

## IN RETROSPECT

[FOR THE PRESENT OCCASION THIS DEPARTMENT IS DEVOTED TO EXTRACTS NOT FROM THE FILES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW BUT FROM PROFESSOR HERBERT B. ADAMS'S "LIFE AND LETTERS OF JARED SPARKS," PUBLISHED BY THE HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY. — *The Editors.*]

*Dr. JARED SPARKS, while yet a mere tutor in Harvard College, of which he was to be President, succeeded WILLIAM TUDOR, JR., as the second Editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW:*

This magazine was the historical outgrowth of a Boston publication called *The Anthology*, the literary organ of the Anthology Club, composed, says Dr. Ellis, of a "little circle of highly cultivated and zealous scholars in Boston and Cambridge." . . . A naïve account of Sparks's hopeful view of his duties as editor, in addition to his laborious work as college tutor, appears in a letter written February 21, 1877, to his life-long friend, Miss Storrow, of Bolton: "It will doubtless be strange news to you to hear that I have engaged to take charge of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW after the next number, when Mr. Tudor resigns. I was desired to do this by several gentlemen, and by the particular advice of the President."

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*The commanding place of this REVIEW in American literature and general civilization is thus estimated:*

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW was a patriotic assertion, not of a mere geographical idea, but of a growing feeling of literary independence of Great Britain. . . . A modern reader, looking backwards through those early volumes of the first really successful American review, will quickly discover why, of all those pioneer magazines, it was the fittest to survive. From the beginning it contained so many articles of real literary merit and solid historical worth that it not only attracted the attention, but held the favor of the most cultivated people in New England. . . .

THE NORTH AMERICAN was, however, far from being local or provincial. It was patriotic and national. It published extracts from foreign literary journals; it kept its readers informed on foreign affairs; and noted the transactions of the French Institute, and of other learned societies in Europe. It kept an eye on the work of universities in the Old World, and recorded the most important scientific observations, wherever made. It followed with interest the career of American artists abroad, and encouraged the growth of all forms of cultivation at home. Whoever undertakes to write the history of

American thought in the nineteenth century, and to trace the gradual development of literary and scientific independence in this country, must study the early series of volumes justly called *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, and then follow the development of the more recent and more attractive periodical literature of which Americans have reason to be proud.

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*Dr. SPARKS in 1818 removed to Baltimore and traveled in the South for a time, and was succeeded in the Editorship by EDWARD T. CHANNING, brother of WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING, who wrote to Dr. SPARKS as follows:*

I thank you for your kind offer to do any service in your power for *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* during your present journey to the South. I give you full power to do anything you may think useful for it. I shall name the agents in the principal cities you will pass through. I wish the agency to be changed wherever you think proper. Especially should something effectual be done in New York.

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*When ALEXANDER H. EVERETT, the distinguished diplomat and brother of EDWARD EVERETT, became Editor, he wrote to Dr. SPARKS, who was in the South, in May, 1821:*

"Your North Carolina piece was a powerful means of grace." In the same letter Everett, who had rapidly conformed his magazine to the English type, makes this frank confession: "Your remarks about *THE NORTH AMERICAN* are highly acceptable to me, since I seek nothing so much as hints toward its improvement. Your remark against its want of Americanism is just, but you must remember some things: 1st.—You cannot pour anything out of the vessel but what is in it. I am obliged to depend on myself more than on any other person, and I must write that which will run fastest. I am ashamed of this, but cannot help it. 2d.—There is really a dearth of American topics; the American books are too poor to praise, and to abuse them will not do. 3d.—The people round here, our most numerous and oldest friends, have not the raging Americanism that reigns in your quarter."

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*THOMAS JEFFERSON, then in retirement as "the Sage of Monticello", was a constant subscriber to and reader of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, and was much interested in what Dr. SPARKS wrote about Negro colonization. Under date of February 4, 1824, he wrote to the Editor:*

I duly received your favor of the 13th and, with it, the last No. of *THE N. A. REVIEW*. This has anticipated the one I should receive in course, but have not yet received under my subscription to the new series. The article on the Afri-

can colonisation of the people of colour, to which you invite my attention, I have read with great consideration. It is indeed a fine one, and will do much good. I learn from it more too than I had before known of the degree of success and promise of that colony.

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LEWIS CASS, *General, United States Senator, Cabinet Minister, and candidate for the Presidency, was a frequent contributor to THE REVIEW. Before becoming such, on April 22, 1826, he wrote to Dr. SPARKS:*

The reputation of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW is the property of the nation. In all questions affecting the literature, the history, or the policy of the United States, it must stand between our country and her traducers. And, thanks to the ability and taste displayed in its conduct, this defense is now a secure one. And it appears to me that the cardinal object in the management of the journal should be to make it respectable, abroad and at home, for its discussion of American affairs and its defense of American measures. But it ill becomes me, living at the very outskirts of the empire of literature, to obtrude my opinion on these subjects.

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*Only a few years after SYDNEY SMITH'S foolish demand, "Who reads an American book?" THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW was probably more widely read in Great Britain than "The Edinburgh Review", in which the fleer appeared, was read in America; while in France, under the Restored Bourbons, its American Liberalism caused it to be banned as an incendiary and dangerous publication:*

It may with confidence be asserted that Jared Sparks was the first to give THE NORTH AMERICAN a truly national circulation, and, to some extent at least, an international reputation. . . . THE NORTH AMERICAN was not republished in England, but the suggestion of the idea by a London bookseller, and the regular sale of over one hundred copies, shows that American periodical literature was beginning to be appreciated by English people as early as 1826. . . .

In a letter written to Jared Sparks from Paris, May 29, 1824, by John F. Steele, occurs this striking passage: "You know perhaps that 'THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW' is prohibited in France. Last week, in coming from Geneva to Lyons, the diligence was stopped at Bellegarde by the custom-house officers. While they were inspecting the baggage I amused myself with reading over the *Index Expurgatorius*, where to my surprise I saw my old acquaintance, THE NORTH AMERICAN figuring, but I assure you in company which does not disgrace it."

*A letter from ALEXANDER H. EVERETT to his famous brother, EDWARD EVERETT, had this reference to this REVIEW:*

I am glad to find that you continue your literary labors with so much activity and zeal. The REVIEW should be the first object. It is a work of national importance, and a most effective instrument for all good purposes. To possess the direction of it is to hold an office of profit and honor that may well satisfy the ambition of any individual, and I may add of responsibility that, justly weighed, might occasionally give him some anxious moments. I doubt whether the President of the United States has a higher trust to be accountable for than the editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN. This journal has now an established reputation,—the great condition for producing effect,—and should on no account be suffered to decline.

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*Dr. SPARKS in 1828 corresponded with ALEXANDER H. EVERETT concerning the latter's disposition to purchase an interest in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW:*

This correspondence led to the sale of Mr. Sparks's three-quarter interest in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for \$15,000, March 10, 1830, to Alexander H. Everett, after the expiration of the second contract with him as a contributor. Mr. Sparks was by this time deeply engrossed in other editorial duties, and needed his capital for large historical enterprises. Henry Wheaton alludes to this transfer of the magazine, in the following letter from Paris to Mr. Sparks, April 15, 1830: "I am sorry you have given up THE NORTH AMERICAN, though I have great confidence in the abilities of your successor. He is one of our finest scholars, and in ethical speculation and classic criticism unrivaled among us, at least so I think. THE REVIEW could not have fallen into better hands. THE REVIEW is the thing for Mr. Everett, and he is the man for THE REVIEW."

Mr. Sparks wrote March 12, 1830, to one of his friends: "THE REVIEW is sold, and the money received, and all things settled. I am not very light-hearted about it; but I am sure it is for the best; and I ought certainly to be well pleased that THE REVIEW has gained constantly in my hands."

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*"The Boston Journal" in August, 1859, printing a list of some of the contributors to this REVIEW and the numbers of their articles, editorially observed:*

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW has largely contributed to make American literature what it is. It has, from the commencement, enlisted the pens of some of our ablest writers. The reputations of our best known essayists and reviewers are mainly founded upon their contributions to its pages.

# THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW

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*Herschel Brickell*

*Alan H. Temple*

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## ~ BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION ~

**ATLEE POMERENE** (*Why Democrats Favor Smith*), widely known as the former Senator from Ohio who prosecuted the Sinclair and Doheny oil cases, has just returned from Europe where he visited the battlefields of France. Born in Ohio, this public-spirited citizen began his law career with practice in his native State, to which he has returned since the termination of his second term in the Senate.

**Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt** (*Why Democrats Favor Smith*) is often seen posed with her four children, indicating that the dictates of motherhood and the home are preëminent in her life. In spite of this, however, she is active politically, being a member of the Democratic State Committee from the district where is situated her country place in Dutchess County, a director of the Women's City and County Club in Poughkeepsie, vice-chairman of the Woman's City Club in New York City, and a member of the Board of Directors of *The Woman Citizen*.

**Philip Whitwell Wilson** (*Divorce and the Church*) is an Englishman who, having married an American wife, has been making New York his home. A product of Cambridge, a member of the House of Commons for four years, he has also had long experience on *The London Daily News*, and *The New York Times*, as well as having contributed to this Review in times past. *The Greville Memoirs* have just been edited by him, from whose pen we also have *The Christ We Forget* and other books on religious and political subjects. Although so weighty an authority in his own line, Mr. Wilson's secret desire is to write a series of hairbrained detective stories!

**Donald L. Stone** (*Uncertainties of Our Constitution*) owns to having done graduate work at Harvard and Princeton, and states that he is now Assistant Professor of Political Science at Dartmouth College. In view of much recent discussion of the intention of the Constitution makers, his article will be timely reading.

**Donald Budd Armstrong** (*A Long Life and a Merry One*) is a hygienist who has spent his life of forty-one years in an effort to make healthier citizens. After

taking his college degrees, he plunged into committees and commissions organized for the prevention of tuberculosis. His outstanding accomplishments include directorship of the Health Experiment at Framingham, Massachusetts, development of the National Health Council, secretaryship of the Milbank Memorial Fund, and at present he is serving as Assistant Secretary of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. It is to be recalled that he established the first public laundry in New York City, that he wrote the Metropolitan Life's prize essay on sex hygiene for adolescents, and that he has battled manfully to demonstrate that flies menace babies' health.

**Rheta Childe Dorr** (*A Convert from Socialism*) is a journalist whose interest in sociology and politics has led to wide travel and extended sojourns in most countries of Europe. During the World War she acted as war correspondent on the Eastern and Western Fronts for *The New York Evening Mail* and its syndicate of newspapers. In Russia she accompanied the famous Women's Battalion of Death to the front, witnessing the last Kerensky offensive. Since the war Mrs. Dorr has spent nearly five years in the study of reconstruction problems in Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia and the Balkans. In this article she admits that her recent observations have turned her from an experimental Radical to a sober Conservative.

**Edward Clarence Plummer** (*Merchant Ships and the Navy*) was born within sound of the sea sixty-three years ago and has been devoted to it ever since. Coming from a line which for six generations had been ship builders, he himself worked as a boy in the trade previous to graduating from Bowdoin College. Although honored by his home State, Maine, in various ways, he was called to larger service when he became attorney for the Atlantic Carriers' Association and assisted in formulating plans for a restoration of American vessels to the foreign trade of the United States. Since 1921 he has been in charge of traffic of the United States Shipping Board, from which vantage he has spoken and written voluminously. We likewise wish to re-



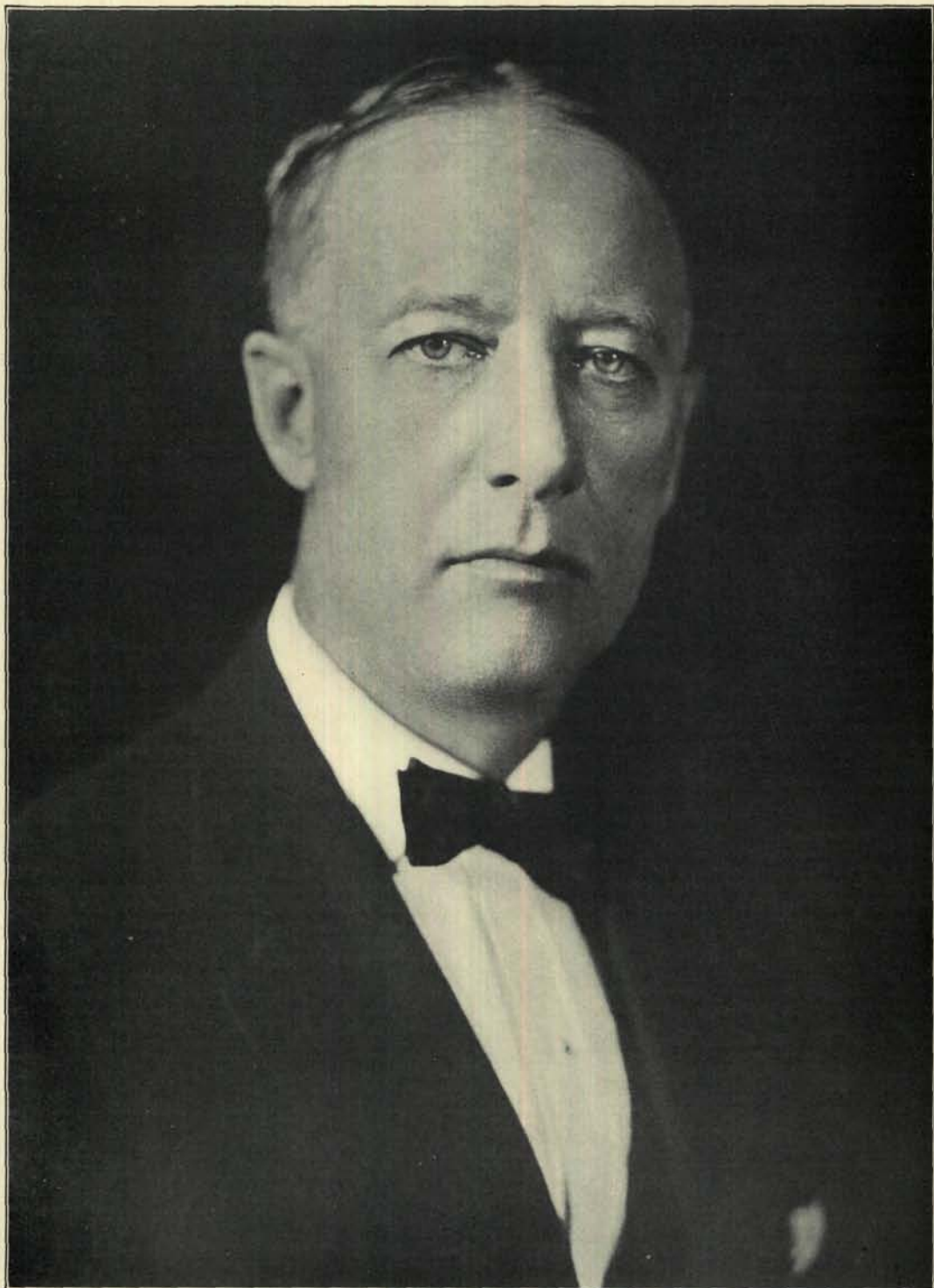


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