

that Roosevelt, and other Americans who thought like him, had long abandoned that side of the Monroe Doctrine which deprecated active participation in the political affairs in Europe. But his treatment of the subject is again so highly impressionistic that it can hardly be said to be impressive and convincing.

If the book as a whole suffers from this failure to analyze critically the basic facts of Roosevelt's public life, there is no denying, however, that it is to be welcomed as a delightful and generous understanding of a man who was thoroughly American and beloved of his fellow countrymen.

### WHITE PEACOCK

HAROLD VINAL

In his tall cage the peacock struts a king  
Prouder than Solomon and arrayed as bright;  
He will not lift his moony wings in flight  
But holds them sidewise and walks in a ring.  
Into the dirty pool the small ducks dive,  
Unmindful of his stupid arrogance;  
The leopards snarl, the merry bear cubs dance—  
He in his pomp is glad to be alive.

The antic monkeys end their petty chatter,  
Suddenly a hungry lion groans,  
The dark slips down the iron of his bars,  
A golden moon creeps over the smooth stones.  
He lifts his moon of ivory; what matter  
That there are none to watch, he has the stars.



*The editors welcome brief letters from readers relating to any topics discussed by FORUM contributors; or to any views expressed in these columns.*

## THE MONROE CONTROVERSY

In attempting to celebrate in this issue the centennial of the Monroe Doctrine, THE FORUM has been fairly deluged with letters. They represent so many points of view about the Doctrine that they would overcrowd the Rostrum, and, instead, a selection from these letters will be published as a separate article in the January FORUM.

Both writers in this issue agree that the pure doctrine as promulgated by President Monroe one hundred years ago has been of inestimable service to the Americas and an effective instrument of civilization. It is when they come to the expansion of the doctrine that they exhibit a wide divergence of opinion. Even here they represent but two of many points of view. There are those who go farther than General Sherrill in wishing to extend the influence of the United States over Latin America, while others ask, if European colonies to the South of us are to cease altogether, are we the rightful proprietors, or the colonies themselves, or the Latin States bordering on them?

Those who cavil at our policing backward states must remember that the results often justify what seemed to them at the time a fantastic outrage. Who of us would erase the Panama Canal? What our South American friends are jealous of is not our efficiency but their own lack of participation in and sanction,—if only as a matter of form,—of our acts. Perhaps some future President will give his name to a new doctrine, whereby

Uncle Sam in his rôle of policeman of the Western Hemisphere will become the friendly representative rather than the self-imposed champion of his Latin-American neighbors.

One of the most graphic gestures of goodwill in Pan-American relations this month is the suggestion made to President Coolidge by Wilbur P. Thirkield, Methodist Episcopal Bishop in Mexico City, that we now abolish the forts along the border and turn the investment thus released into scholarships for Mexican students in our universities.

## THE PHILIPPINES NEXT

The constructive suggestion of reorganization in the Philippines put forward by Cecilia Farwell in the November issue has in the main met with a very favorable reception. Many letters have been received, reflecting many points of view in regard to this problem, but a very small percentage advocate the abandonment of our trust in the islands. Below are given extracts from a selection of typical expressions of opinion:

## BEST PLAN SO FAR

*Editor of THE FORUM:*

Until there shall be something in the way of a league of nations, or world court, functioning effectively,—effectively, I say,—there is no good and sufficient reason for thinking that the Philippines, if granted their independence, would be able to keep it very