

The AMEN CORNER

ROMANS XV. [4]

Quaecunque scripta sunt ad nostram doctrinam scripta sunt.

'All things which are written, are written for our erudition and knowledge.'

"Sermons," writes the Bishop of Durham (the celebrated Dr. Hensley Henson), in his introduction to one of two volumes just published in the *World's Classics* series, "form an important part of English literature. They have played a great role in the long discipline of the English character. Students are coming to recognize their value as historical authorities, supplementing records, letters, and legal documents with strictly contemporary pictures of life and manners. They have their place, no unimportant place, among the formative influences which have shaped the English language, and even determined the norms of its composition."

*Selected English Sermons*, Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries, starts off with Hugh Latimer's "A Sermon of the Plough" (1548) from which we take our text. Here are John Donne, Jeremy Taylor, Bishop Butler (likewise of Durham), Cardinal Newman, James Martineau. There are biographical sketches from *The Dictionary of National Biography* which fix the sermons in their background. The type is unusually clear, and the binding the well-known dark blue.

The other new title in our favourite library<sup>1</sup> (we are thankful it never stops growing) is *The House with the Green Shutters* by George Douglas, that remarkable only novel, published in 1901, to which Mr. Somerset Maugham now writes an Introduction. (By the way, the number of Introductions by famous living authors would alone make the *World's Classics* noteworthy.)

This fierce and savage Scottish novel leads naturally to *Pride and Passion*, Robert Burns, 1759-1796, by DeLancey Ferguson,<sup>2</sup> which the Oxford University Press has just published also. The author, who edited the definitive edition of the *Letters of Robert Burns*,<sup>4</sup> describes his new book as an answer to the question: "What sort of a man was Robert Burns?"

The answer is: A fascinating sort of man; and this is a fascinating sort of book. When you have finished it you will turn again, as you will have while reading it, to Burns's Poems.<sup>3</sup> "Here is the glen and here the bower."

Vale!  
THE OXONIAN.

(<sup>1</sup>) 80c each. Write for complete list of nearly 500 titles. Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York. (<sup>2</sup>) Just reprinted. 22 vols. \$140.00. (<sup>3</sup>) \$3.00. (<sup>4</sup>) 2 vols. \$12.00. (<sup>5</sup>) In the *Oxford Standard Authors*. \$1.50 each. Write for list.

Trade Winds

BY P. E. G. QUERCUS

IT would have been pleasant manners, poor Old Q. can't help thinking, if *Time* (the weekly newsmagazine), issue of March 20, condensing some personal data about John P. (Wickford Point) Marquand, had waved a friendly hand to its source—which was fairly obviously the article by Constance M. Fiske in the *SRL*, December 10, 1938. Norman Alexander Hall, bookseller in Newton Centre, Mass., generously gifted us with a copy of *Loveday Brooke, Lady Detective* (1894) (by C. L. Pirkis) about which we expressed curiosity. The adventures of Miss Brooke, who must have been one of the earlier female detectives, are quite readable; and most amusingly illustrated, much in the style of the original Sherlock Holmes stories. But what interested us most was the phrase, now quite obsolete, of "saving" a train, meaning as we now say to catch it. "You will save the 11.5 train from Victoria." The Holliday Bookshop, at its beautifully symmetrical address 49 East 49, has put on a shelf of their own, in the most attractive available editions, the list of classic favorites recommended by Somerset Maugham in a recent *S. E. P.* article. The autograph MS of Wilkie Collins' novel *The Haunted Hotel*, a yarn we always enjoyed, will be sold at auction at the Parke-Bernet Galleries on April 4. Opening our old 2nd-hand copy of the book we find a passage marked years ago: "An angry voice protesting, in a strong New England accent, against one of the greatest hardships that can be inflicted on a citizen of the United States—sending him to bed without gas in his room." Anyone who is curious about *The*

*Haunted Hotel* will find it reprinted in Alexander Laing's *Haunted Omnibus*. Much interest attaches annually to the announcement of Guggenheim Fellowships. This year's awards, in the literary field, go to critics Edmund Wilson and Herschel Brickell; novelists John Dos Passos, Robert Penn Warren ("Night Rider"), Harold A. Sinclair ("American Years"), and Richard Wright ("Uncle Tom's Children"); poets Kenneth Fearing and Oscar Brynes. John Joseph Mathews, of Oklahoma, has a fellowship to write on the conflicting cultures of the American Indian and the invading European. In the field of research, we note with pleasure that a fellowship was awarded to Herbert J. Muller, frequent *SRL* contributor, to write a book on criticism. Charles Bragin, 1525 West 12 Street, Brooklyn, says he will furnish without charge his bibliography of Dime Novels to libraries, museums, and students of Americana. About five years ago, when Harold Latham of Macmillan's was in London on publishing business, he badly needed a temporary secretary who would also do everything from wrapping parcels to reading MSS. Latham appealed to the office of Faber & Faber, London publishers, for suggestions. Fabers nominated a young man who was not afraid of any kind of hard work. The latter served as Latham's pro-tem staff-officer on several London visits, and is now the author of *Wine of Good Hope* which Macmillan publishes this week with great enthusiasm. His name—a pseudonym—is David Rame. We have often intimated our sentimental interest in the old square-rigger *Tusitala*. Apropos, Alfred Harcourt

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
DEAD DOGS BITE E. M. Curtiss (Simon and Schuster: \$2.)	Death of Chihuahua dog brings Dr. Nathaniel Bunce to Neapolitan hotel where he neatly solves three inexplicable poisonings.	Corpulent little criminologist rounds up amazing lot of suspects and, 'neath Italian skies, proves that hand is quicker than eye.	Excellentissimo
BLOW DOWN Lawrence G. Blochman (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.)	Three murders, embezzlement, and Nazi plotting in Central American "banana republic" solved, between kisses, by govt. agt. Lane.	Tropical background, pleasantly torrid romance; some first-class villainy; valiant and perceptive sleuth—and hurricanes to boot.	Eminently satisfactory
ALIAS BLUE MASK Anthony Morton (Lippincott: \$2.)	Blue Mask ("the Baron") discomfits couple of imitators, smashes international crime syndicate, and dodges all police traps.	Jewel robberies, safe-blowings, fights of all sorts, hair-breadth escapes—with John Man-nering dominating every situation.	Blood and thunder
HE COULD NOT HAVE SLIPPED! Francis Beeding (Harpers: \$2.)	Insp. Martin of Scotland Yard, working in Geneva, uncovers "a grand fraud" and catches killer whose knees were too clean.	Quite up-to-date in plot; League of Nations background is interesting, and story moves relentlessly, if slowly, to tragic end.	Adequate

tells us a story. A neighbor of Mr. Harcourt's went into a shipchandler's store in Stamford, Conn., to buy some rope. "They sent him down in the basement," says Alfred Harcourt, "with a salesman who was particularly handy about splicing the end of the line in the fashion my neighbor wanted it, and as he ran it through his fingers, coiled it on the floor in a strikingly seamanly manner. Whereupon the following dialogue took place:

My neighbor: "Where did you learn to handle a rope like that?"  
Salesman: "Before the mast in a sailing ship."

My neighbor: "What sailing ship?"  
Salesman: "The *Tusitala*."

The Stamford rope-salesman was Richard Maury, whose *The Saga of "Cimba"* is getting handsome reviews.

The most important publishing venture of the Columbia University Press this spring will be the six volume *Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, previously unpublished. They are edited by Ralph L. Rusk; the set will sell at \$25 before publication (May 8) and at \$30 thereafter. Librarians are already conning their budgets. The League of American Writers will hold a "symposium" (we don't suppose they mean that literally) at the Keynote Club, 201 West 52, April 6 at 8:30 p. m. Three English visitors, Auden, Isherwood, and MacNeice, will speak on Modern Trends in English Poetry and Prose. Katharine Lord, at the Little Book House in Nantucket, Mass., offers a course in "Expert Bookhandling" which gives a general training in all branches of publishing, bookselling, collecting, etc. The full course will last six to eight weeks. Board and room may be had in Nantucket from \$24 per week. We are delighted to see that Russell Doubleday's little album of photographs, *Long Island*, with notes on the picturesque byways of Paumanok, includes a photo of our historic family tree—*Quercus Giganticus*—which we have already illustrated here. Its girth, Russell Doubleday says, is 19 feet; and all the family take after it.

The New Books

(Continued from page 18)

is left puzzled by his strengths and his weaknesses, unable to understand what it was that bent him to this shape. Therefore it is Norway and not Iva which is again Gøsta af Geijerstam's hero.

K. S.

THE MIDDLE PASSAGE. By Roland Barker and William Doerflinger. Macmillan. 1939. \$2.50.


For a long time the slave trade from the Guinea Coast to the Americas has been waiting for somebody to write a novel around it. Now two authors have clubbed together and done the job—a swashbuckling tale of raiders and piracy, press-gangs and villainous Spaniards, with a dark-eyed beauty, fights, a shipwreck, a slaving captain who quotes Holy Writ, a blackfellow named Admiral Porpoise, and various other properties. The milieu is as remote from ordinary experience or even knowledge as the moons of Jupiter, one in which the most skep-

(Continued on next page)

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS: PHILADELPHIA

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
LONESOME ROAD Patricia Wentworth (Lippincott: \$2.)	Miss Maud Silver, Lon- don "Enquiry agent" who quotes Tennyson to clients, saves two nice girls from violent death.	Numerous attempts at murder and flock of likely suspects keep tension high. Solution not entirely unexpected but bungful of thrills.	Capital