

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

The Countess Cathcart must have sat up nights at Ellis Island getting ready to burst upon the country, book, play and all. "The Woman Tempted" is now being offered to an avaricious public.

Chicagoans will be particularly interested in Robert Herrick's "Chimes" which deals with a Mid-western University generally suspected to be that of our own city.

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE PRAIRIE YEARS"

By Carl Sandburg
Harcourt Brace & Co.

"For thirty years and more I have planned to make a certain portrait of Abraham Lincoln." Thus simply, Carl Sandburg opens his two volume biography. And this simplicity is the grateful keynote of his handling of Abraham Lincoln. This portrait "would sketch the country lawyer and prairie politician who was intimate with the settlers of the Knox County neighborhood where I grew up as a boy, and where I heard the talk of men and women who had eaten with Lincoln, given him a bed overnight, heard his jokes and lingo, remembered his silence and his mobile face."

In Lincoln's early years Mr. Sandburg had naturally less of facts, and he has in consequence given his imagination fuller play. During those first seven years of Lincoln's life, spent in Kentucky and the migration of the Lincoln family into the wilds of Indiana, Mr. Sandburg's purpose has been to create for us what the boy Lincoln must have been and done and, sometimes, thought. In this Mr. Sandburg's poetical temperament once in a while gets the bit between its teeth and goes just a shade too fast, so that we say, "Wait a moment. You aren't creating a fictitious character, you are telling us about Abe Lincoln whose every outline is dear to us but must be clearcut and not blurred with might have been." But there is much which stands out with conviction, particularly the understanding that "Silence found him, he met silence. In the making of him as he was, the element of silence was immense."

The years went on and the boy brought up in the wilderness began to make his contacts with the world. Running a ferry across the Ohio river and a flat boat down the Mississippi he met settlers, traders, and "movers," who began to contribute to that background of his mind which was like a vast blackboard on which the marks were the few simple lines that Nature and the wilderness life had made, not the confused scrawling that newspapers, movies, indiscriminate reading make during those same years on our own. So Lincoln, when he came to learn about the world was old enough to sort out, to organize, to evaluate his facts. And all his life this was what he did, he kept his mind in order.

It is this clarity, this mathematical sureness of thinking, which result at last in Lincoln, the towering mind, defining the issues of a nation as no one else in that nation could or dared define them. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," across seventy years the words of that great speech ring with as majestic a truth as they did when they set a country on fire.

It was this clarity of mind which made Lincoln demand from Douglas

"the naked truth," pushing aside all personal petty considerations to go straight to the core no matter how bitter it might be. It was this clarity of mind which made Lincoln score President Polk, as with the most fiery words at his command, "He is a bewildered, confounded and miserably perplexed man."

Mr. Sandburg has done admirably in creating the national background for Lincoln, the immense economic power of the cotton-growing south which for thirty years had its strange hold on Washington, the growing importance of the vast Middle West, the sweeping onward to the Pacific Coast with its problem of railway transportation, all the stupendous issues of a growing nation which united and divided the minds of the country. But out of all the issues, as from the flames of some of our old 4th of July fireworks a figure would arise, comes the figure of Lincoln, and the flames die down, while he by his sheer power dominates the scene.

The effect of Mr. Sandburg's book is cumulative, every page gives us a little better understanding of Lincoln, lawyer, inveterate story-teller, friend of children and the weak of all kinds, man among men, politician, it is like Lincoln himself in that it "keeps on growing."

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ANCIENT HATREDS RULE NEAR EAST

In Spite of Modernization In Many Lines, Old Racial Quarrels Last

In spite of the modernization of clothing and social customs in Turkey and the near east, ancient hatreds still rule between the various races, and must be reckoned with in the efforts toward world peace, according to Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, American author and traveler, who has just returned from a study of the Near East Relief work in Greece, Syria and Turkey.

"The Pan-Islamic movement is not really serious, because there are too many rivalries to permit any real union against the Christian forces," declared Mrs. Harrison. "The people hate each other too cordially to unite in any strong movement. But the mandatory powers in Syria and Palestine must co-operate to produce peaceful conditions."

"In the meantime, America is giving the world a real lesson in constructive charity. A true picture of the Near East would be a succession of snapshots of war refugees, with America alleviating suffering on a widespread scale and offering education and training to the children."

PRINCESS OF MOST ANCIENT LINE HERE

Lady Surma Mar Shimun, Princess Regent of Assyria, is in the United States to appeal for help to 30,000 Assyrian refugees now stranded in Mesopotamia.

Lady Surma is a very old-fashioned princess—a slight white-haired woman of sixty, wearing eyeglasses, who travels without any pomp or attendants, although her royal line is perhaps the most ancient in the world today. For her trip to the new world she wears a small black hat and a plain suit such as she has worn for years in her work with the Near East Relief.

The throne of which she is the official regent is that of the patriarch of the Assyrians, whose occupant, Mar Ihsai Shimun, is a boy of sixteen, who received his elementary education in the American schools in Persia and is now completing his schooling in England. He is an ardent devotee of baseball.

EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF MEAT BUSINESS

An exhaustive study of the retail meat trade of the United States has just been completed, says the National Live Stock and Meat Board which cooperated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the work. The study has consumed two years' time and it is said that statistics compiled not only will be of infinite value to the meat retailers, but will benefit all branches of the live-stock and meat industry and the consuming public as well. Subjects taken up were: methods and practice, margins and expenses, and consumers' demand.

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AMERICAN GIRLS IN DAMASCUS FIRE ZONE

Relief Workers In Syrian War Region Continue Work Under Fire

Although conditions in Damascus are so precarious that the French government has warned all foreign residents to leave the city, and 7000 tourists have been denied permission to visit that part of the country, a relief unit of five American girls continues its work among the refugees in the Damascus district.

Two of the Near East Relief workers, Miss Agnes Evon of Pittsfield, Mass., and Miss Belle Bass of New York, narrowly escaped death a few days ago when their train was stopped by a Druse attack. The rebels opened fire on the train, many bullets passing through the windows and wounding several passengers. A few days later, a man was killed beside them in a Damascus street.

ADJUDICATION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Subscriber Administratrix of the Estate of John J. Carolan, deceased, will attend the Probate Court of Lake County, at a term thereof to be held at the Court House in Waukegan, in said County, on the first Monday of July next, 1926 when and where all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to present the same to said Court for adjudication.

MARTHA M. CAROLAN,
Deerfield, Illinois,
Administratrix of Estate of
John J. Carolan, deceased.
Waukegan, Ill., April 5th, 1926.
Ernest S. Gail, Attorney. 6-8pd

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MANY GIRLS ENTER MEAT STORY CONTEST

Every State Represented In the Third Annual Essay Competition, Report

More than 10,000 high school girls are enrolled to date in competition for university scholarships and cash prizes offered in connection with the third National Meat Story contest, says the National Live Stock and Meat Board, contest sponsor. Every state is represented, it is said.

The story contest is held annually by the national board as a feature of its program of education on the subject of meat. Its success is attributed to wide co-operation accorded by high school home economics teachers through whom the contest is carried on.

The stories will be judged by a committee of home economics specialists selected from the most prominent women in the United States in this field. Winners will be announced about June 1.

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