

# Esther Gould's Book Corner

Are You Interested in books of Fiction, Biography, Travel, or History? For lists write to ESTHER GOULD care your local paper.

## 'Gentleman Jim' Reminisces THE ROAR OF THE CROWD

By James J. Corbett  
G. P. Putnam's Sons.

No one need regret that James J. Corbett spoiled a good banker to make an excellent prize fighter. Whether or not you approve of the "ring" or have ever in person graced its galleries, you cannot help admiring Mr. Corbett and enjoying the account of his adventures. True sportmanship in any field makes a universal appeal. A contest fought for the love of the sport itself and won by mental agility, speed or skill is a thrilling thing.

James Corbett, or "Gentleman Jim" as he was dubbed by his followers, in his meteoric career from amateur boxer in his father's livery barn to heavyweight champion of the world, did more to raise both the physical and moral standards of the ring than any other one man has done. He showed that such a career could be combined with straight living and that the fight could be won fairly and squarely. It is his boast and a justifiable one, considering how many years ago Mr. Corbett started in the sport, that he never "fixed a fight." Another fact over which he cannot be very modest is that many of the most scientific new innovations in boxing were innovated by him many years ago.

Mr. Corbett always outwitted his opponent. The account of the mental processes through which he went while in the ring would do credit to an army aviator in direct line of the enemy guns. In fact, this is the most remarkable part of the book, that he not only went through this rapid fire of reasoning, the basis for which is often no more than intuitive, but that he is able, many years later, to set down these processes so accurately that you feel that you are with him, round by round.

Jim Corbett never fixed a fight but he did an amusing amount of "bluffing" his opponents. The situations into which this led him make the most amusing part of the book.

Then after the champion has risen he must fall, and no matter how we look at it, there is pathos in the moment when the "roar of the crowd" becomes but a murmur and finally—almost—dies away. This book should help to make its echoes reverberate again.

## Too Much Conscience

### THE ROAD TO EN-DOR

By Louis Joseph Vance  
E. P. Dutton & Co.

We have known Louis Joseph Vance as the author of clever mystery stories. Now we have from him a book of a decidedly more serious order. It is interesting to see an author "try something new," and especially when that something is more serious. Our only regret comes if he tries to mix his two styles. Mr. Vance has done this. In the midst of this drama of character development he has mixed the tricky elements of the mystery plot.

Andrew Streater, handsome, young, of gallant southern family, has prepared for the ministry and come to the little New England town of Gosport. Here his fiery eloquence and his devotion to duty win him the love of his people.

Early in the book by a dramatic episode he saves the life of a young woman who is visiting nearby, falls desperately in love with her, and, it being mutual they marry. But alas, for their happiness. The young minister, torn between this earthly love and the mystic devotion which he owes his God, becomes a soul in torment. At this moment we, as well as his wife, lose him.

It may be intentional on the part of the author but it is unfortunate for us. From being in complete sympathy with this man we begin to look at him as one does at a friend who has been away for a long time—a little strangely and wonderingly. And

we never regain our intimacy. From being a subjective story it becomes suddenly objective.

The half crazed mind of the minister wreaks its vengeance on the next generation, his son, Dal, and Shirley the girl he loves. They go through a dramatic succession of events, with spiritualism, psychoanalysis, hypnotism, sprinkled among them, but we never quite regain our hold on the characters. If the book could be done again, letting us continue in sympathy with Andrew it would be a far stronger and more unified story.

## By B. H. Lehman WILD MARRIAGE

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Harper and Bros., Publishers

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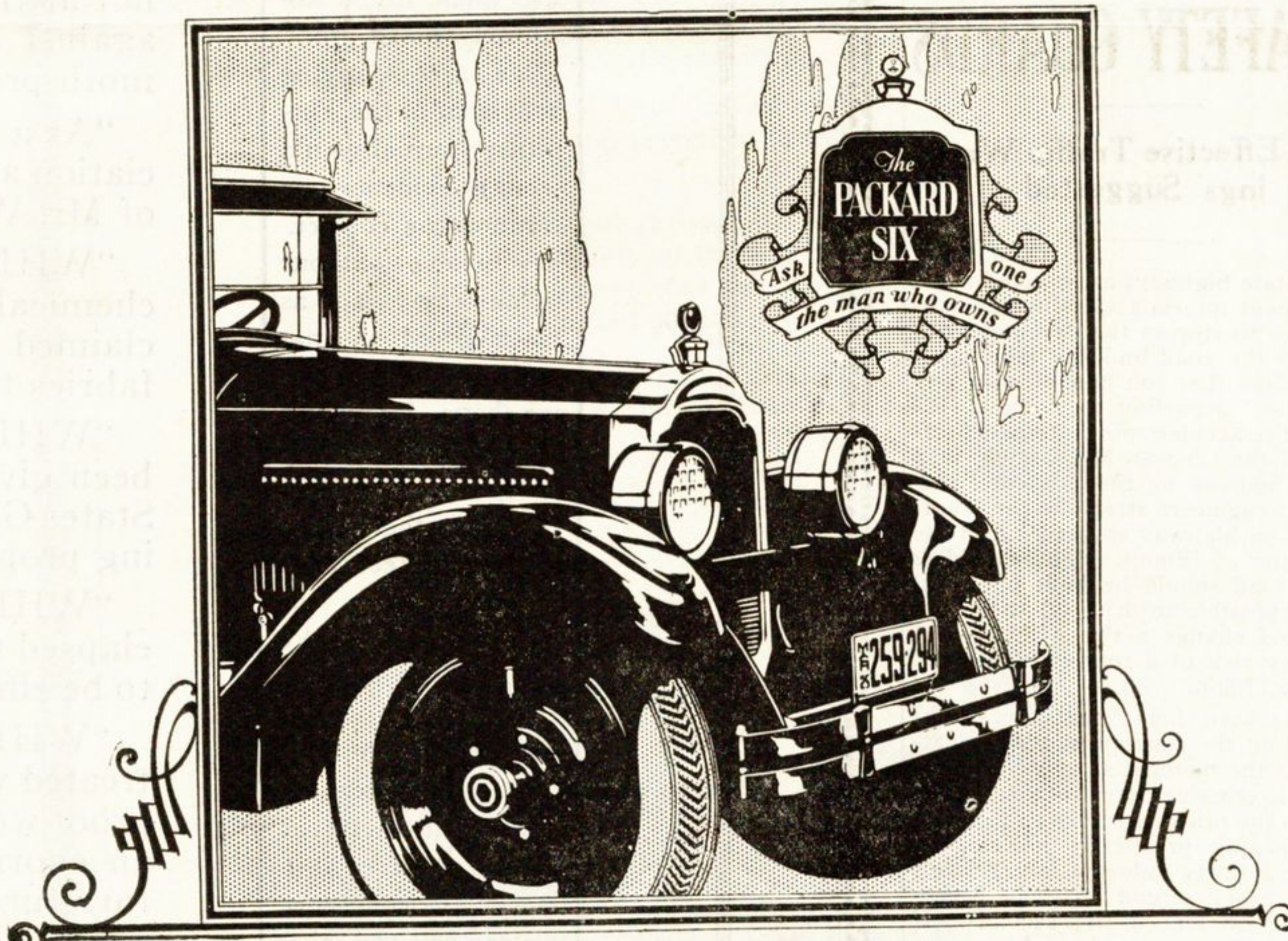
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