

## Book Reviews

By John Philip Morris

For those that would symbolize the Victorian female as a woman with a soul for lap dogs, whose highest ambition was that her ankle should never be revealed to man and whose chief characteristics were fear and timidity, Emmie Verinder, the heroine of *A SPINSTER OF THIS PARISH* by W. B. Maxwell, will come as a shock and a revelation.

Outwardly, except for one terrible lapse Emmie conformed to the tribal taboos and traditions but under the rose and the poinsettia she was more free from fear than any Georgian flapper. She possessed the body of a beautiful girl, the mind of a man and the soul of a spirit and from the first glance she captured and to his dying day she held the love of Anthony Dyke, explorer, traveller, writer and man.

Of course the fact that Anthony was already married, even though his undivorced wife was in an insane asylum, seemed an unsurmountable barrier to the Verinders and they did what was expected of them to an extent to satisfy even Jurgen, and had Dyke been a true English gentleman he would have renounced his love with a heroic and thoroughly gentlemanly gesture, but he was a man only, and to him impossible was a beast of a word. So Emmie stepped squarely forward forty years and went with him to Liverpool and to Buenos Aires and then treasure hunting into the heart of the Andes. Later they said farewell and she went home and lived down her lapse by forty years of correct living as a correct old maid.

It was not known to the world and so went unrebuked that Anthony was still her lover and that they lived together when he was in England and that she edited his books, managed his money and even visited the poor insane wife.

When after the forty years and the war were over she could marry him was only simple justice and no one can begrudge the Happy Ending.

For after all the charm of the book lies not in the plot but in the beautiful way that Mr. Maxwell has drawn Emmie's beautiful character. The whole book is written in a soft minor key and to me seemed very close to *IF WINTER COMES*.

Emmie Verinder and Mark Sabro, I can imagine no more perfect marriage. Emmie alone has the understanding, and she sympathy that would have given Mark perfect happiness, for while she loved Anthony, he was just a big boy who never really grew up and Emmie's feelings for him were more maternal than marital and Mark alone could have given her love in equal measure and an equal division of that happiness that passeth all understanding and to which so few of us even in books really attain.

So, as you liked *IF WINTER COMES* I feel that you will like *A SPINSTER OF THIS PARISH*.

In *THE CORTLANDTS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE* Janet A. Fairbank has written an historical novel far above the average. Although Ann Byrne with her love affairs and loving impetuosity provides much entertainment in herself, behind and be-

sides her we get interesting and intimate glances of the Prince of Wales, Walt Whitman, William Cullen Bryant, Lincoln, Horace Greely, the events that led up to the civil war and that great, grim struggle itself. Mrs. Fairbank tells her story in a light, likeable fashion and holds the reader's amused and interested attention. Ann is a real person and although a bit ubiquitous like most historical characters, still when we read about the civil war we much prefer our heroine to be where the battles rage than to be sitting sewing in some distant and uninterested drawing room.

The New York and Chicago of that day both come in for some interesting descriptions and on the whole there has come to my desk this fall many far less entertaining and far more unworthy books than this tale of flashing swords and swelling hoop skirts.

A Letter and a Reply  
Dear Mr. John Philip Morris:

I must take exception to your review of *BABBITT*. I give thanks as some others do that men who can write as well as Sinclair Lewis takes his opportunity with courage and expresses with clarity, the straight facts about the little, smug, dishonest side of the human character. A mixture of fear and egotism holds us bound to many delusions. Our sense of values is very much "off key" when we face about to hear any prophet speak the truth. 'Twas ever thus. In the business world, the busy realtor-man can not have his feelings hurt, such as he are quite hard boiled.

We little humans stretch the trivial personal stuff excessively. Mr. Lewis comes along with his wise insight to give us joy and amusement.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Victoria Beadwell.

### Battle Over Color Choice Rages in Public Scholols

In the Skokie schools there is great excitement. Two rival factions of pupils are striving for the ascendancy. Each side is trying to win over the majority of the young voters.

The trouble is over the school colors. After much debate the field has been simmered down to a contest between orange and black and gray and red. In spite of the popularity of the old standby, orange and black, the gray and red faction seems to be holding its own.

The final vote will be taken next week at a general assembly.

VILLAGE OF WINNETKA  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
GENERAL NUMBER 378093.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED that the Village of Winnetka, Cook County, Illinois, having ordered the construction of a six (6) inch internal diameter cast iron water pipe, with water gate valve, valve vault, fire hydrant, connections to present water mains, and cast iron water-pipe fittings, including engineering and supervision during construction, in Birch Street from and connecting with the present water main in Winnetka Avenue, north to and connecting with the present water main at a point three hundred (300) feet south of the south line extended of Alles Road and twelve (12) feet west of the east line of Birch Street, all in the Village of Winnetka, County of Cook and State of Illinois, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the Village Clerk of

said Village, and the said Village having applied to the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois, for an assessment of the cost of said improvement according to the benefits, and a special assessment therefor having been made and returned to said Court, General Number 378093, the final hearing thereon will be held on the thirtieth day of October, A. D. 1922, or as soon thereafter as the business of the said Court will permit. All persons desiring may file objections in said Court before said day, and may appear on the hearing and make their defense. Said ordinance provides for the collection of said assessment in five (5) annual installments with interest thereon at the rate of six per centum (6%) per annum.

Dated, Winnetka, Illinois, October thirteenth, A. D. 1922.

HARRY I. ORWIG,  
Person appointed by the President of the Board of Local Improvements of the Village of Winnetka, Cook County, Illinois (and such appointment approved and confirmed by the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois), to make said special assessment.

FREDERICK DICKINSON,  
Village Attorney.

T31-2tc

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In ordinary shoes, a rigid strip of steel concealed between soles makes every arch stiff, inflexible, and cruelly heedless of the flexibility of your own arch.

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Dick is in college, far away from home and parents, and perhaps a little homesick. The cheery voice of mother, father, sister or—perhaps sweetheart—over the long distance telephone will cheer him wonderfully.

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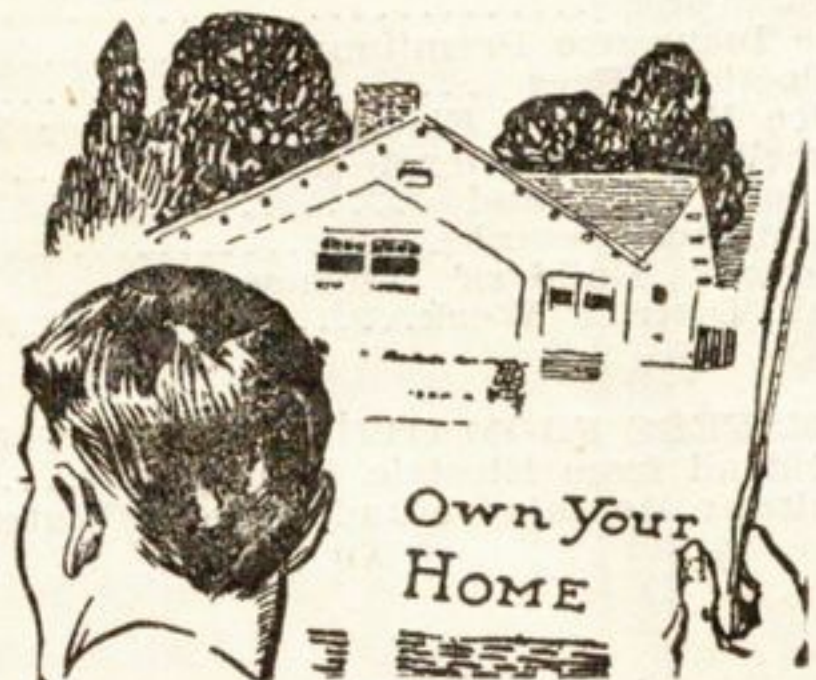
# "Babbitt"

by

Sinclair Lewis

Author of

"MAIN STREET"



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