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Hamlet's Madness Has Infected Others

To a certain taste, art consists in making things appear as different as possible from what they really are. The farmer's daughter constructs her pin-cushion in the similitude of a pink rabbit; the gardener lays out a flower bed to resemble as closely as possible a Turkish carpet; the horticulturist transforms his trees into a parliament of peacocks, pigs and porcupines, says the New York Times. So in the art of criticism; Shakespeare's Hamlet, but the pedantic, desecrating, "wisest fool in Christendom," James I. And the Villager welcomes Miss Winstanley's "Hamlet and the Scottish Succession" as "the most fruity contribution

to all the discussion of Shakespeare for a hundred years." "Fruity" is the right word. The historical parallel is of the films. Hamlet, was reputed to have been murdered by Bothwell and that Bothwell thereupon married Mary Queen of Scots, but here the parallel ends.

Not Alike At All. Far from being deprived of his right to the crown James became King of Scotland upon Mary's abdication, in 1567, at the age of 13 months. Bitter as was the pill to Elizabeth and all Britain, he was the heir to the English throne, acknowledged and uncontested. His brilliant, adventuresome and romantic mother is as far from resembling the pliant and supine Queen Gertrude as in the "vain, dissolute, presumption and foolish" Darnley from resembling the majestic of buried Denmark Bothwell, instead of contesting either the Scottish or the English throne with the young King, turned pirate and died insane in 1578, when James was 12. At the time Shakespeare was engaged upon "Hamlet," James' Queen mother had been dead some fourteen years. As for James in the character of Shakespeare's Prince, he would not beguile a farmer's daughter to stick pins into him. Yet the critical Polonius gazes blandly and murmurs in admiration, "Very like a whale!"

Part of Danish History. Equally intractable to Miss Winstanley's purpose is the history of the play. The story in its main outlines has been known to the learned since Saxo Grammaticus and his Danish History, written in the twelfth century. It had been popularized with great success in Belle-forest's "Hystorie of Hamlet," published in 1570. This story was dramatized not later than 1589, and not by Shakespeare but by Thomas Kyd. As played by Shakespeare's company it achieved an immense popularity. Far from being conceived as having any subtle political significance, it was revealed in by the populace and parodied by the wits as a crude tragedy of blood and revenge. In an "Epistle" printed in 1589, Thomas Nash wrote: "English Seneca read by Candle-light yields many good sentences, as Bloud is a begger, and so forth, and if you treat him faire in a froly morning, he will afford you whole Hamlets, I should say handfulls, of tragical speeches."

The Play Revised. In 1596 Thomas Lodge, speaking of "an incarnate devil," says that he "looks pale as ye visard of ye ghost which cried so miserably at yo Theater like an oster wife, Hamlet, revenge." This phrase rings satirically long after Shakespeare discarded it when rewriting the old play, in 1618 Rowland wrote:

I will not cry Hamlet Revenge my greaves, But I will call Hang-man Revenge on theeves.

In all likelihood Shakespeare had long been engaged in refurbishing up Kyd's "Hamlet" (Kyd having disappeared or died) in order to keep in touch with the advancing time. A partial revision, containing much obviously Shakespearean matter, was published in 1603; a widely different and virtually complete version following in 1604. James came to the English throne in 1603; but by that time Gertrude Mary had been read their teen years and Claudius Bothwell twenty-five years, Richard Burbage, who in all probability played Kyd's Hamlet in his early twenties as "a violet in the youth of primy nature," had gone so far in the way of all-flesh that Queen Gertrude described him as "fat and scant of breath." Novelty and topical allusion is the last thing any one would look for in that ancient play.

Can't Make It Out. The depth of Miss Winstanley's critical acumen may be gauged by the fact that, aside from her theory, she finds the popularity of "Hamlet" "inexplicable." She has no eye for the Sardou-like skill of Kyd in constructing effective "situations," no heart for the popular delight in stories of ghosts and revenge, of fine-spun intrigue, of drownings, poisonings and multitudinous slaughter. Even less must she suspect the perennial freshness and charm and pathos of Shakespeare's Prince—"a character," writes A. B. Walkley, so beset by hostile circumstances, so naturally debonair and "sweet despite those circumstances, that no actor, however incompetent, has been known entirely to fail in it."

WORK. "Thank God ever morning when you get up that you have something to do which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to do your best, will breed you temperance, self-control, diligence, strength of will, content and a hundred virtues which the idle will never know." Kingsley.

Oh, cheerily smile And wait awhile, For the storm will soon be over; There's a bit of blue in the sky for you, There's a sweetness yet in the clover.

Oh rest and wait, Though a burden great On thy heavy heart is pressing; For a hand of love Will the cross remove, And leave instead a blessing.

—Jean Dwight Franklin.

A War Memorial

Today sees the inauguration of a war memorial which constitutes the first public example of one of Italy's leading sculptors, Professor Marin Rattelli. The monument consists of a massive pediment of Sicilian granite, surmounted by a great globe of bronze, bearing the names of the heroes commemorated, and a winged bronze statue of Victory, wreathed and bringing sheaves of palm. It stands in front of the Tabernacle chapel at Aberystwyth, a resort to which the sculptor is especially attached, and commemorates sixteen men of the parish who fell in the Great War. It is not often that we add a new instance to the list of Italian artists who have fallen in love with this island of ours—as Canova did with Waterloo Bridge—but of Signor Rattelli's praise we may well say that it is a golden leaf of laurel, to use the picturesque language of his race and calling. He has compared the noble sweep of Cardigan Bay to the Bay of Naples—a superlative tribute from an Italian—and says: "The scenery is not too wild, but contains just that, harmony which charms the eye and rests the soul." Aberystwyth has responded by the commissioning him for the town war memorial.

The Professor has four times been the winner of the sculpture prize in the National Art Competition of Italy and the Grand Prix de Rome, and on one of these occasions the Dante group which he sent in was bought by the State for Rome's Gallery of Modern Art. Rome has also awarded him its Grand Prix for portraits and is purchasing his busts of Crispi, Domenico, Morelli, David Labini, (founder of her International Institute of Agriculture) and the present Pontiff. He was Gold Medalist at the World's Fairs of St. Louis and Barcelona, and by resolution of a Royal Commission, his medals—rather the replicas—have been exchanged with the chief numismatic collections of Paris, London and Berlin. A Sicilian by birth and a pupil of Morelli, the Professor studied at Rome, Florence and Venice, and in the course of his tours of study and inspiration has visited Paris, London and Greece. Travellers and critics are well acquainted with his Annunciation fountain in marble at Montreal, in his native island; his King Humbert monument at Catania; the Garibaldi and Crispi monuments at Palermo; his fountain of the Naluds at Rome and the Baptistery of Comiso Cathedral. He is a true son of the sun-kissed South, and is idolized by his pupils and friends.

That sentence, instinct with sense of the theatre and divination of the drama, is worth all the lucubrations of ten thousand exploiters of literary mares' nests.

Others' View Points

Family Singing. (Concord Monitor) "Why," asks a contemporary writer, "do so few parents nowadays sing either to or with their children?" She goes on to urge a revival of this fine old custom. Perhaps, as she suggests, the phonograph, with its music-making facilities, or the automobile and the movie, forever dragging people from their homes, or jazz with its exotic and difficult cadences, have driven the old sweet airs and the habit of family singing from the American homes.

Old hymns of noble verse and nobler music, beautiful old ballads in settings of simple but perfect melody, are a valuable part of the equipment of any life and memory. Every little while new music of real merit is produced which should be added to the collection as pearls are added to a string.


Homes in which such songs are sung, homes in which fathers and mothers sing such songs first to and then with their children, are among the greatest influences of civilization. More important than the songs or the singing is the habit instilled in early life of finding pleasure in simply finding association within the walls of home itself.

ELIHU YALE'S SUNDIAL

LONDON, July 28—Glenham Hall, LordGulford's Suffolk seat, is in the market. The original Elizabethan design of the mansion suffered extensive alterations in the 18th century, and it combines Queen Anne or very early Georgian features. Glenham Hall stands in a park of 180 acres, near Marlesford station, on the main road from London to Lowestoft, about eight miles from the sea. A sundial which belonged to and bears the arms of Elihu Yale, who endowed the Yale University, and other works of art adorn the grounds.

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THE THROAT

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PREMATURE COMPLAINTS.

During the period of dry weather recently the blue-ruin cry was very generally heard. It was predicted that the hay crop would be little if any more than a twenty-five per cent crop and that the grain and root crops would be little better.

The hay crop is now practically all harvested and, generally speaking, it is almost as good as last year's and has been harvested in better condition than in years past. The grain crop also gives promise of being an excellent one and in all probability the root crop will as usual measure up to the average.

Prophets of blue ruin are also at present engaged in expatiating upon the poor prices in store for our farmers during the coming autumn. These predictions are as likely to fall of fulfillment as those regarding our crops. The worst things we have to encounter are those which never happen and it is folly to dwell upon them. This province has never yet experienced a failure in crops and it has seldom experienced prices which did not yield at least some profit to the producer. There is so far no reason to anticipate either poor crops or poor prices for this season and nothing will be gained by prophesizing blue ruin. If ever a country enjoyed the fulfillment of the promise that "seed time and harvest shall not fail," that country is Prince Edward Island.

WHICH IS THE STILE?

Not long since the McKenzie King Liberals hoped to use the United Farmers as a stile by which to climb over to the treasury benches. The recent success of the United Farmers has somewhat altered the situation and the latter are aspiring to use the Liberals as their stile. In any case the two parties are depending upon each other in the hope of climbing over and securing the coveted seats. As to who shall dominate the combination nothing is being said by the interested parties and it matters little to Canada whether it shall be Mr. Crerar or McKenzie King, it unfortunately the administration should fall into the hands of either.

It would be late to ignore the fact that the intended amalgamation is a menace to Canada. The group of political adventurers in the west, misnamed, "United Farmers" under the leadership of Mr. Crerar has a specific policy for western Canada. That policy is the

elimination of all duties on articles used or consumed in but not manufactured in the west. The west has no manufacturing industries; its product is mainly wheat and it has no fear of competition with the United States. McKenzie King Liberalism, with no hope of winning out on its own merits, is seeking an alliance with the United Farmers in the hope that the united forces may dominate the next parliament and that Liberalism dominate the farmers. The Liberal policy is an indefinite free trade. Should the two groups win out there would inevitably be such a demolition of the tariff wall as would leave not only Canadian industry but Canadian agriculture at the mercy of the United States. Quebec, which at present is the centre of MacKenzie King Liberalism and practically isolated in Canadian politics, is by no means enamoured of the free trade policy either of Mr. King or of Mr. Crerar. The province profited more possibly than any other province in Canada by the National Policy. Not only has its manufacturing increased but its agricultural development has been enormously helped by the protection given to its market gardens, its dairying, poultry etc. If Quebec considered only its fiscal policy it would never adopt the free trade policy of MacKenzie King Liberalism; it would stand by the protective policy which has built up its industries and its farms and which gives employment to its sons and daughters. But the province is anxious to be freed from its present political isolation and the temptation to unite forces even with a party with which it has nothing in common except to get into power is sufficiently alluring to set its politicians thinking.

The menace of the proposed amalgamation is one that vitally affects the Maritime Provinces. The United States is now barred and bolted against all our agricultural products. What would happen if we pulled down our tariff wall and allowed ourselves to be inundated with American produce? What would happen our home markets which now consume eighty-five per cent of our produce, if our manufacturing industries were flooded with the products of United States factories? A few moments' serious thinking will convince even the narrowest partisan that the triumph of either MacKenzie King Liberalism or United Farmers or both combined would mean ruin not only to Canadian industry but to Canadian agriculture.

voiced from platform and through the press; what of them?

Has there been no action and no "resolution" in regard to any of them, and if so why are the public kept in ignorance of the "whys" and wherefores" of at least the most important of these? They would or should be embodied in the report to the Lieutenant Governor, and in accord with the ordinary processes of civilized government they should be laid before the people. In their published resolution, the Commission declared that there was "no interference" on the part of the government with the Commission in the enforcement of the Act, but that statement is just innocent enough not to cover the whole ground. People have been asking if certain obstacles have not been placed in the way of the enforcement of the Prohibition Act by the government, as for instance in the enforcement of importations by private interests under their semi-taxed license taxation enactment and a condemnation of the Summer release of convicts under the Act, performance of a public duty, and so frequently from prison. Has for which all the right thinking people of the province applauded these most things? There has been numerous complaints in connection with the administration of this department character in these matters to just.

Current Comment

Some time ago we commented upon the fact that the Report of the Prohibition Commission, now a most important department of the public service, was not laid before the Legislature as in the case of all other departmental reports, and in accord with the practice of all other governments in the civilized world. Little by little, however things are gradually leaking out, and causing the public both to think and wonder. Lately a little of new light was shed upon the subject by the publication of a very remarkable resolution passed by that body, and still later by a letter from their secretary, published by direction of the chairman of the Commission, in which a small glimmering of information much more of which the public are looking for and have a right to get, has been given. One thing is now established as a fact and that is that "resolutions" have been adopted by the Commission, but it is possible that the only couragement of importations by subject matter before them to be private interests under their semi-taxed license taxation enactment and a condemnation of the Summer release of convicts under the Act, performance of a public duty, and so frequently from prison. Has for which all the right thinking people of the province applauded these most things? There has been numerous complaints in connection with the administration of this department character in these matters to just.

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