



Ayot St. Lawrence—"... [one] mirror of this active and famous mind."

LITERARY LANDMARK

SHAW'S CORNER: GBS's home at Ayot St. Lawrence, where he lived from 1906 until his death at ninety-four in 1950, is totally lacking in architectural distinction. You can see its counterpart in any city suburb anywhere. With its worn furniture, oddly reminiscent of Hyde Park, its extensive library of books which for once have been used and read, its plethora of pictures and memorabilia of a long and active career, Shaw's Corner—an hour's drive from London—is first of all the workshop where most of the famous plays and prefaces were written: "Pygmalion," "Man and Superman," "Heart-break House," "The Doctor's Dilemma," "Androcles and the Lion," "Major Barbara," and "Saint Joan." Shaw's Corner is also a memorial of a kindly, eccentric neighbor who subscribed to the local church though he did not attend it, a host who served good liquor though he never touched it, an employer who treated his servants as friends.

The gardens are much more extensive than the house might lead you to expect, covering some three acres. They contain only one reminder, aside from the little hut, of the owner's occupation—a bronze statue of Saint Joan by Claire Winsten. The house is an endlessly fascinating hodgepodge in which the valuable, like Shaw's portrait bust by Rodin, is mixed up with the merely curious—a Chinese costume and hat Shaw wore when receiving Chinese guests, his prayer book and traveling Bible, an autographed manuscript of Richard Strauss's "Intermezzo," a doorknob from Lady Gregory's home in Ireland, a photograph of the young Gene Tunney, another—incribed to Mrs. Shaw—from the young J. M. Barrie, a savage caricature by Dame Laura Knight of a typical London first-night audience, etc. Most personal and evocative reminders of the rich and talented old gentleman are the collection of hats, cloaks, and shoes. The shoes, most of them shabby, are in a ground-floor lavatory. The cloaks, raincoats, and windjammers hang nearby, including a white one which Shaw wore during blackouts to avoid being run down on the road. (As another blackout precaution, he had a walking stick with a flashlight built into the handle.) In the hall, on a Victorian hat-rack, hang Shaw's odd collection of hats, to which he was devoted. Here is the converted housekeeper's bonnet covered with black veils he used for bee-keeping. There are hats which were sixty years old when he died. In this hall also stands the hideous upright piano where GBS sat and sang Italian opera to his own accompaniment during air-raids; if the world forgot that he first began his career as a music critic, Shaw himself did not. It is not necessary to be a Shavian to enjoy an afternoon at Shaw's Corner; if you had never seen one of his plays, or read one of his essays, it would still be possible to enjoy an afternoon in his company. A man's home is his castle, and Shaw's Corner is the only mirror now remaining, except for two shelves of the Collected Works, of this active and famous mind.

—NELSON LANSDALE.

The Vegetable War

By JOHN STEINBECK

I LIKE the English very much, a mystical people with strange and persistent tribal practices. They no longer paint their bodies blue but a faint azure luminescence gives evidence that the wode is in them if not on them.

I first made the acquaintance of the English at home during the war. Previous to that I had met only the traveling Englishman, and these specimens together with a tradition in the Irish part of my family had indicated to me that I would detest them. I was greatly surprised to find that I liked them very much. Apparently the export Englishman is a separate species and is exported for a very good reason. At home the English are delightful and kind and charming. In the beginning it is well to associate with very young Englishmen. As children and young men they speak clearly and even volubly and then when they near the age of thirty they reduce language to a series of grunts—basic vocal symbols of pleasure-pain. This explains why English poetry is usually written by young men. Older poets will usually be found to be Welsh, Scottish, Cornish, or Irish.

The English trait which has most puzzled the rest of the world and particularly the French is their treatment of food. There are two schools of thought about this: one holding that it is a masochistic tendency, a self punishment possibly, a sacrifice to the gods who control their weather. Another school feels that a basic savagery is thus channeled in this comparatively harmless direction. With the gradual disappearance of the fox the murder instinct had to be taken care of in some way, and how better than in the torture and killing of vegetables?

I myself have been of two opinions. My first conclusion, arrived at during the war, I now am prepared to abandon. This first speculation arose from consideration of the Brussels sprout, an innocent, rather pretty vegetable, a kind of dwarf cabbage, bright green with yellow center leaves—at least until the British get at it. This vegetable if picked fresh and gently boiled until tender is delicious with salt and pepper and perhaps a little vinegar or lemon juice. What did the British do to it? I do not know. They must have beaten and mauled it, soaked it in strong corrosives, and gradually and savagely reduced it to a gray mess which looked and tasted like soiled laundry. This could not be an accident. To cook Brussels sprouts well is

very easy. The English method requires time and great effort. Therefore, their method must have purpose even if it is beyond our understanding. The vegetable after such treatment has abandoned self-respect and even identity.

At that time I came to the conclusion that this barbaric brainwashing technique came from an English fear that vegetables might if kindly treated demand dominion status. This was a conclusion to which I clung until very recently.

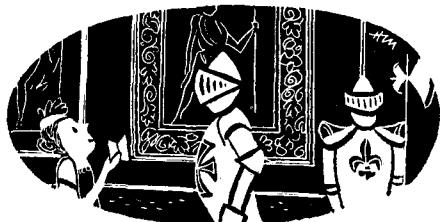
NOW it is true that a great many Englishmen have definitely zoologic traits, sexual reactions, and methods reminiscent of the anthropoid group. On the other hand, there are other English who at first seem to be enigmas. These puzzled me very much. It was only when a small colony of them came under study that I was able to observe them objectively and in detail. The necks were long and willowy, the hair fernlike and the legs thin. The feet were short and narrow but with long and rootlike toes. I observed them at play in dancing, and was delighted by their swaying motion very like the undulation of grasses in the wind—a swaying moreover which had no relation to the beat of the music being played.

My basic question was of course: how do they procreate? A questioning of individuals had provided no explanation. Indeed, there seemed to be a disinclination to discuss the problem. And yet they must reproduce themselves in some way, else they would disappear.

Watching the swaying necks and stemlike legs, the answer came to me. They pollenate.

It was this discovery which created my hypothesis of the mistreatment of vegetables. Who, I asked myself, is most savage toward man? Man, of course. And who would be likely to treat vegetables with consistent ferocity? I think the answer is obvious.

There are all kinds of Englishmen—and some of them are perhaps traitors to their tradition. It is well known that some rich as well as aristocratic families employ French cooks. And I have heard certain treacherous British bemoaning the failure of Napoleon to conquer the Island because at least it would have improved the cooking.



beautiful

Spain

... welcomes you!



Come to Spain! Enjoy the sunshine . . . the fabulous museums and cathedrals . . . the modern cities, the ancient villages . . . the warm, friendly people . . . the truly amazing bargains wherever you go! There's so much to do and see that we say:

See American Express first! Enjoy the luxury and economy of a trip planned to make the most of your time in Spain . . . and your money!

Go to Spain by ship or plane. For information and reservations, consult your Travel Agent or

AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL SERVICE
 65 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.
Offices and correspondents throughout the world

If You Could Have One Wish for PERSONAL SUCCESS

—Thousands are using this practical, scientific principle to achieve new goals in their careers and everyday living. No long study courses, no mysticism. For free details, send for your copy of "New Directions to Successful Living" today.

new directions counsel

24 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

OPEN ALL YEAR

Stonehenge

RIDGEFIELD, CONN.
Reservations: IDlewood 8-6511
VICTOR GILBERT "SKINKER"

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS WANTED

A publisher with standards invites your attention. No condescending, misleading promises, no high-pressure sales devices—such as you may already have experienced. Just honest, careful subsidy publishing, by book people—which is rare enough! Write or mail your manuscript directly:
THE AMERICAN PRESS
 Mr. Saunders, 489 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 17

YOU CAN PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

Almost 2000 authors—most of them new—have had their books published, promoted and distributed through our unique plan. No matter what type of book you've written—fiction, poetry, biography, religious—we can help you. Send for our free illustrated brochure, "We Can Publish Your Book".

EXPOSITION PRESS | Dept. SR-93
 386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, NEW YORK
 IN CALIFORNIA: 9172 SUNSET BLVD., HOLLYWOOD 46

Freighter Voyages

TRAVEL
 THE COMFORTABLE
 LEISURELY WAY. BE ONE OF
 AN INTIMATE SHIPS COMPANY ON A
 VOYAGE OF ADVENTURE AND ROMANCE.
 VISIT JAPAN, MANILA, HONG KONG, SEE
 RIO DE JANEIRO, MONTEVIDEO AND BUENOS
 AIRES. SPOTLESS CHEERFUL NORWEGIAN
 SHIPS. LUXURIOUS CABINS WITH PRIVATE
 BATH OR SHOWERS. TASTEFUL MEALS—
 SMORGASBORD. COURTEOUS ENGLISH
 SPEAKING OFFICERS AND STEWARDESSES
 FOR REAL SATISFACTION NOTHING
 EQUALS FREIGHTER TRAVEL.
 ENJOY THE BEST.
 ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR WRITE:

IVARAN
Lines

STOCKARD STEAMSHIP CORPORATION General Agents
 17 BATTERY PLACE NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

HOLIDAY in Europe

EUROPE IN THE FALL

Enjoy yourself in Europe when the summer crowds have disappeared & Europeans have returned to their homes. We have either escorted fall programs from 23 days for \$977.00 to 49 days for \$1535.00 including FIRST CLASS HOTELS IN EUROPE, or independent tours personalized to suit your own requirements. Our travel counselors are all experts and "Have Been There." Let us help you find the plan suited to give you UTMOST ENJOYMENT.

Book now for choice space in 1957.

Write or Phone for Booklet "SR"

EMBASSY TOURS

1472 Broadway (42 ST.), N. Y. 36, N. Y.
 Tel: OXford 5-2121