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**NEWEST BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS**

*Just Paragraphs*

By Esther Gould

Professor William McDougall, in his new book "Character and the Conduct of Life" has tried to give "an aid to men and women in acquiring a little more rapidly the wisdom that comes only through experience and through reflection upon human life." He says in his chapter on girls of the present day, "The beauty of woman is a tremendously powerful influence, and like all great forces, it may serve base or noble purposes. The mischief is that this great influence is given to the young females of the species at an age when they cannot understand its power and the gravity of the responsibility that goes with it."

A party of white men travelling in Siam had a shock recently when after having asked and received permission to photograph a group of shaven headed monks, one of the monks stepped forward and bowing politely said, "Now would you mind standing still while we take a snapshot of you?" Then producing a camera he took the picture and went away, saying, "You are very picturesque" while his yellow robed companions chuckled.

**THE NOBLE GAME OF WAR**  
**"RIGHT OFF THE MAP"**

By C. E. Montague  
 Doubleday Page & Co.

War was threatened between the small countries of Porto and Ria.

What was the cause of the war? Bute, the multimillionaire, is the only one who could tell you that. There are certain gold fields on the borderline of the two countries which it is to his interest to have Ria own. So, by buying fifty or more newspapers Bute has put the war machinery in motion.

There is delightful irony here, the way the public mind is kindled and fanned to lively flame. "I see what Bute wants. But how's he to get it, poor thing?" "By making lots of other people want it too." "What other people?" "Public opinion. The people, you know." "Make them want it enough to turn out and fight for it? How can he make them?" "O, by telling them they do already."

There is really only one obstacle to Bute's plans and that is the newspaper man with a conscience, Burnage. But Burnage also has a wife and she is bored with the status quo and thinks a war might wake things up. So by playing on Burnage's vanity she makes him betray himself and fall in with the war plans. The last barrier is down and the war is on.

Mr. C. E. Montague, who has been writing cleverly for years, has "hit the ball" with this latest book, "Right Off the Map," largely because of the book's subject. He says so many things about war that lots of us would love to have been able to say and he says them so much more bitingly. His wit is sharp and caustic but reserved. It is not quotable because it does not rise to swift climaxes but runs along an even humorous tenor.

The war begins. A picked group of men is sent up by a secret pass to surprise the enemy by flank attack. Willan, the only real soldier of the

party, "could not square his own notions of war with this plan of sending a secret force to steal up on an enemy, bugle in hand, and blowing for all it was worth." But they do all enjoy the buglers so. Of course the enemy is the one to administer the surprise and the army is cut to pieces. There are pages which are too real to be pleasant reading but as an argument against war there have been few books, I think, as effective as this one.

**LOOKING BACKWARD**

**"MUCH LOVED BOOKS"**

By James O'Donnell Bennett  
 Boni & Liveright

Very sensibly James O'Donnell Bennett has gathered together these short articles which appeared over a period of two years and more in the Chicago Tribune under the title "Best Sellers of the Ages." They were popular articles in the Tribune and now that they are gathered in book form under the title "Much Loved Books" they should be popular here. Not that these are exhaustive articles—his publishers hasten to absolve Mr. Bennett from any "dry as dust pedantry"—naturally, having been written for the daily paper so that he who runs for the train may read, they are short, snappy, to the point.

Yet that is not all. They are also provocative. They lead you on to the books of which they are written, they are small doorways into exceedingly large rooms.

It would not be difficult to guess what would be the first "best seller of the ages" of which Mr. Bennett would write—it is of course the Bible. He recounts a conversation with Rabbi Hirsch through which the Bible ceased to be for him a mysterious religious document and became "an ingratiating book, the eager, poignant, excited—and often terribly exciting—record of man's fallibilities and aspirations, of his slow groping toward the light."

Then there is "Treasure Island," and the poetry of Burns, "Faust," the "Arabian Nights," "Tom Jones" and the rest, making a very wonderful procession before which you feel profoundly humble that you know and can appreciate so little. But you make a resolve to go on and thus Mr. Bennett does accomplish something of his purpose to recall to us these great books, and prove that they are not good because they are old but old because they are good.

Herbert Hurd, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Hurd, 518 Sunset road, Winnetka, served as usher at the wedding of Ralph Whithill at Marinette, Wis. Mr. Hurd has returned to the University of Illinois to resume his studies as a junior.

Mrs. Frank Alexander of 1275 Scott avenue, entertained an Evanston bridge luncheon club at her home Friday of last week.

**January Special**

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