

WHEN THE READER WRITES

To these pages, indeterminate and varying in number, we hope our friends will help themselves. The department under this heading is theirs, though the editor must hold on to his right of selection and rejection, for that is what makes an editor an editor; it is his blessed privilege, his compensating reward, his ego's first aid.

We shall be glad to hear from our subscribers, from the casual news-stand patron, from that always interesting and thoughtful citizen who finds repose and refreshment in the public library's reading-room.

The columns are open to all who feel the urge to approve or disapprove, to indorse or take issue with a contributor's stand or statement or to add a fact or a fancy of his own.

THE CENTURY is not, in the technical sense, a magazine of controversy. It does not plan to present in one issue articles on both sides of the fence; pay your money and take your choice. But it does present subjects on which intelligent opinion may well differ, and on these we hope our readers will express themselves, remembering that as "the bravest are the tenderest" so the briefest are the best.

THE EDITOR.

My dear Editor,

Your readers interested in Hugh Kennedy's "As the Angels Which Are in Heaven"—the June CENTURY—may wish to pursue the subject further. An opportunity to do so, from various angles, is afforded by Popenoe's "Modern Marriage," John Trevena's "Matrimony," Keyserling's well advertised "Book of Marriage" and Carpenter's two chapters on the subject in his "Love's Comedy of Age." But before accepting Mr. Kennedy's seeming dictum that all change is *per se* progress and to be welcomed, and, particularly all suggested modern substitutes for marriage, let your readers thinking on the subject have the benefit of what another English writer has said on the same subject, a writer who also believes in progress, in freedom and in desirable change. I refer to Maude Royden, especially to her chapter on "Love the Creator" in her magnificent little volume "Beauty in Religion." Her article on "Marriage" in the

"Atlantic" during 1923 was too progressive for some of the British journals but it has not the possible implications of Mr. Kennedy's. And, by the way, what a splendid anchor to windward for youth who would make a religion of all beauty, especially pagan beauty, is this little book of Miss Royden's on "Beauty in Religion."

Sincerely,

JOHN BOYNTON KAISER,
Librarian, Oakland, California

En Route—Wyoming.

My dear Editor,

Really, THE CENTURY to-day seems almost the last stand for good writing among the magazines of this country; and of course by good writing I mean all that that implies—free yet condensed, controlled thought, and abreast the times. Frankly, I hadn't realized this before, though I am ever conscious of the difficulty of writing

well. That story "Orpheus" is splendid, vivid, to be mentioned along with a picture of another sort, "Down on the Levee."

Congratulations but no answer, please. Use the time and paper to write some of your famous author-contributors and advise them that good writing is the product of rewriting.

Yours sincerely,
W. S. H.

Allerton House, New York.

"Are Women Inferior?" by Louis E. Bisch. I enjoyed his clear-cut views on this subject of great interest. "Mademoiselle" by Elizabeth Finley-Thomas, was to me the best story in this issue of THE CENTURY. Its pathetic and tragic theme certainly stirs the reader mightily. As I said before, your magazine has impressed me greatly.

Sincerely yours,
SAM ZIEVE.

Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Editor,

The flight to Paris, now in all the world's mind, seems a tremendous foot-note—or head-line!—to the memorable article "A Chair in Alcohol" in THE CENTURY for January, 1926. You remember that Professor Sharp said, "If this is a mechanical age, it must perforce be a dry age," and "If anybody is to blame it is the Wrights and their ilk." And Charles Lindbergh, now the hero of all youth everywhere, is as "dry" as his plane. Prohibition has us, not we it.

I am glad the article was written.

Sincerely yours,
ELIZABETH R. HUNT.

Evanston, Illinois.

My dear Editor,

How tardy I am to make mention at this time how Will Durant's article, "The Modern Woman," moved me! It is the price I pay for not being able to buy and read regularly every good magazine. But I did get around to it yesterday. I am profoundly moved by Dr. Durant's observations. I think his philosophical ways cause him to set out some nice distinctions that will not only make the thinking continue to think but will make a few of the unthinking think. I am grateful for the bit of plea he makes for a return to "home." I have five children of my own to lure me back whenever I get too far away. I know the pull.

Yours truly,
MARVIN M. WALTERS.

Green Bay, Wisconsin.

My dear Editor,

Our mutual friend, Frederick Simpich, and I were lunching together to-day when our conversation turned on the relative merits of various magazines. I mentioned the marvelous improvement, in my judgment, in THE CENTURY, and how much I had enjoyed "Those Quarrelsome Bonapartes." He told me of the friendship between you; and so I am taking the liberty of dropping you a line to tell you of the wonders I think you have wrought in THE CENTURY, as I assume you are sufficiently human to be gratified to know that your work and efforts are appreciated.

Very truly yours,
(MAJOR) A. S. LANIER.

Washington, D. C.

My dear Editor,

Bothering editors with bouquets or brickbats is something I never do. At least I do not recall having done it before. In fact, I am not a regular reader of THE CENTURY, but a day or so ago when I saw it on the news-stand featuring the name of William E. Dodd on the cover, I could not resist buying it at once and hastening home to a quiet corner. I consider his article on the "Rise of Abraham Lincoln" even better than those of several months past on the political rise of Andrew Jackson, and that is saying quite a bit. For one, I hope that other articles will follow the present series and I cannot feel that I am alone in such hopes.

And while I'm writing, let me add that Brigadier-General Reilly's article on national defense is excellent. He has the right idea.

Very truly yours,
JAS. D. HILL.

River Falls, Wisconsin.

My dear Editor,

I have just finished reading the April issue of CENTURY and must confess that I am well pleased with it. The article that impressed me most was

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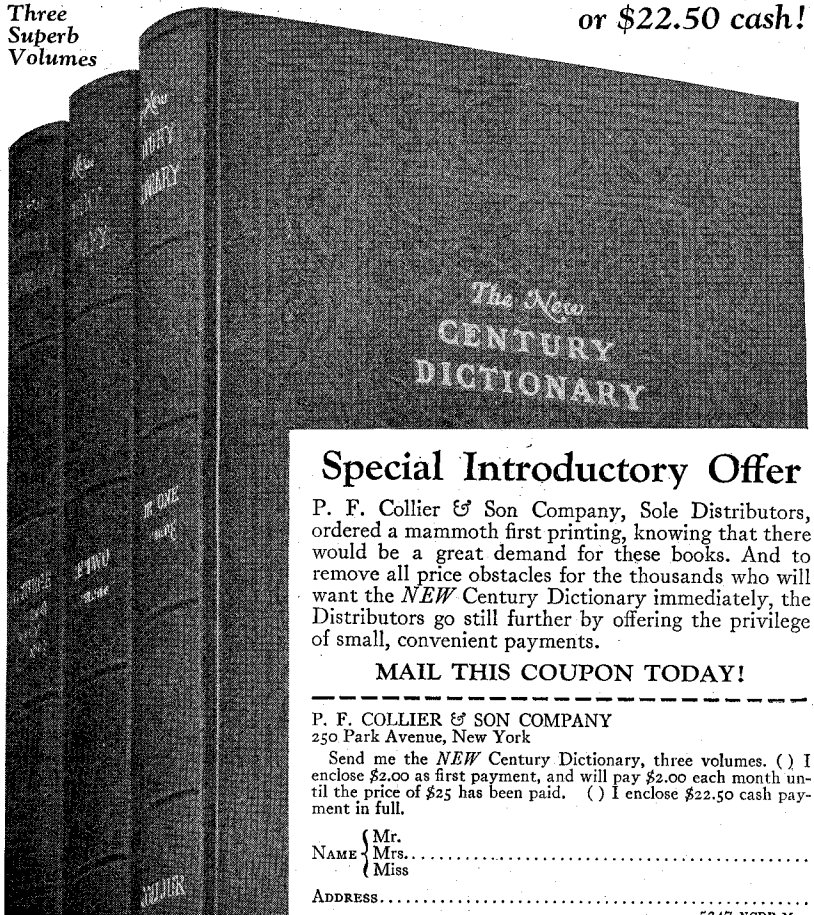
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