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Sweetheart, God finished up the earth,
I think, in April, called it very good,
Heaven blest, heaven sent,
Yield, you must, to springtime's rapture mood.

From *The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis, Tenn.) we take this strong and timely poem. It is the work of the late Walter Malone, of Memphis, a poet known widely by his always popular "Opportunity." "In Praise of Righteous War" was written a few weeks before Judge Malone's death and did not appear in print in this country before its recent publication in *The Commercial Appeal*.

IN PRAISE OF RIGHTEOUS WAR

BY WALTER MALONE

I am coming not in a weakling's verse, with a
milk-sop's feeble whine,
With uplifted hand and with soft-voiced drawl,
aghast at the battle-line;
But I come to praise the fight that is fought for
the sake of Truth and Right,
The fight that is fought for God and for Home,
that will mate the Right with Might.

Yes, patience is good, and humility, too, and so
is the pipe of peace;
But the time will come when forbearance ends,
and your sugary smiles must cease;
Then either your hand must grip at your gun and
brighten the sword from its rust,
Or your slavish neck must bend to the yoke, and
your mouth must chew the dust.

You must fight for the fire that toasts your feet,
for the roof that shelters your head,
For the herd that yields you its milk or meat,
for the field that gives you bread;
You must fight for bed, you must fight for board,
for the woman you love the best.
And, Oh, you must fight with a tenfold will for the
baby at her breast.

When a mad dog comes down your village street,
with the green foam in his jaws,
Do you greet him with Bibles and hymn-books,
and lovingly bid him pause?
When a rattlesnake rises amidst your path, alert
with its fiery sting,
Do you pet him, and pat him, and wish him well,
and a song of welcome sing?

When a big-armed bully among the Powers says
the folk of a little land
Must sprawl in the dirt and confess to a crime
that never besmirched their land,
Do you blame that people that rises up a pigmy
ready to fight,
A David aroused, with only a sling, defying
Goliath's might?

When a vain war-lord with a swollen head,
inflamed with a brute desire,
Through a little State that was lapped in peace
comes tramping with blood and fire
Despoiling the fields and looting the towns—do
you blame that blameless state
For rousing in Godlike righteous wrath and
hitting with righteous hate?

And war is the great Arouser; it silences whimpering
tongues;
It toughens the muscles, it hardens the fist, and
brings fresh air to the lungs;
Tho it comes with torch and it strikes with steel,
and shortens life's petty span,
That life it exalts to heroic heights, so a man is
twice a man.

Yes, patience is good, and so is peace; but he is
not worthy of good
Who will not rush forth when the spoiler comes to
defend it with his blood;
When that spoiler comes with his bandit crew to
shatter with shot and shell,
Let the good man rise, with a fervent prayer, and
give him hell for hell!

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS

In deference to some hundreds of requests from subscribers in many parts of the country, we have decided to act as purchasing agents for any books reviewed in *THE LITERARY DIGEST*. Orders for such books will hereafter be promptly filled on receipt of the purchase price, with the postage added, when required. Orders should be addressed to Funk & Wagnalls Company, 354-360 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

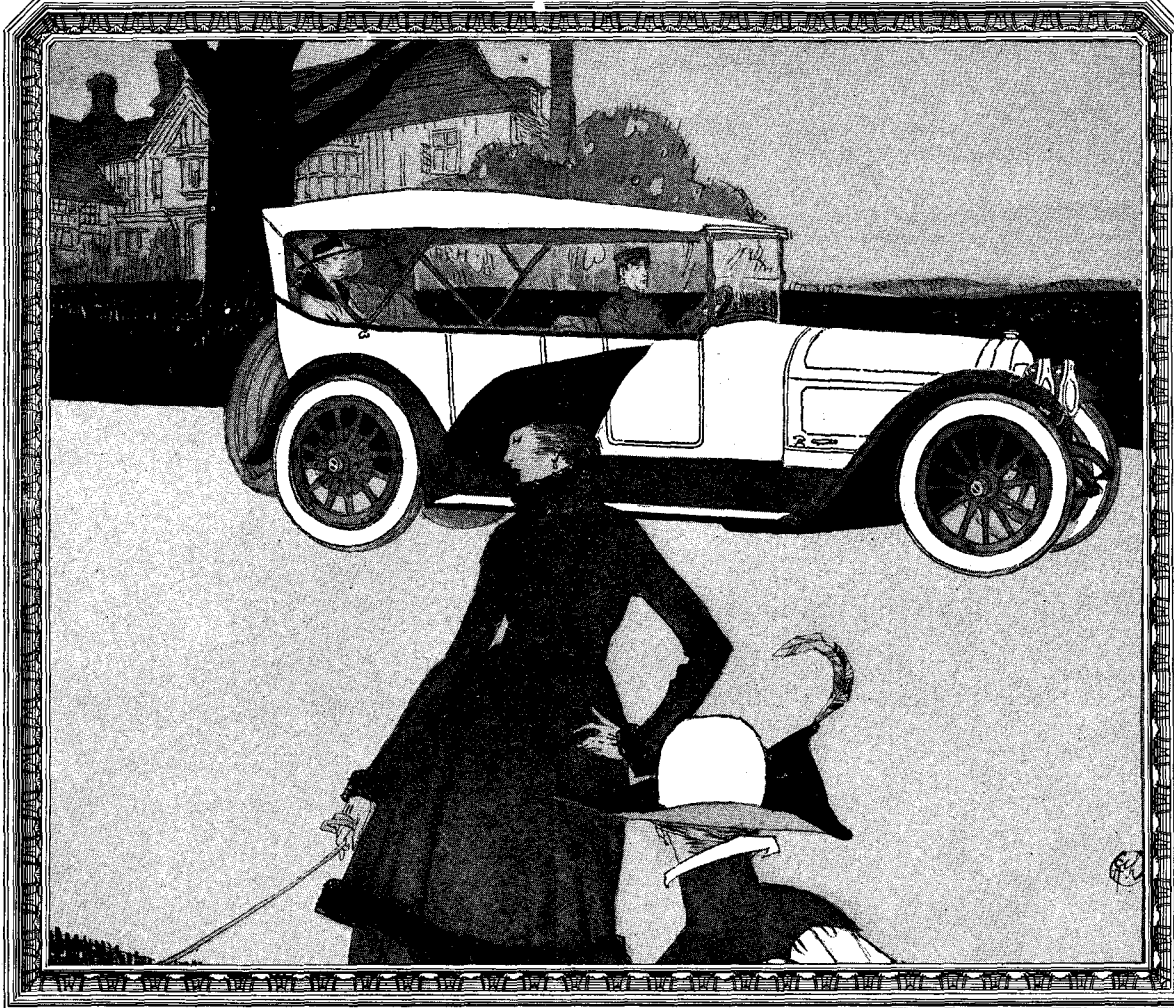
THE PRESENT WAR AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Hazen, Charles Downer. *The French Revolution and Napoleon*. With Maps. Octavo, pp. iv-385. New York: Henry Holt & Co. \$2.50. Postage 14 cents.

The rewriting of the most dramatic chapter of modern history was suggested to Professor Hazen by the striking resemblances which he found between certain phases of the French Revolution and the present world-war. Dissenting from the maxim that "history repeats itself," he suggests the interesting counter-maxim that it is rather "the problems of history" which repeat themselves. One of these problems, he maintains, relates to the conception of the maintenance of a certain balance of power as being essential to European freedom. More than once this balance of power has been threatened, and each time "Europe has purchased immunity from servitude by giving freely its life-blood that life might remain and be worth living." The author observes in his preface that for us, "caught as we are in the current of a world-war," there is much instruction to be derived from the study of the similar crises which occurred a century ago.

To arrive at any valid understanding of the unprecedented events now taking place in the world, Professor Hazen insists, it is essential to know the history of the French Revolution, "a movement which inaugurated a new era, not only for France but for the world." The years from 1789 to 1815, he says, effected "one of the greatest and most difficult transitions of which history bears record." To gain any real conception, however, of the significance and far-reaching consequences of the social and political upheaval which took place in France one hundred years ago, it is necessary to ascend still further the stream of history. Parliamentary representation, the corner-stone of popular freedom, had its roots, as the author points out, not in France, but in England. To England must be ascribed no small portion of the heritage of political freedom which has descended to the peoples of to-day. Early in the eighteenth century, declares the author, England was "a commercial and colonial empire of the first importance." That century, "a most momentous one in English history," witnessed, we are told, events of far-reaching and permanent importance to the world. It was an epoch that was made memorable "by three great series of events which in important respects transformed England's national life and her international relations, giving them the character and tendency which have been theirs ever since."

"Then their streams of tendency or lines of evolution out of which the modern power of Britain has emerged were: the acquisition of the most valuable parts of her colonial empire, Canada and India; the establishment of the parliamentary system of government of the nation by its representatives, not by its royal house, the undoubted supremacy of parliament over the Crown, and the beginnings of



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what is called the Industrial Revolution, that is, of the modern factory system of production on a vast scale which, during the course of the nineteenth century, made England easily the chief industrial nation of the world."

The chapter, some fifty pages long, entitled "The Old Régime in Europe," presents an interesting, timely survey of the eighteenth century, then in the throes that were to result in the birth of liberty for the peoples. We get from this long chapter the impression that the eighteenth century deserves to stand out in history in letters of light, marking, as it does, the epoch when human liberty passed from the shadowy region of the ideal into the actual facts of life. The excess of light which the Revolution cast over France blinded historians for a long time to the full meaning of the central event in modern history. The impression that first held ground was that the cataclysm of 1789 was something isolated. But now it is well known to have been merely the explosion of widespread subterranean fires. Admiration of Voltaire, Raynal, and Rousseau as pontiffs of the Revolution is pitched in the familiar strident key, but a writer so advanced as Renan has rated them rather low, especially the first.

FREQUENTLY MISPRONOUNCED WORDS

Vizetelly, Frank H. (Litt.D., LL.D.). *A Desk-Book of Twenty-five Thousand Words Frequently Mispronounced*. Cloth; pp. 942. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co. \$1.60 net. Postage, 12 cents.

Here is a work for which there should be large use, both by the cultured and the unlettered, for it settles, so far as it ever can be settled, the difficult question of English pronunciation, citing an imposing array of authorities for every form given. It covers a very wide field, for it not only gives the pronunciation of the more difficult English words, of many foreign terms, of Bible and geographical names, and of personal and proper names of all kinds current in literature, science, and the arts, but it includes all the more familiar English words that are likely to prove stumbling-blocks to the non-English-speaking settler in, or visitor to, our country, this last being a unique feature. Not only are the pronunciations recorded, but each term needing explanation is concisely defined and, wherever necessary, orthoepic and historic notes, or quotations illustrating usage, are appended. In each case the individual preferences of all the principal dictionaries of the English language are recorded, from Bullokar's "English Expositour, or Compleat Dictionary," issued in 1616, to "Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary," published in 1915. National peculiarities are indicated and explained.

Containing as it does the recommendations of the leading lexicographers of three centuries, the volume presents what must be the most complete consensus of English pronunciation ever compiled. The author has earned the gratitude of all who speak or attempt to speak the Anglo-Saxon tongue by laborious researches into the mysteries of our frequently illogical pronunciation. In an entertaining preface the doctor pays respects in truly Shavian style to the self-satisfied class, both here and abroad, who know "that the pronunciation they have is the best which exists," to the actor who takes liberties with the language, to the university prig who sets