

terous happenings. But, for reasons that have to do less with his ability as a writer than with his temperament, he remains disinterested in, or perhaps incapable of treating some of life's consequential issues.

Under such circumstances, the most one can hope for is a sense of irony, a clever hand, or the subtle philosophizing most effectively dramatized in the central novella, "The Two Old Maids." There we find a young priest, Father Alessio, making an excellent case for a pet monkey (or is it mankind?), who has been found guilty of having desecrated the sanctity of the altar of a near-by church. How wise and, in a human sense, how mature the writer is is perhaps best shown in the reflective comment in "Don Giovanni and His Wife," which tells of a married couple who love to sing and to play musical instruments, even though they are hopelessly out of tune. Yet, with all their disagreeable dissonances the two manage to live harmoniously not only with each other but with themselves. "Of their incapacity," writes Landolfi, "nearly segregated from the world as they were, they had not the slightest suspicion and could, with the purest bliss, far from any menace, give themselves up to their passion—so true is it that our real abilities do not always make up the substance of our existence."

Michael's Misguided Republic

The First Day of Friday, by Honor Tracy (Random House. 246 pp. \$4.95), casts a wry light on how the other half lives in the Irish Free State. Maggie Rennert, an editor, critic, and poet, is not unacquainted with Irish characters.

By MAGGIE RENNERT

MICHAEL DUFF, heir to all the burdens of *noblesse oblige* and surely one of the most engaging heroes in contemporary fiction, struggles manfully against his plight as a victim of privilege in this gay and rueful novel, Honor Tracy's best since *The Straight and Narrow Path*.

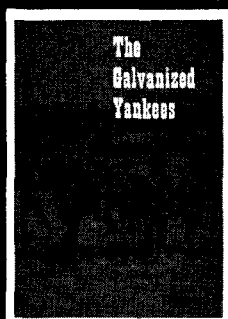
Weary of the daily effort to extricate himself from the infinitely tensile skeins spun by his determinedly inept dependents, the young lord of the manor—inspired by a televised report on new African nations—decides to declare himself a "republic." Two months and a

hilarious lawsuit later, it is clear that neither the duty-obsessed Protestant gentry nor the anything-goes Catholic populace of this already free Irish enclave is really ready for self-government. Michael, a saving realist, abandons his dream of carrying off his beautiful fiancée, Dulcinea Browning, to a life of proletarian comforts.

Honor Tracy's keen eye for absurdities and her skilful one-two punch—a rapid alternation of telling dialogue and poker-faced comment—swiftly measure for us Michael's sweetly decaying mother, a fuddled relict of an assassinated world; Lucius Browning, whose dedication to eighteenth-century enlightenment survives by the twentieth-century sweat of his daughter; and Father Behan, whose earnest wrangles with God have, as he is despairingly aware, little to do with his duties as shepherd of the Curmagh flock.

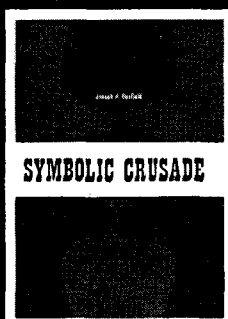
But Miss Tracy's singular achievement is *Atracta*, maid-of-all, or oftener, no work at the manor, and perhaps as

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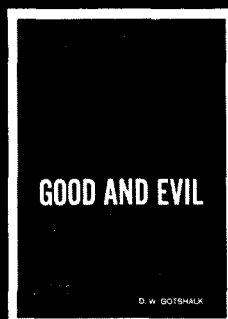
THE GALVANIZED YANKEES

by D. Alexander Brown. Told here for the first time is the exciting story of some 6,000 Confederate soldiers recruited from Union prison camps in the North to fight the Indians in the West. This is the story of their adventures from September 1864 to November 1866 as they soldiered the West for the nation they each originally had sought to destroy. Illustrated. \$5.50.



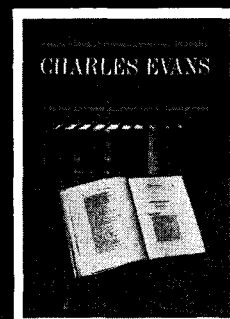
SYMBOLIC CRUSADE Status Politics and the American Temperance Movement

by Joseph R. Gusfield. The important role of the Temperance movement throughout U. S. history is analyzed as clashes and conflicts between rival social systems, cultures, and status groups. Sometimes the "dry" is winning this classic battle for prestige and power. Sometimes, as in today's society, he is losing. \$5.00.



PATTERNS OF GOOD AND EVIL A Value Analysis

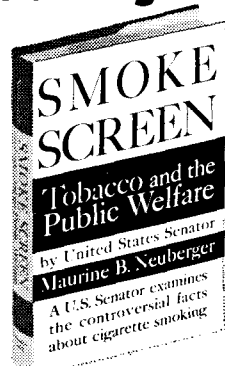
by D. W. Gotshalk. Modern philosophical skeptics will see heresy, but the general reader hope in this timely, lucid, systematic analysis of value—good and evil, right and wrong, etc.—from a challenging new viewpoint that proposes a new scientific treatment of values. The author relates his arguments to common everyday experience. \$4.50.



CHARLES EVANS, AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHER

by Edward G. Holley. Here is a fascinating biography of Charles Evans (1850-1935), the Boston orphan who became a controversial and peripatetic librarian—Indianapolis, Baltimore, Omaha, Chicago—before winning lasting fame for his *American Bibliography*, "one of the greatest bibliographical compilations of all time." Illustrated. \$7.50.

Oregon Senator Maurine Neuberger reports on what are the facts and what is fancy about the relationship between SMOKING & HEALTH



In **SMOKE SCREEN: TOBACCO AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE**, Senator Maurine Neuberger presents the evidence and brings order out of the chaos of charges and counter-charges of the last few years.

Senator Neuberger raises and answers such questions as: Do filter cigarettes really cut down on the intake of tars and nicotine? Why isn't tobacco covered by the Pure Food and Drug Act? What is the real function of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee? Is there sufficient concern about the problem in Government, Congress and the American Medical Association? How has the tobacco industry promoted the sale of cigarettes to teenagers?

She also offers a program designed to brake the rising numbers of smokers, and to educate the public about the "hazards of smoking." Here is a highly readable book, straight-forward and most dramatically revealing about one of today's most controversial subjects. Get your copy today—especially if you smoke. \$3.95

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memorable a character as Dickens's Sairey Gamp. (About as reliable, too, in veracity and vocabulary: "the first day of Friday" is a mild example of the way she trembles on the brink of communication.) Without allowing an underlying seriousness to puncture the surface, the author somehow manages to move our response to *Atracta* from smiling indulgence for a rural caricature to chilling comprehension of precisely how frightful is the union of wobbly wits and firm conviction of rectitude.

Honor Tracy's earlier *Straight and Narrow Path* had an edge to it, for all its fun; most of the novels that followed, although they still displayed the happy effects of the author's skill at rendering the ridiculous, tended to slide over into farce; they were keen, amusing, but quickly forgotten. Perhaps a family-feeling of combined love and impatience explains why Miss Tracy, in this return exploration of the Irish scene and character, speaks more sharply and of more extensive folly. Unevenly paced, *The First Day of Friday* is a less shapely novel than *The Straight and Narrow Path*, but its coloring is subtler, its logic more inescapable, and the author's characteristic undoing of pretensions more impartial.

Heroes and Honorable Scalawags:

Do you partake of that old-fashioned habit of reading for pleasure—not for profit, status, or pornographic kicks, but simply for the joy of being transported into that storybook world you first explored in childhood?

Do you like a swaggering tale of adventure, with Red Indians, buckskin-clad frontiersmen, buff and blue Colonials, and Red-coated Britishers? Do you enjoy, at least for a while, a place away from all the subtle complexities of modern morality, a place where right is right and wrong is wrong, and good is good and bad is bad, and no nonsense about it?

Do you agree that a proper adventure tale should have its proper proportions of battles, scalplings, betrayals, good heroes, and bad villains, a successful surgical operation never before tried in human history, a good woman behaving as a good woman should, and a bad woman behaving as a bad woman should? Do you also agree that the only historical moment truly fit for the classic adventure story is the eighteenth century—and that of all wars ever fought by men the American Revolution was without question the most colorful, just, and heroic?

Are you ready for a good gulp of real patriotism—the kind we learned about in school a hundred years ago, and as different from the John Birch-Citizens Council swill as night is from day?

Are you fed up with the current illiteracy that passes for writing in today's best-seller, and are you starved for some satisfying if old-fashioned English prose?

Do you revere a good sea battle? None of this long-distance, adding-machine warfare between mechanical giants, but ship to ship, side to side, roll out the carronades, batter in the three-foot walls of oak, and Britannia rules the waves—except on occasion.

And, finally, do you believe that when one closes the covers of a book—now and then, at least—it should be in the way of saying goodbye to a set of scalawags that one has come to know and like?

If your answer is "yes" to even a couple of the above questions, then Stephen Longstreet has written a book for you: *A Few Painted Feathers* (Doubleday, \$5.95), good, solid entertainment, good history, and good romance. It is the story of the campaigns in the Southern colonies during the final year before the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, and it is one of the better novels about the American Revolution.

—HOWARD FAST.

Your Literary I. Q.

Conducted by John T. Winterich

NATURAL ANAGRAMS

In a natural anagram, you take a word (a simon-pure, honest-to-goodness dictionary word) and turn it into another simon-pure, honest-to-goodness dictionary word. The present group is submitted by Dr. Henry S. Houghton of Nashville, Tennessee. Answers on page 68.

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|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. ACCIDENTS | 6. EMENDATION | 11. PATCHING |
| 2. ADHERENT | 7. HEDONISTS | 12. POLEMIST |
| 3. BACTERIAL | 8. LIGATION | 13. RELATIONS |
| 4. BARGAINED | 9. MONOTONES | 14. RELATIVES |
| 5. DEANSHIP | 10. NECTARINES | 15. TRANSIENT |