

Points of View

The Evans Letters

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
SIR:

I find in a review of my book "The Rosalie Evans Letters from Mexico" in your issue of May 9th, statements or implications that in justice call for correction.

First, an assumption that the Evans property was included in the Communal lands traditionally belonging to the neighboring villages. This is a mistake. The Evans property was never classified as communal land and was never in possession of any of the villages. From the earliest times it was privately owned. It was acquired by purchase from the Mendizabel family and there was never any question as to the title. Its value prior to Mr. Evans's purchase was considerable. He paid for it approximately three hundred thousand dollars. Its later and greater value was a product of Mr. Evans's enterprise, backed by the expenditure of a large sum in its development. He added to the hacienda buildings and in many other ways brought the property up to a high state of productivity—most important, was his creation of an irrigation system. He sought and found a subterranean spring on the property and built an aqueduct that brought irrigation to the greater part of the hacienda. In all, including the purchase price, Mr. Evans put into the property approximately five hundred thousand dollars.

Second, a further intimation in your reviewer's article is to the effect that in her active protest against confiscation of her property, Mrs. Evans "resisted the laws of Mexico." This is a misapprehension. Mrs. Evans's resistance was not against the laws of Mexico, but against the effort to take property that was clearly under protection of the laws. Her protest was not against the laws, but against a procedure in contempt of the law. The law justifying Mrs. Evans's resistance to the taking of her property is embodied in a treaty between Great Britain and Mexico in which the latter country pledged itself not to expropriate the legally acquired property in Mexico of British subjects. Mrs. Evans, by her marriage, was a British subject.

The facts as here recited are beyond question and if proof be required it is easily available.

Your reviewer accompanies the misstatement that Mrs. Evans "was resisting the law of the land and its constituted authorities" by the further statement that "even her staunch and unflinching defender, Cunard Cummins, the British Chargé, vainly advised her to desist." In a sense this is true, but Mr. Cummins's counsels related not to her just claims, but to the personal danger she incurred in her persistent battle for her rights. His advice was not in discredit of her demands, but the counsel of a friend and an official solicitous for her safety.

While appreciating your generous consideration of my book and particularly the kindly spirit of your reviewer, I feel it necessary to call your attention to the errors above noticed. While obviously casual, they are clearly misleading. They tend to create doubts and inferentially to afford to apologists for the Mexican Government a species of justification, if not for my sister's murder, at least for the conditions that led up to it.

DAISY CADEN PETTUS.

The Scholastics

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
SIR:

May I express my appreciation of Mr. Ernest Sutherland Bates's review of my "Story of Philosophy" in your issue of July 3rd, and take the opportunity which his criticism offers me of explaining why the book paid such scant attention to scholastic philosophy? One reason was the difficulty of finding in that philosophy sufficient material of contemporary interest to educated men to warrant taking the reader's time for it. Another reason was my conviction—no doubt a prejudice—that the scholastics belong rather to the history of theology than to the story of philosophy, since their ultimate explanations in cosmology, and their ultimate bases in ethics, were supernatural; there is no more cause for including them than for including Buddha or Zoroaster. When I considered also the unintelligibility of these men, I thought it was wiser to neglect them in a book whose primary purpose was to arouse the lay reader's interest in philosophy. I am a little piqued at Mr. Bates's suggestion that I left out the gentlemen because I am ignorant of their works.

The omission was almost an act of modesty on my part: for as a graduate of a Jesuit college, and a former inmate of a Catholic seminary, I am something of an expert in scholastic theology. I wish I were not.

WILL DURANT.

Mr. Tugwell's Rebuttal

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
SIR:

I gather that, on the whole, Mr. Barnes did not approve of my review of "The History and Prospects of the Social Sciences!" Among other things it appears from his letter to you (1) that I didn't read the book—at least not carefully, (2) that you were most injudicious in asking me to review it because I am not properly equipped for its evaluation, (3) that I was inaccurate and inconsistent in what I said, (4) that because of personal dislike I distorted the facts and opinions presented. This is a fairly complete denunciation.

You will perhaps remember that I undertook the job with some trepidation, knowing Mr. Barnes's uncertain temper. But I think you ought to let me say too, that in printing it you cut it up a good deal—not that this would have made it any more to Mr. Barnes's liking, but that it might have given the impartial observer a better chance of judging whether I went so badly wrong as is implied in this letter to you.

Mr. Barnes is quite correct in saying that I probably remember Simon W. Patten's dislike of certain of Lester F. Ward's dogmas. Anyone who has read Patten would remember that. There is an element of truth in his saying that I am biased against him on that account. It did happen in just that way; but not until I had been a devotee of Ward's for some time. How well I remember the delightful evenings at Philip Minassian's in Philadelphia, who, Ward himself said, was the most understanding student of his work of whom he knew. Patten spoiled a neat little system for me just when everything seemed to be settling into place in it. But it was done so thoroughly that never since have I been able to contemplate devotion to Ward without projecting upon the devotee the immature discipleship I once felt. That this is unjust, must be admitted readily. Also that Ward was one of the greatest of our American scholars. But he was wrong and James, Patten, and Dewey are right—if, of course, I understand them.

Any young American who aspires to be a scholar must envy Mr. Barnes his prodigious energy and his great ability. But that can be done without feeling that he cannot ever be mistaken in judgment. It was an admirable impulse which led to the writing of the "History and Prospects of the Social Sciences;" but, perhaps because my training has been in other schools, and my experience of other sorts, I felt that it was not representative at all points. The exceptions you deleted. But I still feel the same way. Here, I think, Mr. Barnes is unjust in challenging me to name more representative exponents of the fields he covered. Still that should not be difficult, though I have not intended the aspersion on his contributors which is inferred. One can be a solid and faithful scholar without being that genius which represents the great new ideas of his age. My list would have been differently chosen because I should judge differently what these ideas are and who are their best exponents. There can be no question, I should say, about law. Mr. Pound is an outstanding figure, though personally I should have chosen Thomas Reed Powell, or Felix Frankfurter. In sociology, William Fielding Ogburn seems to me to stand out as a commanding figure. He is a very great mathematician, for one thing, which has given him a long start in the new sociology of measurement. In geography, there are both Huntington and J. R. Smith, either of whom would have been better for the purpose. In anthropology, why not Boas—or possibly either Wissler or Kroeber? In psychology there are Stevenson Smith and Jastrow—or why not Watson, himself, for one school and one of Freud's students for the other? Goldenweiser, a long and earnest student of psychoanalysis, would have done it well. Givler and Shepard should not raise objection, as I think I said in my manuscript, though I think Dewey would have been available. In economics, the names are embarrassingly numerous to me, but Mr. Bigelow's would not have been among them because I had literally never heard of him before. Perhaps that is my fault, not Mr. Bigelow's; but I do think that any one of half-a-dozen others would

have been preferable, when there were Mitchell, J. M. Clark, Hamilton, Wolfe, Slichter, Edie and many others to choose among.

So much for Mr. Barnes's challenge for a better list of contributors. I know something of editorial difficulties and it occurs to me that probably some of his writers were pinch hitters. If this is true, it is something less than frank of him to defend them as the best possible ones. But, as to his final challenge "to state any leading trends in the social sciences covered which are not dealt with as adequately as possible in the volume under discussion," I must confess I am at a loss as to his meaning. Does he mean trends which were ignored? Does he mean trends which were stated but not "as adequately as possible?" Presuming the latter, I think I said what I felt about Mr. Bigelow's treatment of economics. Also that I distinctly wanted to avoid controversy about other fields, though I felt impelled to say some things in general. May I let it go at that?

REXFORD GUY TUGWELL.

A Florida Writer

Editor of *The Saturday Review*

SIR:

It seems rather strange that the great interest in Florida brings no mention in our literary reviews and magazines of the writer who first presented the charm of this part of country as a scenic background in literature. This writer, the most distinguished of her recent time among American women novelists, was Constance Fenimore Woolson, and the distinction of her work continues to deserve the attention of all cultivated readers.

Her interest in Florida was roused by a long residence there with an invalid mother. The country before she wrote of it had forgotten the glories of the Spanish Conquistados—it was again undiscovered and asleep! And this Northern woman with her vivid pen, and her artist's perception, gave its message of charm for the first time to the world. Those who go to Florida today—as well as those who only go in imagination, should know the haunting charm of "East Angels," whose scene is laid in Spanish Florida. The moving drama of the story, and its powerful characterizations, hold the interest vividly, and no portrait of any novelist stands out more superbly than of Garda Thorne, who epitomized the eternal indolent charm of the South in her irresponsible, selfish, amiable, exotic personality.

But it is the revelation of the scenic note of Florida in this novel that is unforgettable. The handling is comparable to Hardy's and Conrad's—since it accompanies and interprets and emphasizes the story—permeating it with the strange and almost sinister beauty of a semi-tropic land. Descriptions linger in the mind of the reader—Monnlungs Swamp—one of the most dramatic descriptive episodes in all fiction; the sweeping, lonely pine barrens; the old Spanish ruins; the cloying fragrance of avenues of orange trees in bloom.

In one of her groups of short stories, and in her last novel, "Horace Chase," Miss Woolson wrote again of Florida. The land is hers, in a literary sense, by right of Conquest! And her translation of it makes a warm spot of color in our American literary map.

MAY HARRIS.

The Reader's Guide

(Continued from preceding page)

ration for boarding houses, and rejuvenated all the boarders. M. L. B., New York, asks about a novel part of which he heard read some ten or more years ago, called, he thinks, "The Downfall of the Gods," and introducing him to Angkor.

H. T., Tampico, Mexico, who has read "The Friendly Stars" and "The Ways of the Planets," by Martha Evans Martin (Harper), is led thereby, as many have been, to continue reading along these lines, and learn what he may in this way about the present position of astronomical knowledge.

"ASTRONOMY Today," by the Abbé Th. Moreaux (Dutton), has been translated into English by C. F. Russell, late fellow of Pembroke, Cambridge. The author is Director of the Observatory at Bourges and Member of the British Astronomical Association. This is the latest book to appear in English on this subject; it discusses the most recent explanations of

astronomical problems and gives an account of numerous other problems awaiting solution.

As I am often asked for astronomy books for children, here is a chance to speak of "The Stars and Their Stories," lately published by Appleton, in which there are not only the legends of the constellations and much other stellar mythology, but monthly charts by which the beginner may find his way about the sky.

The New Books Religion

(Continued from preceding page)

CHRISTIANITY AND NATURALISM. By ROBERT SHAFER. Yale University Press. 1926. \$4.00.

This work deserves a less narrow public than it will probably obtain. Its theme is one of universal interest, but its slow and rather ponderous dignity of style is likely to repel all but the academically minded. Professor Shafer seeks in this volume to evaluate dispassionately the conflicting claims of Christianity and Naturalism through an examination of the writings of Coleridge, Newman, Huxley, Arnold, Samuel Butler, and Thomas Hardy, an examination which is always thoughtful but not always, particularly in the case of Arnold, adequate or just. The final conclusion is double-edged, calculated to irritate both the avowed Naturalist and the professing Christian. On the one hand, Naturalism, notwithstanding its admitted contributions to knowledge and human welfare, in the last analysis "can only be regarded as a maleficent when not a self-destroying falsehood;" on the other, "Christianity, as it now stands, is moribund." Nevertheless Professor Shafer argues that in the essence of Christianity is enshrined an internal truth which consists in the recognition of "the probationary character of life, the fact that man, animal though he inexplicably be, is yet a spirit, fighting his way towards freedom in the realm of immaterial reality."

It is doubtful whether "Christianity and Naturalism" will entirely convince many of those who do not already accept its thesis. Professor Shafer's arguments employ, without definition or analysis, too many treacherous "weasel words" such as "necessity," "freedom," "spirit," and the two famous weasel words of his title. There is nothing new or valuable in his attempt to save the dignity of man by withdrawing him from the rest of nature and asserting that science is incapable of touching his "spiritual" life; this is a doctrine which in less worthy hands has often been—and doubtless will be again—used as a cloak for every kind of obscurantism. Nor does one see in what way the eternal truth of Christianity, as given above, differentiates it from Brahmanism, Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Zoroastrianism, or the religion of Osiris in the Egyptian Book of the Dead. When one finds, as Professor Shafer does in his concepts of Christianity and Naturalism two mutually opposed and inadequate tendencies of thought, it is wiser to attempt a synthesis of both than to reject one and adopt an esoteric interpretation of the other. "Christianity and Naturalism" does not solve its problem, it does not even state its problem rightly, but it does present a deal of material on the subject, it raises all manner of subjacent questions, and is an excellent book on which to sharpen one's philosophic wits.

THE GOTHIC VERSION OF THE GOSPELS. By G. W. S. Friedrichsen. Oxford University Press. \$7.

COMPARATIVE RELIGION. By Alfred W. Martin. Appleton. \$1.50.

AN OUTLINE OF CHRISTIANITY: The Story of Our Civilization. Vol. IV: Christianity and Modern Thought. Dodd, Mead. \$5.

IS IT GOD'S WORD? By Joseph Wheelers. Knopf.

THE BOOK NOBODY KNOWS. By Bruce Barton. Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.50.

LIFE OF OUR MASTER CHRIST JESUS. By Septina Baker. San Francisco: California Press. \$3.

STRENGTH OF RELIGION AS SHOWN BY SCIENCE. Philadelphia: Davis.

Travel

YOUR UNITED STATES. By Arnold Bennett. Doran. \$2.50 net.

CONCERNING CORSICA. By René Jula. Knopf.

A WAYFARER IN UNFAMILIAR JAPAN. By Walter Weston. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

A WAYFARER IN EGYPT. By Annie A. Quibell. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

NORTHERN LIGHTS AND SOUTHERN SHADE. By Douglas Goldring. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. JENKINS

HN ADAMS'S LIBRARY

A commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the death of John Adams, second president of the United States, the Boston Public Library, custodian of his library consisting of more than 3,000 volumes, holding an exhibition of his books and manuscripts. The Boston *Transcript* has inserted a special article about the exhibition and Adams's library from which we condense this brief report.

John Adams collected books all his life, from his early schoolmaster days in Worcester to his old age in retirement in Quincy. The largest portion of the collection he bought while on his diplomatic missions in England, France, and Holland. Many books were presented to him by the authors of his own time both at home and abroad. Though his collection has its limitations, it is the second largest American private library of the eighteenth century. If it were sold in an American auction room at the present time, it would bring a handsome price.

In books on law, government, history and social philosophy, as well as Greek and Latin philosophy and literature, the collection is specially rich. It is clearly and emphatically the library of a statesman, who was at the same time one of the ablest lawyers and one of the most learned social thinkers of his country and time.

The first row of cases in the exhibition is devoted to law books such as Blackstone's "Commentaries," the large folio of Lord Coke's "Institutes," Roger Acher's "Britannic Constitution," Jean Bodin's six Books of a Commonweale, Forque's "Laws of England," etc. Some of these volumes contain the autograph of Benjamin Gridley, the first mentor of John Adams in Boston.

In addition to English civil law, Adams was also well versed in the philosophy of law. The wear and tear on his Grotius, Pufendorf, Beccaria, and Ogilvie shows that he read them over and over. Social philosophy held the next place in his interests.

The books of Voltaire, Condillac, Condorcet, Helvetius, Fontenelle, and La Rochefoucauld are all in his library. The Englishmen, Bolingbroke, Hutcheson, John Locke, and Adam Smith are not wanting either. Most of them are in good editions adorned with steel engravings. Besides the general works and leading monographs on English history, there are folios on the history of France, Italy, Sweden, and other countries. History was always near to Adams's heart; it formed an important part of his preparation for studies in social philosophy. Most valuable in this group are his Greek and Roman historians. The copies of Herodotus, Thucydides, Strabo, Xenophon, Tacitus, Sallust, and Livy are shown with his Horace, Cicero, Lucretius, and Ovid. The three-volume edition of Plato's works printed by Henry Estienne in 1578 is the rarest item in that section.

Adams's own works are kept in one group. The two volumes of his "Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States," with its French translation, the "Discourses on Davila," the "Essays of Novanglus" (his pseudonym) are naturally in original editions. The ten-volume edition of his works, published in 1850-56 with the notes of Charles Francis Adams, includes also his autobiography, diary, and portions of his correspondence.

Letters and manuscripts are shown in other cases. His notes at the trial of the British soldiers who perpetrated the Boston Massacre, possess, besides their historical value, a deep human interest. Adams in the face of many threats and risking his whole popularity, undertook the defense, for he thought it to be his duty. His notes contain the depositions of the witnesses, bearing the title: "Evidence of the Commotions That Evening." Side by side with the document lies the facsimile of Paul Revere's famous engraving showing the bloody event. Perhaps the outstanding feature of the exhibition is the numerous interesting and important historical autograph letters but space does not permit mention of them here.

RAREST OF SPORTING BOOKS

A COPY of one of the rarest of all sporting books, Sir Thomas Cockayne's "A Short Treatise of Hunting," 1591, brought the large sum of £2,100 at Sotheby's in London, in June. This small quarto consists of only sixteen pages. It is inscribed to the Earl of Shrewsbury, and apart from the woodcut of a hound on the title page, has seven woodcuts in the text, mostly borrowed from Turberville's book published some fifteen years earlier. This copy had presumably been in the possession of Rev. Philip Bliss, though the initials "P. B." on the flyleaf may be those of some other collector, for the book does not appear in the sale catalogue of the extensive Bliss library sold in 1858. The owner of the initials noted the copy as "supposed to be the only copy in existence." There is, however, one in the British Museum; and Lowndes records the sale of two copies, one of which may be either in the British Museum or the one sold recently—the J. B. Inglis copy, which brought £17, 10s. in 1826; and another with one leaf in manuscript, which sold for £10, 5s. in 1855. All trace of the latter, making the third or fourth copy, seems to be lost.

NOTE AND COMMENT

IT is reported that 131 items in the Clawson sale were purchased by the Harvard Library.

The famous Kurt Wolff collection of incunabula will be sold by Joseph Baer and Company, at Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany. The first part containing 850 items will be sold in October.

Laurence Binyon has nearly completed a monograph on "The Engraved Designs of William Blake," in two volumes, which will be published by Ernest Benn, Ltd., during the autumn in a limited edition. There will be twenty plates in color and eighty in colotype. Many of the illustrations have never been reproduced in color before.

One of the few original copies of Magna Charta, the Englishmen's Bill of Rights, wrested by English barons from King John

at Runnymede, has just been presented to the Bodleian Library at Oxford by Lord Northbourne. There are only eight other copies known. And unlike the other copies, it is inscribed on a roll of parchment.

The angling narrative, "On Dry-Cow Fishing as a Fine Art," by Rudyard Kipling, published in *The Fishing Gazette*, thirty-five years ago, is now being reprinted the first time, with Mr. Kipling's permission, by the Rowfant Club of Cleveland. The edition will be limited to 176 copies and will be printed for the club by Bruce Rogers and it is said that it will rank among the most attractive of his smaller books.

The current catalogue "Rare Books in Rich Bindings," issued by Putnam's of this city, is worthy of note. It is an octavo of 154 pages printed on Bible paper, illustrated with sixteen full page plates of bindings of distinction. Its contents are divided into five sections: "Miniature Books," "Rare and Unusual Single Volumes," "Some Notable Works on Natural History," "Poetry," and "Best Editions of Standard Authors." The cataloguer has been careful in his selections, full and clear in his descriptions, and illuminating in his notes. Its printer has made a fine piece of typography. Collectors interested in bibliography will find it well worth while to preserve this catalogue.

What has become of the books which were in the library of Ben Jonson? This is a query which Professor M. P. Tilley of the Department of English of the University of Michigan is trying to answer. In a letter to the press, Professor Tilley writes:

"In Herford and Simpson's 'Ben Jonson,' Vol. I, Appendix IV, pp. 251-271, there is a printed list of 'Books in Jonson's Library.' The editors of this edition have promised a supplementary list . . . in the final volume should there be occasion for one. A number of Jonson's books now in this country have been omitted from this list, and I am endeavoring to find others that may be included in a future supplementary list. To this end I should be glad to learn of any of Jonson's books known to your readers in order that the reconstruction of Jonson's library may be as complete as possible.

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