 1853.

(See also under Donnett.)

Buchanan

George G. Storey, "Robert Buchanan's Critical Principles." PMLA (December), pp. 1228-1232. Points out that Swinburne and Rossetti hated Buchanan even before he launched his famous attack.

Bulwer-Lytton

Curtis Dahl, "Bulwer-Lytton and the School of Catastrophe." PQ (October), pp. 428-442. In this short survey of catastrophe as a subject for literature and painting in the early nineteenth century, Dahl identifies the picture which inspired Bulwer as "The Last Days of Pompeii," a popular painting by the Russian artist, Karl Bryullov.

Carlyle

Hill Shine, Carlyle's Early Reading, to 1834, with an introductory essay on his intellectual development. University of Kentucky Library.

Carroll

Roger Lancelyn Green, ed., The Diaries of Lewis Carroll. 2 vols. Oxford University Press. Rev NYTBR (February 28), p. 4, by W. H. Auden.

Dickens

J. Donald Adams, "Speaking of Books." NYTBR (November 1), p. 2. Reviews Edgar Johnson's explanation of the difference between the Victorian and the modern attitude toward Dickens' sentimentality, and sentimentality in general. In the light of history, it is our attitude, not Dickens', that is eccentric.

- Fred W. Boege, "Recent Criticism of Dickens." NCF (December), pp. 171-187. Surveys recent Dickens criticism from T.A. Jackson to Johnson. Dickens is no longer regarded as a shallow popularizer. Concludes that Edmund Wilson's brilliant portrait is becoming the current stereotype.
- K. J. Fielding, "Dickens and Cave: a Theatrical Anecdote." Dickensian (December), pp. 24-27. In June, 1866, All the Year Round contained disparaging remarks about the Marylebone Theatre. The manager, Joseph Arnold Cave, issued a broadsheet attributing the remarks to Dickens and implying that Dickens was drunk when he visited the theatre. Legal action followed, but nothing came of it.
- Michael Harrison, Charles Dickens. A Sentimental Journey in Search of an Unvarnished Portrait. Cassell.
- H. N. Maclean, "Mr. Pickwick and the Seven Deadly Sins." NCF (December), pp. 198-212. In The Pickwick Papers the inner circle of good characters easily repulses the assaults of the outer circle of bad characters. As Dickens grows older, the assaults of the outer circle grow stronger and threaten to overwhelm the inner bastion.
- Sylvère Monod, Dickens Romancier. Paris: Hachette.
- C. B. Patterson, Angela Burdett-Coutts and the Victorians. Murray. Rev Dickensian (October), pp. 153-155, by K. J. Fielding.
- Lionel Trilling, "Little Dorrit." Kenyon Review (Autumn), pp. 577-590. A reprint of the introduction to Little Dorrit in the new Illustrated Edition of Dickens.
- Frank Weitenkampf, "American Illustrators of Dickens." BPIQ (October), pp. 189-194. The best American illustrators have been F. O. C. Darley, Sol Eytinge, Jr. and John McLennan.
- Emlyn Williams, Readings from Dickens. Folio Society. Contains a foreword by Bernard Darwin on the first readings by Dickens himself.

Domett

- E. A. Horsman, ed., The Diary of Alfred Domett, 1872-1885. Oxford University Press. Rev TIS (October 9), p. 642. Principally of interest to Browning students.

Doughty

- John Holloway, "Poetry and Plain Language: The Verse of C. M. Doughty." Essays in Criticism (January), pp. 58-70. Doughty's poetry, though inferior and eccentric, provides an interesting test case for theories of poetic diction. At its best, it conveys the immediacy of sense perception, without relying on the common language of speech. But when Doughty is writing away from his own experience, or expressing conventional ideas, his poetry apes itself.

Eliot

- Henry James, "George Eliot's 'Middlemarch'." NCF (December), pp. 161-170. This review, originally published anonymously in the Galaxy (March, 1873) is here reprinted for the first time. "Middlemarch is a treasure-house of detail, but it is an indifferent whole."

Gilbert

Roger Wood, A D'Oyly Carte Album. A Pictorial Record of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas. Foreword by Bridget D'Oyly Carte. Black.

Gissing

Mabel Collins Donnelly, George Gissing, Grave Comedian. Harvard University Press

"Novelist of New Grub Street: George Gissing, 1857-1903." NYPLB (January), p. 48. This account of an exhibition of items from the Berg Collection lists some of the more important Gissing items now in the New York Public Library, such as his diary from 1888 to 1903 and the manuscripts of three of his novels

Hardy

Sydney Cockerell, "'Hardy After Fifty Years'." TIS (January 22), p. 57. As one of Hardy's executors, the author explains the circumstances of Hardy's burial in Westminster Abbey.

Evelyn Hardy, Thomas Hardy. A Critical Biography. Hogarth Press. Rev TIS (January 29), p. 67.

"Hardy After Fifty Years." TIS (January 15), pp. 33-35. A discussion of Hardy's poetry, especially The Dynasts, and the reasons why our generation seems better able than his own to judge it fairly.

Hopkins

W. H. Gardner, ed., Gerard Manley Hopkins. Penguin Books. Rev TIS (November 13) p. 730.

William Darby Templeman, "Hopkins and Whitman: Evidence of Influence and Echoes" PQ (January), pp. 48-65. Traces the actual and possible influence of Whitman on Hopkins. Internal evidence suggests that Hopkins's knowledge of Whitman's poetry was greater than his letters explicitly acknowledge.

Landor

R. H. Super, "Landor's American Publications." MIQ (December), pp. 360-374.

Lear

Angus Davidson and Philip Hofer, ed., Teapots and Quails. And Other New Nonsenses. John Murray. Rev TIS (November 20), p. 747.

Maitland

Henry Arthur Hollond, Frederic William Maitland 1850-1906. Selden Society Annual Lecture. Quaritch.

Mallock

P. J. Bindley, "'W. H. Mallock: A Present-Day View'." TIS (October 9), p. 645. Protests, with quotations from G. B. Shaw, against inclusion of Mallock's A Critical Examination of Socialism in a list of "outstanding" books. In TIS (October 16), p. 661, P. M. Yarker called Shaw's attack on Mallock "dialectical tactics" instead of logical argument. A considerable debate followed, for which see TIS (November 13), p. 725, and TIS (November 20), p. 743, and the leading article, "Thinking about Equality," TIS (December 4) p. 70.

McGonagall

Poetic Gems Selected from the Works of William McGonagall, Poet and Tragedian. With Biographical Sketch and Reminiscences by the Author, and Portrait. Duckworth. Rev TIS (January 29), p. 70. McGonagall, born in Edinburgh, 1830, was the most sensationally inept poet of Victorian times. He was a likeable fellow who achieved great fame as an unconscious clown.

Meredith

Walter Wright, Art and Substance in George Meredith. University of Nebraska Press.

Mill

Karl Britton, John Stuart Mill. Penguin Books.

Newman

James Bradley, ed., Newman, 1845-1852: The Honeymoon Years. An Anthology. Bradford: T. M. Woodhead's Succrs.

Pater

R. V. Johnson, "Pater and the Victorian Anti-Romantics." Essays in Criticism (January), pp. 42-57. The Quarterly Review opposed Pater as it had opposed the Romantics, on the grounds of common sense and an established morality based on tradition. Pater, on the other hand, stood for the fidelity of the artist to his own views and his own emotions.

Praed

Kenneth Allott, ed., Selected Poems of Winthrop Mackworth Praed. Routledge and Kegan Paul. Rev TIS (December 25), p. 832.

Robertson, T. W. et al

George Rowell, ed., Nineteenth Century Plays. Oxford University Press. Rev TIS (December 11), p. 796. See also George Rowell, "Nineteenth Century Plays," TIS (December 25), p. 833, in which the author explains the omission of Oscar Wilde from the collection and justifies reprinting Bulwer-Lytton's Money instead of one of his popular verse dramas.

Ruskin

Van Akin Burd, "Another Light on the Writing of Modern Painters." PMIA (September), pp. 755-763. The unpublished Ruskin diary for May-August 1862, now at Yale, indicates that the Fontainebleau aspen made little impression on Ruskin in 1842. Nor does the diary record any sudden determination to defend Turner. Praeterita probably romanticizes Ruskin's experiences of 1842.

Rutherford

Wilfred H. Stone, "The Confessional Fiction of Mark Rutherford." TQ (October), pp. 35-57. Interprets Rutherford's fiction as autobiographical. Both of his deepest needs, the need to believe, and the need to be loved, were frustrated. His fiction is an attempt to dissect and analyze his own personality.

Smith, Sydney

Nowell C. Smith, ed., The Letters of Sydney Smith. 2 vols. Clarendon Press. Rev TLS (December 11), p.800. See also TLS (December 18), p.817, and TLS (January 22), p.57

Stephen

Oscar Maurer, "Leslie Stephen and the Cornhill Magazine, 1871-82." University of Texas Studies in English (1953), pp. 67-95. A valuable article on Stephen as editor; his own contributions to the Cornhill, the problem of censorship, his relations with noteworthy contributors (Arnold, Hardy, Henry James, Gosse, Symonds, Henley, etc.)

Stevenson

Robert L. Sharp, "Stevenson and James's Childhood." NCF (December), pp.236-23. Explains a textual revision in James's "Art of Fiction" by reference to "A Humble Remonstrance," in which Stevenson delivered a thrust which the master could not parry.

Surtees

Lionel Gough, ed., Hunting Scenes from Surtees. Rupert Hart-Davis. Rev TLS (December 4), p.787.

Talfourd

William S. Ward, "An Early Champion of Wordsworth," PMLA (December), pp.992-1000. Concludes, after examining talfourd's early essays on the Romantic poets, that "Few critics in any age have judged their contemporaries, take them from first to last, as accurately as Talfourd did."

Tennyson

Milton Millhauser, "Tennyson's Princess and Vestiges." PMLA (March), pp.337-343. Tennyson knew Chambers' work, but Millhauser concludes that it was a precipitant, not a determinant factor in Tennyson's thought.

Alfred Tennyson, Poetical Works, Including the Plays. Oxford University Press. Rev TLS (January 22), p.56.

Thackeray

Edward F. Nolan, "The Death of Bryan Lyndon: An Analogue in 'Gone with the Wind'." NCF (December), pp.225-228. Traces the close similarities between the deaths of Bryan Lyndon and Bonnie Butler, another example of Thackeray's influence on Margaret Mitchell.

"Some Letters of Whitwell Elwin." TLS (September 18), p.604, and TLS (September 25), p.620. Account of informal meetings and conversations with Thackeray; mention of other literary and political figures such as Brougham, Milnes, and Dickens. Some of these letters appear as an appendix to Lady Emily Lutyens' A Blessed Girl.

Trollope, Anthony

Anthony Trollope, The Two Heroines of Plumplington. Andre Deutsch. Introduction by John Hampden; illustrated by Lynton Lamb. Rev TLS (December 4), p.785.

Raymond A. Nelson, "An Inconsistency in 'Barchester Towers'." NCF (December), pp. 234-236. Trollope carelessly allowed Mr. Slope's letter to be delivered to Eleanor Bold on two separate days two weeks apart.

Robert H. Taylor, "On Rereading Barchester Towers." PLC (Autumn), pp. 10-15. A delightful introduction to the best loved of Trollope's novels.

Trollope, Frances

Eileen Bigland, The Indomitable Mrs. Trollope. James Barrie. Rev TIS (December 18), p. 816.

PROJECTS -- REQUESTS FOR AID

Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. John Watson Cummins requests information on this Victorian novelist or on her son, William Babington Maxwell. TIS (September 4), p. 565.

Brown, Hannah. Clara B. Patterson plans a book about Mrs. Brown (nee Hannah Meredith), friend of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. TIS (October 30), p. 693.

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. Barbara P. McCarthy, now editing E.B.B.'s letters to Hugh Stuart Boyd, requests information about the location of Boyd's letters to Mrs. Browning and of any pictures of Boyd.

Dobson, Austin. J. H. P. Pafford suggests that manuscripts by or concerning Dobson be donated to the University of London, which now has the most important Dobson collection. TIS (October 30), p. 693.

"Israfel." Paul N. West requests information concerning "Israfel," identified by Halkett and Laing as a Miss Hudson. TIS (September 4), p. 565.

Mallock, W. H. Patrick Yarker plans a critical and biographical study of Mallock. TIS (October 30), p. 693.

Rossetti, D. G. Helen Rossetti Angeli requests information about the location of D. G. Rossetti's letters to Charles Augustus Howell; she would also like to know the location of Rossetti's painting "Bocca Baciata." TIS (October 30), p. 693.

Thomson, James. Lyman A. Cotten, planning a new edition of The City of Dreadful Night, asks about the location of manuscripts by or about Thomson and especially the manuscript of the poem used for the first printing in the National Reformer (1874). TIS (December 25), p. 833.

Wood, Mrs. Henry. Olga Somech Phillips asks for any letters, manuscripts or personal reminiscences as material for a projected biography. TIS (December 4), p. 781.