

that would bide it out, and continew with them. For many . . . could not endure yt great labor and hard fare, with other inconveniences which they underwent and were contented with." (Jovo recalled the words of a Slavic leader who had said "my people do not live in America; they live underneath America.")

" . . . as necessitie was a taskmaster over them, so they were forced to be such—in a sorte, to their dearest chlldren—(who) were, often times, so oppressed with their heavy labours, that though their minds were free and willing, yet their bodies bowed under ye weight of ye same, and became decreped in their early youth."

But neither the hard labor of adults through long hours in the textile industries of Leyden, nor even the pathetic ravages of child labor, exhausted the burdens borne by the immigrant Pilgrims. Like all immigrants, they saw the chasm widening between them and their children, who, with the facility of youth were able quickly to slip on a new language and new ways. Assimilation, that inevitable consequence of immigration, was already beginning to spell juvenile delinquency among the English immigrants in Holland just as it does today in our foreign quarters.

Jovo read on, and his quiet eyes grew grave as he thought of the temptations awaiting his own sons and daughters: "But that which was more lamentable and of all sorowes most heavie to be borne, was that many of their children, by these occasions, and ye great licentiousness of youth in yt countrie, and ye manifold temptations of the place were drawne away by evill examples into extravagante & dangerous courses, getting ye raines off their neks, & departing from their parents. Some became souldiers, other tooke upon them farr viages by sea, and other some worse courses, tending to dissoluteness & the danger of their soules, to ye great greefe of their parents and dishonour of God. So that their posteritie would be in danger to degenerate . . ."

Jovo sat for a time in deep thought, his wistful eyes fixed on a chair where a toy or two and some children's clothes were heaped confusedly. Suddenly he clenched his fist and would have struck the table, but instead he began to speak abruptly, his tense arm still lifted, "We fought with brigands in the mountains, and with God's help, we drove back the Turk—we would not fear the savage any more than they. O, Pastor John Robinson, would that you could point my people to a new and fresh America with only bitter winds and hunger and red Indians to fight against . . . my boys should never know the reeking hell of these mills and the rotten dens down the river; my girls should never breathe the dust of the tobacco factory nor

answer those greasy devils that try to flatter them. As you fled from Holland, would that we could flee and save our children and our religion, as you saved yours, in the wilderness. Maybe some of us can go—maybe there is still a clean fresh country for our children's children." He closed the book and patted it affectionately. Presently he began absently to untie his shoe, soliloquizing sleepily. The lamp cast distorted shadows about the room. To Jovo it seemed like a ship's lantern lighting uncertainly the recesses of a low-ceiled cabin. The sound of heavy breathing continued to come through the open window. The Pilgrim company was all asleep. . . . He stood up stiffly and yawned.

Up the river the mills were still glaring at the pale midnight stars.

ERVILLE BARTLETT WOODS.

Most Favored Nation

SIR: The Treaty of Peace with Germany contains a provision which is somewhat puzzling and might even be regarded as what in legislative parlance is called a "joker." I refer to the provision concerning most favored nation treatment. The joint Resolution of Congress approved on July 2nd declares in substance that all German property in the hands of the American government shall be retained until the German government shall, among other things, have granted to persons owing permanent allegiance to the United States most favored nation treatment ("whether the same be national or otherwise"—whatever that may mean) in all matters affecting residence, business, profession, trade, navigation, commerce, and industrial property rights. By the Treaty Germany undertakes to accord to the United States all the advantages specified in this Resolution. The declaration of the Resolution is part of its fifth section, which was added in conference, and the most favored nation clause was apparently not discussed in connection with the conference Report either in the House or in the Senate.

To the casual reader it might appear that Germany had agreed to enter into a species of economic bondage to the United States such as in the past has been imposed only upon Oriental nations (China, Turkey, Siam, etc.). As the term has been most generally interpreted, the clause means that whatever advantage is conceded to any nation, automatically enures to the benefit of the most favored nation; and such a stipulation is usually a matter of reciprocity, and not, as in the present case, or in the Oriental cases, one-sided.

The peculiar point, however, is that the government of the United States has always stood for a more restricted interpretation of the clause, according to which only those advantages can be claimed by the most favored nation, which the other nation grants to a third nation gratuitously, not those which it grants for a reciprocal advantage. Nor would the United States, in an early case, admit the contention of France, that she was entitled to unconditional favor, because she had paid for the clause by the cession of Louisiana. The United States replied that if France were granted a privilege which another country obtained only by reciprocal concession, "she would be placed not only on the footing of the most favored nation, but on a footing held by no other nation." The American view is that when not otherwise defined, most favored nation treatment covers only gratuitous privileges to others, if demanded gratuitously. The matter is fully treated in the volume on Reciprocity and Commercial Treaties, published by the United States Tariff Commission in 1919, p. 389.

If the United States is held to its own historic interpretation of a phrase which it has chosen itself, the clause amounts to little more than that Germany may exercise no special discrimination against the United States. This is as it should be; but it may be surmised that the intent of the author of the clause was further reaching. The matter is bound to become of importance at some time, and I should like to see it discussed by some one more competent than I am.

ERNST FREUND.

Chicago, Illinois.

After the Play

The Circle

MR. SOMERSET MAUGHAM is the successor of Arthur Pinero and Henry Arthur Jones in the modern English comedy of manners. As the curtain goes up on *The Circle* at the Selwyn Theatre one thinks of Mrs. Tanqueray, and *Mid Channel*, and *The Liars*. There is the English country house, where Arnold Champion-Cheney, M.P., and his young wife Elizabeth are expecting embarrassing visitors. These are Arnold's mother, Lady Kitty, and Lord Porteous with whom she ran away thirty years before. She ran away in her girlish beauty and passion; she returns a worn, faded harridan, trying vainly to recapture her charm with paint and affectation. And Lord Porteous, who might have been Prime Minister, is likewise a ruin. He loses his teeth and his temper by turns, and finds his only refuge in drink. Arnold's father, the technically injured husband, adds to the embarrassment by appearing and lingering on the scene, to enjoy his triumph.

Elizabeth does not love her husband, and does love Teddy Luton, who wants to carry her off to the Straits. As a modern wife she tells her husband frankly that she is going to leave him. Two ways of saving her are apparent. One way is for Arnold to be magnanimous, to set her free, to assure her that he will sacrifice his parliamentary career and give her grounds of divorce, to promise to settle £2,000 a year on her. This is the way of *The Lady From the Sea*. Arnold's father tells him it will work. It always did on the Victorian stage. The other is for Lady Kitty and Lord Porteous to picture all the wretchedness of the lives of the socially hunted, the dreary exile among the unclassed, the sordid suffering without the consolation of tragedy—and Lady Kitty adds privately her tale of the fears and stratagems of the woman who has lost the protection of marriage and has to hold her man by nature and art. Surely this will work. It did in *The Liars*. But it doesn't. Teddy smashes through the faint-hearted counsel of the elders with a few words that carry the drama into a higher spiritual realm. We are beyond Jones and Pinero, and for an instant are with Synge in *The Shadow of the Glen*. And the derelict couple recognize that the fault is not in their stars, but in themselves that they are underlings. In their hearts they give right to the young and brave. A tattered flame of passion rises from the ashes as Lord Porteous and Lady Kitty wave the lovers farewell. And the cynical laughter of old Champion-Cheney at the success of his stratagem is broken by the sound of the wheels of the motor in which they depart. It is excellent dramatic irony. Thus Mr. Somerset Maugham smashes two conventions which his predecessors found so useful in saving society on the stage, and raises his comedy of manners to a drama of character.

The Circle sets a new and higher standard in Mr. Maugham's performance as playwright. Its presentation recalls a standard of acting not seen elsewhere among the Broadway productions of the year. Mrs. Leslie Carter as Lady Kitty, Mr. John Drew as Lord Porteous are admirably true in their caricatures of humanity. Mr. Ernest Lawford as Clive Champion-Cheney sustains his ironic rôle unfalteringly. Miss Estelle Winwood, whose chief success has been in comedy, is appealing in a rôle of unbroken sincerity and emotion. Altogether it is a victory for Mr. Maugham and his interpreters.

ROBERT MORSS LOVETT.

The White-Headed Boy

BY shifting from country-folk to small town people, Mr. Lennox Robinson has achieved a delightful variant of Irish comedy in *The White-Headed Boy*, now playing at Henry Miller's Theatre after a year's run in London. One writer declares he has found a national symbol in this play, but he must be an Alexander of ingenuity—he should examine Bluebeard's Eighth Wife for data on the cost of living. *The White-Headed Boy* is comedy in the first place and Irish incidentally—an unpretentious, gay, spirited piece of entertainment at the expense of the human race. To go to it in the spirit of highbrow endeavor would be a mistake.

Mr. Robinson's *White-Headed Boy* is that pride of the hard-working Irish shopkeeper, a medical student. Everything and everyone has been sacrificed to send this ingratiating youth to Trinity, and alas as a reward to his solemn oldest brother, his scrimping sisters, his meddlesome aunt, his fond and foolish mother, he crashes for the third time in his finals. Forgetting the boy's engagement to the postmaster's daughter, forgetting everything but his own outraged righteousness, the oldest brother makes up his mind that the pet of the family must be shipped away to Canada, the dumping-ground of younger sons.

For the honor of the family the light-headed monied aunt insists that Denis is to be shipped to wealthy non-existent relatives at a mythical St. Paul. This news is wafted to Mr. Duffy, the hot-tempered postmaster. To him it means only that his daughter is to be jilted by a Geoghegan who is mounting from his place as the most favored son to unbelievable heights in Canada. Mr. Duffy (Mr. Arthur Sinclair) comes round to interview the Geoghegans in a Vesuvian mood. The aunt, an old flame of his, tries the high horse at first. Mr. Duffy is cutting, sarcastic, bitterly humorous. He threatens a breach-of-promise case. Then the Geoghegans begin secret diplomacy. The aunt buys him off for a stiff sum, and her promise to marry him. (He is widowed.) The solemn brother compromises for twice the amount. The poor mother gives him the sheep-money which she has taken from her son. Mr. Duffy, a man of humor, begins to enjoy the joke and to be consoled for the disgrace to his daughter.

Meanwhile Denis, who has been sacrificed so long to the pride of the Geoghegans, has a few ideas of his own. One of them is to forestall his managing aunt and his peremptory brother. Knowing he has his mother's sympathy; he matures his own little scheme, and when the moment comes for him to go to Canada he upsets Mr. Duffy's apple-cart and lands himself happily and prosperously back into the rôle of the white-headed boy.

"How many a thing which we cast to the ground, when others pick it up becomes a gem." It is in his laughing knowledge of this sort of comedy that Mr. Robinson is so rich. And his company does not fail him. The serious brother (Mr. Morgan) is at times rather noisy and unvaried but monotony is the last thing in the most amusing, baroque performance of the quaint aunt (Miss Maire O'Neill). Mr. Sinclair's performance as Duffy is quick with life, a finely-shaded, wickedly knowing piece of comedy, while the mother (Miss Delaney) is charmingly finished and extremely funny. Mr. Shields as the white-headed boy is skilful and attractive. It is a distinguished presentation of a comedy which is full of neat delight.

FRANCIS HACKETT.