

MISS VIOLET OAKLEY'S MURAL DECORATIONS

BY HARRISON S. MORRIS



THE capitol building of the State of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg having been destroyed by fire, a new and costlier edifice was planned. There were competitive designs and a failure to agree, and finally the work fell into the competent hands of Mr. Joseph M. Huston, an architect whose dignified structure, well fitted for a rich and populous State, is nearing consummation. I believe it is due to Mr. Huston's loyal initiative that the artistic decorations of this massive building were assigned to artists of Pennsylvania birth; and when Edwin A. Abbey, John W. Alexander, George Grey Barnard, W. B. Van Ingen, Henry C. Mercer, and Violet Oakley are named it will be plain that there has been no sacrifice of quality to local pride.

To Miss Violet Oakley a commission was given for thirteen decorative panels, forming a frieze of heroic size for the governor's reception-room. They impressively celebrate "The Triumph of the Growing Idea of True Liberty in 'The Holy Experiment of Pennsylvania.'" Of the series six panels are now complete.

The dawn of the idea of religious tolerance is embodied in an unequal diptych, thirteen feet by eight, which represents the printing of William Tyndal's Bible at Cologne, and the smuggling of the New Testament into England. The second panel deals with the burning of the books at Oxford, and with the martyrdom of Tyndal. The third panel pictures Henry VIII granting permission for the sale of the complete translation, and the persecution of Anne Askew. The culmination of these events leads to a fourth large panel, undivided, and occupied by figures of charging

knights who embody the spirit of the Civil Wars. They gallop with impetuous speed toward a dawn just visible at the horizon. The march of enlightenment is carried onward in two smaller panels, seven feet square, which represent George Fox on his mount of vision, and William Penn in his study at Christ Church, Oxford—the college of Tyndal.

These six designs have been on view in the One Hundredth Anniversary Exhibition of Miss Oakley's Alma Mater, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. They have won for her a special gold medal from the academy, and have met with a reception which gives unmistakable evidence of a wide appeal. The treatment is simple, unaffected, original. It is as free from dependence on prescription as were the events it celebrates. The painter has found devices—not entirely new with her, but novel at least in application—for using men and women as accessories to design. No sacrifice of character or of action has been needed to bend the human figure into its subordinate place as a unit in a work whose aim is decoration, and whose every element must express that idea. The essential of mural decoration is flatness. The design must not make a hole in the wall, but must ornament it. Here the flatness is gained by no straining, no violence, but by simplicities of adjustment which escape the untrained eye and delight the elect.

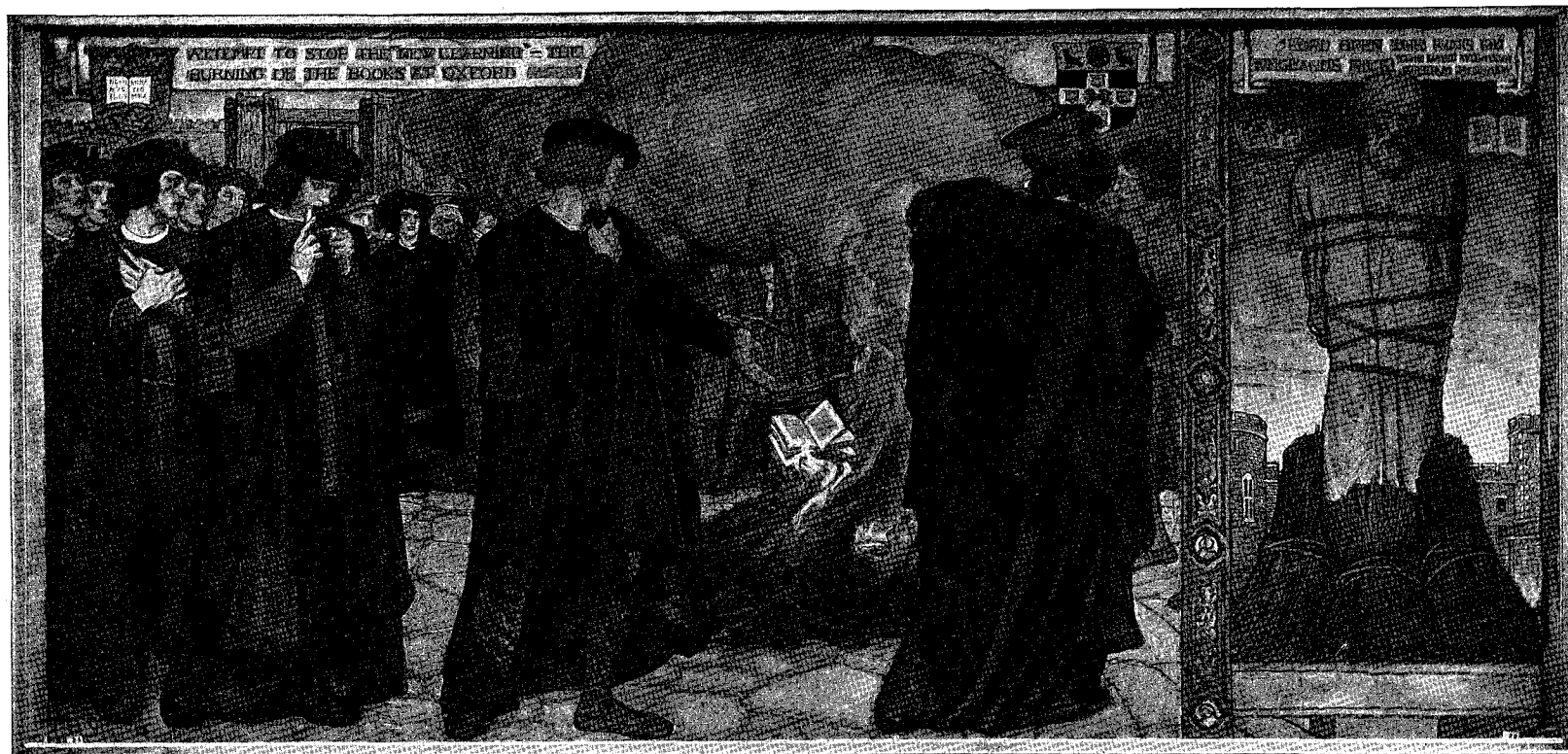
The color of Miss Oakley's series is an added grace which in itself would mark them for enduring admiration. The rich reds, greens, and golden yellows flow onward and interweave in an opulent harmony which arrests the attention even before the subject is asked or apprehended.



WILLIAM TYNDAL PRINTING HIS TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE INTO ENGLISH,
AT COLOGNE, 1525

SMUGGLING THE FIRST VOLUMES OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT INTO ENGLAND, 1526

Tyndal points to the passage, "Yea, the time cometh when whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." He was the first to supply England with the printed English Bible. He writes in his preface: "I perceived that not only in my Lord of London's palace, but in all England there is no room for attempting a translation of the Scriptures." The coat of arms in the corner of the design is that of Magdalen College, Oxford, where Tyndal is supposed to have studied the original Hebrew and Greek, from which his translation was taken direct.



THE BURNING OF THE BOOKS AT OXFORD IN THE FUTILE ATTEMPT TO STOP THEREBY THE
"NEW LEARNING," 1526

The coat of arms in the left-hand corner is that of Oxford University, "Deus illuminatio mea"; in the right-hand corner is that of Christ Church College, where the burning of the books took place (afterward William Penn's own college).

MARTYRDOM OF WILLIAM TYNDAL
AT VILVORDE, 1536

Tyndal's last words were, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."



THE ANSWER TO TYNDAL'S PRAYER

THE MARTYRDOM OF ANNE ASKEW

Henry VIII granting permission that the complete translation is "to be sold and read of every person without danger of any ordinance hitherto granted to the contrary."

Followed by the persecution of all who read *and began to think for themselves*, exemplified by the martyrdom of Anne Askew, a type of the women who also were ready to die for the truth, saying, "Rather deathe than false to faythe." 1547.

BOYS IN THE UNION ARMY

BY GEORGE LANGDON KILMER



“THE war was fought by boys,” is a remark often heard at Grand Army camp-fires. It usually falls from the lips of veterans with whom time appears to have dealt kindly. Another form of expression is that the ranks were filled with young men the majority of whom had never cast a vote. This last is very close to literal truth, and the first is not an extravagant claim.

There are ample data to prove that the average age of the Union soldiers upon enlistment was not beyond the period commonly called boyhood. Of course this term is relative. A young man of twenty-two or twenty-five, doing man's work,—and soldiering is man's work,—is, by courtesy, spoken of as a boy. The compliment tends to ennoble his deeds. Trustworthy tables of averages show that the mean age of the soldiers of the Union army upon enlistment was twenty-five. This figure may be too high by half a year.

In fixing the average at twenty-five the ages of those recorded as eighteen and twenty-one upon enlistment were assumed to be correct, yet it is evident that tens of thousands, perhaps during the whole war over one hundred thousand recruits, gave in their ages as eighteen when they were not seventeen, many not even sixteen. The legal age was eighteen, and whenever an applicant swore to a paper giving that as his age, there were no questions asked, as a rule, by the mustering officer, provided the stature and general appearance of the youth gave color to the statement.

Statistics relating to the ages of Union soldiers were prepared during the war under the auspices of the Sanitary Com-

mission, and the results were published in a memoir by Dr. B. A. Gould. From the tables in Dr. Gould's work the above average is taken. The matter of false ages stated by boys under eighteen seems to have escaped the attention of the statistician, although he noticed and explained the unusual proportion of ages set down at twenty-one. Boys of twenty and strapping lads of nineteen were desirous of being classed as men, and so in all rolls and in all aggregations of ages from various sources those put down at twenty-one greatly outnumber those at twenty and twenty-two. This is significant when the tables of ages from eighteen upward to twenty-five and thirty are considered. The numbers at twenty and twenty-two are about equal; those at twenty-one stand a third higher than either.¹ Probably 200,000 recruits overstated their ages a year or more, and from 250,000 to 300,000 years should be deducted from the grand aggregate of ages in order to reach the correct average.

Dr. Gould's statistics resulted from the examination of the records of a little over a million soldiers. No selection was made of the rolls; they were taken up one by one, until the War Department refused the examiners further access to the files. The records examined covered every year of recruiting, and included those of regiments from every State and in all arms of the service. They were fairly representative of the 2,800,000 enlistments recorded during the war. They show over 400,000 soldiers enlisted at twenty-one and under in 1,000,000, or about 1,100,000 for the entire army. (The number recorded at eighteen and under in 1,013,273 was 143,888. That percentage, applied to the whole

¹ Sometimes a recruit much under twenty-one—even two or three years—stated his age as twenty-one, in the belief that otherwise the consent of parent or guardian would be exacted. If the applicant appeared to be not less than eighteen, the recruiting officer would record the age given in.