The Phoenix Nest

THE FRUIT

Well, die you must, die you will surely! Sifted to dust that phenomenal brain! Your love and your lust, the thought you thought purely, will not remain.

Or will they remain if lovers and thinkers, touched by the beauty of sea or sky, feel, as it were like a nag in blinkers, their life go by?

Pierced then to the root by confounding glory, hear them cry, "Oh look!" hear them shout, "Oh see!" That'll be the fruit of your ignorant story, as it will with me.

Governor Dewey seems to have made a neat campaign on the New Deal platform. Whatever became of the Republican platform? It wasn't too good. He was right about that. But the New Deal platform still has the stuff. The President can be grateful that the Gov. has broken a lot of ground for the President merely to come forward and point out "who fished the murex up." I don't think Tom Dewey knows much about murexes-or is it murices? I see that a few pious Senators are just hoping like anything that there won't be any great unemployment after the war, because it's just been perfectly impossible for them to arrange to do anything about such an eventuality. It's just too bad, isn't it? They do try so hard!

They took such good care of the poor old enfeebled, broken-down war contractors who always demanded, in their high-minded work for the Government, the greatest profit and the least possible risk; but the war workers—ah, you don't understand, that's a difficult problem! Maybe after election they'll do something.

How Henry Wallace keeps on growing! It's wonderful to see the many petty reactions to him. History loves to repeat. "Those who believe in human rights as a first love and a first duty shall win the peace." I liked his quotation from the President, too, when Roosevelt said of Senator Norris, "Senator Norris, I go along with you because it is my honest belief that you follow in their footsteps—radical like Jefferson, demagogue like Jackson, idealist like Lincoln, wild like Theodore Roosevelt, theorist like Wil-

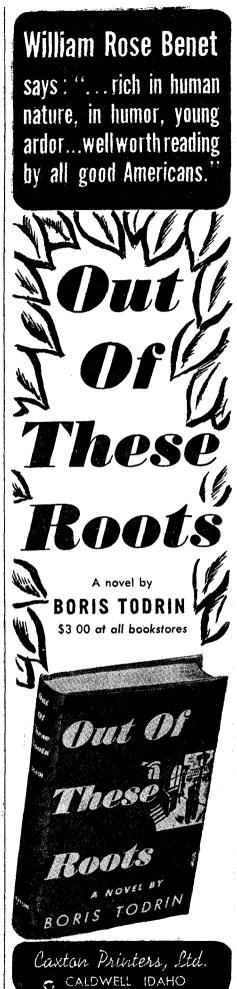
OCTOBER 14, 1944

son-dare to be all of these, as you have in bygone years." That's what we say to Wallace today, too! Read a fine poem on Senator Norris by John Beecher in The New Republic for September 11! Wallace said another fine thing, when he recently spoke to the Independent Voters of the Arts and Sciences that are helping reëlect Roosevelt. He said, "The man who would approach the business of government leadership in fear and accusation, shall not merit the confidence of a work-willing people." "Jobs for All, in Health and in Security. Protect the People in Reconversion." Wallace knows the workers, the farmers, the small business men. He says quietly, "You cannot scare America!" It was Woodrow Wilson who said, "The real wisdom of human life is compounded out of the experiences of ordinary men. . .'. The great struggling unknown masses of the men who are at the base of everything are the dynamic force that is lifting the levels of society."

Pick up a few of those sayings, Governor, and quote them! They're good stuff.

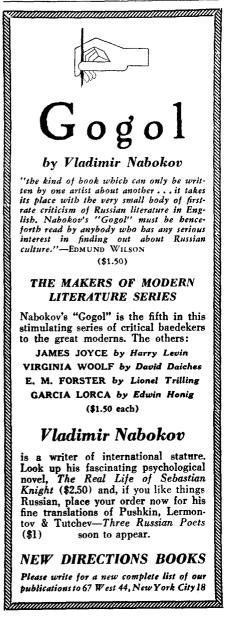
I've been reading a book I like by Compton Mackenzie who, in my comparative youth, wrote several novels I liked. This book, published this year by E. P. Dutton & Co., is called "Mr. Roosevelt" and ought to be in every Roosevelt voter's hands. It is admittedly an appraisal by one not an American. But Mackenzie knows a lot about F. D. R. and about us Americans, and he says some very good things. I like this paragraph, for instance, toward the end of the book:

Whether mankind is happier because printing was invented, be-cause the motive power of steam was discovered, or because the internal-combustion engine was per-fected may be doubted. What may not be doubted is that God Himself cannot restore mankind to a prior state. Adam and Eve found that out to their cost. Nevertheless, such is the natural acquisitiveness and conservativism of human nature that not even yet is man completely convinced that there really is no de-vice for eating his cake and having it. He expects to drive a sixty-horsepower car but preserve a one-horse mind, and that usually in blinkers. He aspires, without inconvenience to his personal liberty, to benefit from the ever increasingly complicated organism of a world which is to the world of barely a quarter of a century ago as an orange to a pumpkin. It cannot be done, and one may suppose that by the time the First World War came to an end, and the pumpkin already showed signs of shrinking, Franklin D. Roosevelt had given up supposing that it could. If he had any lingering doubts left, they were dispelled on that



September day in 1929 when the iridescent haze over Wall Street went with the wind and it was revealed to be as ineffective an anachronism as the Great Wall of China itself.

I've also been reading two enormously clever English literary men who have both become mystics, Aldous Huxley and W. H. Auden. "Time Must Have a Stop" and "For the Time Being" are both worth reading. You will notice that they both refer to time. Auden has also edited recently a selected Tennyson in which he throws out all of the "Idylls of the King" because that was Tennyson's most mid-Victorian period. He may be right, yet I should think he might have kept one or two. Also when he says Tennyson, though with the finest ear, he admits, was the stupidest English poet that ever lived, I don't quite follow him. Tennyson is one of the few poets who knew what was going on in the thought of his time and still transmits to us the nature of those issues, even though some of his "opinions" were terrible.



Of course, to some it seems that a poet shouldn't speak of his "times," even as when Tennyson foresees, in "Locksley Hall," the air-traffic of the future. Huxley doesn't like a poet to do that. When Uncle Eustace is talking to Sebastian, the young poet, about Chaucer, he exclaims in praise, "Living through the forty disastrous years after the Black Death with only one reference to the troubles in the whole of his writings-and that a comic reference!" Much as I may agree with Uncle Eustace that, save for Dante's being "the second greatest virtuoso of language that ever lived" (I'll take his word for it, not reading Italian!) Chaucer must be the greater poet, without all the pettiness of reward and revenge for friends and foes,much as I agree with that, I do not greatly admire Chaucer's feat of staying completely out of the troubles of his time in his poetry. What's so great about it? To return to W. H. Auden, the libretto he has written as a pendant to "The Tempest," and his Christmas poem, are worth your attention. Several of the lyrics are among the best things he has done.

Arthur Kohlenburg, of the United States Army, writes me that I was wrong about Dorothy Thompson's use of "logistics." He proves I was wrong. So I owe Miss Thompson an apology. I should have had the complete Merriam-Webster up in the country, instead of the unsatisfactory edition I did have. He says:

In the past few years "logistics" has been used consistently by logicians as synonymous with "logic." Whether this usage arose initially from ignorance or intent I do not know, but I adduce as an example "A New System of Logistics" by Willard van Orman Quine, a book on mathematical logic.

Nevertheless, I prefer F. D. R.'s usage, when he spoke of "the logistics of peace" before Dan Tobin's outfit! WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

PERSONALS

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The Saturday Review

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The Crostics Club

CGT. A. BLOCK writes again, this Stime from a hospital bed in Saipan whither he was sent to help in a study and eradication of the mosquitoes that carry dengue (or "breakbone" fever, a non-fatal but extremely annoying infection), only to be a victim of it himself. He got his DC to his wife finally through a censor; at least he hopes it reached her, and on the way by plane to Saipan he worked the DC of the 20th Anniversary Issue. Series 16 has been sent to him.

Do you ever keep track of coincidences in your lives? Begin now for curiously interesting amusement in years to come. I wish I had. Francis Hackett's "Henry VIII" accompanied me to Toronto. John Chamberlain later that week in the daily New York Times book review introduced his successor, Francis Hackett. J. C. mentioned his "colorful" "Henry VIII" but preferred to introduce him by a book published in 1940, "I Chose Denmark." Commenting on the latter book, J. C. suggested that it was a natural choice for Hackett since his wife, Signe Toksvig, was a Dane. Now in Series 17 you will find a quotation from her "Biography of Hans Christian Andersen, but I had not heard of her until I selected that work for Series 17. Then I noted that "Henry VIII" is dedicated to her. Today in listening to the CBS program "Invitation to Learning," I heard that she is to share in next Sunday's program.

An experience of Edward W. Weiler, N. Y. City, fits right in here. He had found difficulty in DC 547 with "Owner of a vineyard greatly coveted (Bib.)" and had laid the puzzle aside for further consideration. Next night while listening sleepily to "Information Please" he caught a question involving Bible queens in which Jezebel and Naboth figured. He picked up his DC, filled in *Naboth*, and proceeded to the end.

In the elevator of the hotel Saturday I was opening the week's SRL just received to see which DC they had used that week. A lady in the elevator, noting the DC page, exclaimed, "Oh, so you are a DC fan, too?" Whereupon followed an amusing chat in my room. She was Mrs. James Bland Martin of Virginia, wife of a Naval officer whom she comes to N. Y. to see on his return from assignments. She is evidently a DC propagandist among Navy officers and has introduced them to many.

The MS of Series 17 was delayed in transit to the proofreader by the hurricane which struck in full force the section of Martha's Vineyard where she has her summer home. Aghast as she later approached the express office, she noted that the pier in which it was located was completely wrecked but—the packet was safely tucked away in an inland office whither the freight had been ordered by Boston order just before the hurricane broke. E. S. K.

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Double-Crostics: No. 551 By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS To solve this puzzle for must guess three to find the solve of the solve are given in the col-transformer of which are given in the col-transformer of the solve the each word to be the each word to be the column headed WORDS. There is a the column headed WORDS. There is a the column headed WORDS. There is a the column headed the equired word. The solve of the solve the definitions each letter in the dusters in the definitions each first the duster of the solve of the dusters is the solve of the duster is t

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right side of the diagram. When the column headed WQRDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the au-thor and the tille of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New Inter-national Dictionary (1940 edition).

The solution of last week's Double Crostic will be found on page 59 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

A. Alertly conscious or appreci-ative of (2 wds.) 161 6 126 75 31 45 149 B. Every part; wholly; com-pletely (3 wds.) 43 10 18 80 73 59 151 104 49 95 141 168 2 C. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1864-73). 42 130 56 39 108 D. Feminine character in "Adam Bede" (first name). 139 41 72 52 128 E. River in W. Siberia, 2200 mi. 81 164 21 114 8 33 long. F. The oldest epic fragment in the Teutonic languages.G. One of "Information Please" 119 5 150 153 65 132 93 152 38 29 57 71 experts. H. English jurist whose text is the basis for Sir Edward Coke's "Commentary," etc. 92 131 32 47 82 3 138 54 9 Division of the Alps. 27 53 67 99 145 140 111 121 79 English soldier or sailor (slang). 159 69 118 133 89 Comedy by Terence (160 B.C.) 157 174 23 83 125 62 135 86 L. Belgium mfg. comm., seat of 1914 battle. 136 123 70 166 M. Destitute of force or energy 158 154 24 167 98 148 68 116 46 N. His ears were changed to ass's ears by Apollo. 88 48 55 16 28 ass's ears by Apollo. O. Impressed suddenly with wonder. P. French clockmaker of Germany who claimed to be the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Q. Subject of dedication of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimare." 175 35 44 90 1 169 163 122 155 144 172 19 107 96 103 4 87 110 "Chiud and age." age." R. English composer for whom Byron wrote "Hebrew Melodies" (1791-1864). S. English publisher with bookshop in St. Paul's Churchyard (1744). 50 84 127 171 94 179 173 77 20 112 7 37 14 63 129 17 170 180 146 T. River in French Equatorial Africa. 109 142 58 100 105 U. Mountains in France. 30 26 177 97 156 76 V. Dynasty of Denmark, 1047-1375. 34 85 61 115 143 102 22 W. Plants of the class Musci. 124 117 11 51 91 162 X. Unavailing. 147 12 25 178 66 165 134 40 Y. Name of 4 Popes (beginning with 654-57). 113 13 60 137 101 36 176 78 Z. To construct anew. 120 181 64 106 15 160 74

The Saturday **Review**

WORDS