



# ESTHER GOULD'S BOOK REVIEW AND TRAVEL PAGE



## THE FIRST OF THEM

Old Marco Polo was the first of them! His successors haven't always been so courageous and I fear often no more truthful. But it is fun to go back to this first author-traveller and hear his naive accounts of his wonderings. At least he gave plenty of time to it, unlike the moderns whose idea of travel is to capture a speed record. Marco's trip was twenty-six years, it is rather startling to come upon the statement that "then continued to navigate the Sea of India for eighteen months more before they arrived whither they were bound," and this was only one lap of the journey.

Think of the sensation of hearing from a traveller who had been in these mysterious countries, who had sailed over these uncharted seas. No wonder the natives of Venice crowded round making Marco repeat his story until in self defense he had to write it down. Only the arrival of a man from Mars today could be comparable to the return of Marco.

Sometimes in reading the long unsmiling pages of the book one wonders what has kept it so very much alive through the years. Perhaps it is rather the legend of Marco Polo that lives than the book itself. For it is not particularly exciting reading, Marco had no publishers to suggest he "jazz it up" a little. Its charm, like that of its map, is most of all in its quaintness.

The Prologue opens: "Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses! and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the world take this book and cause it to be read to you," and we realize that we have stepped back into a time when people could not read, when miracles happened, when the grave of Adam was one of the sights to be seen as today is the grave of Columbus.

## "IT'S A GREAT WAR"

By Mary Lee  
Houghton Mifflin Co.

Here is a book to make you realize the war. If that isn't your object don't start it. For from the moment that you begin to read its slightly laconic, sketchy, broken sentences, you are in it and cannot get away.

This book is written by a woman. Mary Lee writes as one who was there, it is unnecessary to turn to the publisher's note to know that her experiences paralleled those of her character, Anne Wentworth, in her

book "It's a Great War." "It's a great war!" the phrase which echoed over and over when they were cold, when the night raider nearly got them, when the general sent a special requisition down from the front for a pair of binoculars so that Rosalie, the far too pretty stenographer, can also watch the great war. It echoes again when the men who hurried over eager to fight find that they were brought to scratch mahogany desks with their spurs or to peel spuds instead of flying a plane. Without sentimentality of the roseate hues of our nursery tales of war, Miss Lee shows the dreary everydayness, the boredom of the imminent possibility that the next shell would hit, the weary longing for nothing but a hot bath. Yet she has caught, too, the drama of it, the fact that it was the drama of youth, "all the youth of the world together," in this tremendous maelstrom. Horror and death and suffering, yet in it something which made life like wine to the taste, ex-

hilarating, intoxicating, bitter perhaps, but to be drained to the last drop. Miss Lee has adopted a style, swift, sharp, episodic, which has in it the compressed excitement, the tapping rhythm, the concentration of war. She has given not so much one person's experience, as a tremendous panorama which unfolds in uncanny reality before our eyes.

## Deposit State Fund in Nearest Banks

Secretary of State William J. Stratton has announced that arrangements have been made to deposit state funds in banks in or near the localities in which they are collected and interest accruing on such deposits will be turned over to the state. The banks will be bonded to insure the safety of the state funds. The office of the secretary of state handles millions annually from automobile fees, from fees collected on incorporations and from other sources.



**Here it is,  
fellows!**

**IT'S NONE TOO EARLY** to think about Storm Boots—in fact, scores of North Shore youngsters have already selected this sturdy 1929 version of the popular boot made according to Pool & Piper's own specifications. Featured in water-proofed tan re-tan Elk hide built over comfortable army lasts. They have extra viscolized soles. The hooks are large and there's a sharp Scout Knife in the jaunty pocket. Height fourteen inches.

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**North Cape-Russia**  
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