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By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

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DIRECTIONS

DEFINITIONS

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WORDS

Trade Winds

BY P. E. G. QUERCUS

•HERE is much to be said about J. M. Barrie (even after all these years we don't think of him as James") and it does not need to be said in a hurry. The newspaper obits unanimously chose to speak of his famous St. Andrews address, "Courage"; quite right too; a fine thing. But if we want to come rather closer to the man himself we might do so in the talk he made-speaking privately and among (more or less) his own kind-at the Critics' Circle in London, 15 years ago. (The clipping we saved is from the London Times of May 27, 1922). It was in that speech he begged to be saved from the stereotyped epithets whimsical and elusive. At his worst he often was just those things; but they became mere labels that concealed the surgical sharpness of his best work.

Barrie spoke of his passion for islands. "There are more islands in my plays than any of you are aware of." All who ever saw him, in the later years, divined that instinct of isolation, of removal. Secrecies are something the press is increasingly resolved to explode; but those who prize their own will respect Barrie's. More and more he came to look like a gnome or kobold; the diminutive stature, the childlike little hands and feet, were queer with that seamed and tragic face. Was it a hard childhood that made him hanker so for childishness in his old age? I suppose Peter Pan, read with attention, is one of the saddest things ever written. Read it, if you must, in its original form, the book The Little White Bird.

^{LF}He will live long and prosper. The posthumous tributes will try to find a formula for him, and there is none. His epitaph? He said it himself in that same speech:—

"At present I am residing on an island. It is called Typee, and so you will not be surprised to hear that my companion's name is Fayaway. She is a dusky maid, composed of abstractions but not in the least elusive. She is just little bits of the golden girls who have acted for me and saved my plays. There is not one of them whom I have not watched for at the stage door and hissed ecstatically. She moves about my coral isle with the swallowflights of Ellen Terry, and melts into the incomparable Maude Adams.

"Sometimes a play is written and put into a bottle and cast into the sea. I expect it never reaches you; at any rate if it is whimsical that is not it."

^{LF} The second New York Times National Book Fair will be held from November 5 to 21, in Rockefeller Center, with twice the space it occupied last year. The publishers collaborating on the Fair with the *Times* have elected an organization committee, headed by Cass Canfield of Harpers, including George Brett, Cedric Crowell, Harold Guinzburg, Curtis W. McGraw, Eugene Reynal, and M. Lincoln Schuster. ^{III} The attendance at the 1936 Book Fair was over 80,000.

^{CP}Guy Kendall, of McClurg's in Chicago, was in New York last week; and, astonishing as it may seem to Eastern egotism, for the first time in 25 years. His many friends in the Trade were eager to show him how the town had changed; our telephone scouts last heard of him at Rothmann's famous Chaucerian inn at East Norwich, L. I., whither he had been shanghaied by Messrs. Edmé Ziegler and Thos. Burns. We were sorry to miss him, but presume he has returned to encourage trade in Old Loopy; in the words of the poet, to

Try what the open, what the covert yield

At Carson Pirie or at Marshall Field.

CNow that the Writers' Congress is all over, we gather from the reports that it was a new version of the best known of all debates: "Resolved, that the pen is mightier than the sword."

This week Mitchell Kennerley reenters active publishing, with Mr. Pirate, the fiction romance of a second-hand bookseller, written by A. B. Shiffrin—who knows, in his own Academy Bookshop, all glamors and grievances of the trade. M. K. uses in his publicity the amusing quote: "People are reading it who never read it before.—Sam Goldwyn."

