SOME PERTINENT WORDS OF REMINISCENCE

BY ROBERT ALLISON HOOD

first consulting the Session, that in

future they must stand during the

singing and remain seated at pray-

The Session were indignant at the

minister's high-handed proceeding

and to show their disapproval, for a

considerable time, they and their

sat still during the singing when the

others were standing. Even in my

time, years after, there was still one

ters, kept to the former ctyle for the

sake of principle. No doubt, he en-

joyed it in a way, but I always

This little story may seem out of

place here but you will forgive me

when I explain. You see it may do

me good with my publishers, if

ter. They both boast Highland an-

the more necessary that they should

My early chilhood was, on the

Andrew's famous for its antiquities

tain degree of public notice through

civic official in uniform, whose func-

should chance to meet their

wife and the girls.

Author of "The Chivalry of Keith Leicester," "The Quest of Alistair," Etc.

I was born in the county town of that were nectar to us. As for trag-Cupar, the capital of the kingdom of edy, a bloody nose was enough. Fife, as the shire is still playfull call- My father was a baillie of the pioneers of the gold rush days. One ed as a reminder of its past political burgh and a member of the dignity. Cupar is a quaint, little Session. In those days the mimisters of land and settled on it. Los Guilutown with an honorable history of the Established church, holding which dates back to before the four- their charges for life as they dia, Here at one time, Morley Roberts, teenth century. It is not without its were sometimes more autocratic than literary associations. The Madras they had any right to be and the then in his adventurous youth, driftacademy, where I first went to school. Session, on occasions, had to resist is built on a quaint mound or hit, their usurpation of authority. which was the site of the old castic amusing instance of this happened of Cupar, the seat of the earls of during my father's time It had been Fife. This was the scene of the ter- the custom in church to sit during rible tragedy made famous by Shake. the singing and stand at the prayspeare, in which the wife and childers. The ministers (there were two dren of MacDuff were murdered by for Cupar was a Collegiate Charge) MacBeth. Later on, in the sixteenth had decided to everse this order of century, it was here that certain of things. So, one Sabbath they an-Sir David Lindsay's plays were first no need to the congregation, without



ROBERT ALLISON HOOD

performed. A green, level space in when we come to discuss an increase front of the castle did duty for a in royalty, if they remember my hertheatre. A proclamation of one of the editary and early environment. You plays is still preserved and show can readily understand that it is not that the occasions were merry ones the kind of reminiscense one and gave rare opportunity for was- gracefully drag into a business let-"Our purpose is on the seventh day of cestray themselves which makes it als

If weather serve and we have rest know somothing of my inherited

We shall be seen in our playing

whole, uneventful. However, at the In good array about the hour of age of three, when the family was 3 seven spending the summer holiday at the

Of thriftings that day I pray you neighboring seaside resort of St. But ordain us good drink against and its golflinks, I came into a cer-

allevin (eleven) Fail not to be on the Castlehill. Beside the place where ve-purpose to I had got lost in the street and dis-

appeared. My mother became ver With gude stark wine your waggons anxious and the bellman was you fill,

And had yourselves th merriest that for my safe recovery. This was

However, in my time, the good old tion on occasions was to parade the days were past end other plays sup- principal streets, stopping at interplied enjoyment on the Castlebili vals on his march, and, after, ringing such as cross tag, hounds and hare his bell, to shout out whatever procand happy-cock-a-fetchy; ginger ale lamation, had to be made. and hokey-pokey were the beverages In the meantime, I had ben dis

covered crying by a woman of the slums, who had taken me with her to her home in the hope of securing a reward after my parents' anxiety had been sufficiently aroused. I can still remember her squalid room and dirty children and her attempts to pacify my misgivings with milk and a biscuit. After a time, however, the informed the police and I was duly restored. It was my first experience of low life.

Came to America. My father died when I was eight years old and when I was thirteen my mother and the rest of us emigrated to Sonoma County, California, Kirk of them had purchased a large tract cos Rancho, his place was called. now the distinguished author but ed in "deadbroke" and took a job as stableboy at \$20 a month. He stayed until he had saved enough money to take him back to England and later he wrote a novel, "The Courage of Pauline," the scene of which was layed at the ranch. It was published fore, in a jocose remark to the effect in book form and also appeared serially in "The Illustrated London News."' Roberts thought himself badly overworked at the ranch and he said that whenever things got too unendurable he used to let lose the bull, which was under his charge, and then he would have a day or two of light work while he mended

en down. able paradise. In front of the house ed with fig and walnut trees. I used elder, who -ith his wife and daugh- to delight in galloping through the fields with my uncle after the stock.

First Work.

thought it was rather hard on his We settled on a small fruit farm near Santa Rosa, the neighboring since, at which point I shall conclude county town and I went through High School there. The school had monthly magazine called "The Porcupine," so named, I suppose, for the many points in its jokes and articles. I became literary editor and, for the first time, saw myself in print. It was a thrilling experience.

One poem I remember, was a satire upon a boy, who had written some lines commenting, in what I considered an impertinent manner, on my custom of walking out with a certain person, whose identity I prefer not to disclose. Not being able to deny his impeachment, I thought to punish him by a biting satire on the quality of his verse. It was addressed to him under his initials and be-

'Ye poets of immortal fame. Who once did tread the paths Rise from your graves, your hands

no merit of my own. In some way, extend. Counsel and help to genius lend: A youth has risen from out your land. Blessed by the muse with lavish th.ough the town offering a reward

hand have forgotten the rest of it, but it went on for another ten lines or

To my astonishmnt, the subject, instead of being roused to resentment and indignation by my effort. was completely blind to its irony and took it as a high honor and compliment. When he thanked me for the 'boost" I had given him, to use his own expression, I had not the heart to spoil his enjoyment by explana-

In due course I finished High School and, after some experience of fruit farming more interesting than financially profitable. I entered the State University at Berkeley. Here I spent four years. The atmosphere of the place was such as to foster literary interest. The English department was very strong and the students published a daily paper. comic illustrated monthly, "The Pelican," and a literary magazine "The Occident." To the latter, I remember contributing an article on "Salmon Fishing on the Fraser River" so that at that date I had already begun to wave the banner for British Columbia. I also served on the staff of "The Blue and Gold," the Junio Class annual. I was associated this with Jackson Gregory, who has since become very well known as a writer of Western stories and some day is likely to vie with Rex Beach

in popularity. With him and some others, I at "Kipling, The Story Writer," which is, I suppose, the best and most comprehensive book on Kipling's technique that has been written. class met in the most informal way in the evening. Stories were read by the members and the discussions followed in the hazy atmosphere of tobacco smoke that is customary at literary seances although not in College classrooms. We got one unit of University credit fofr five thousand words of story and padding was looked upon with distavor. So much did we appreciate Professor Hart's genial hospitality and scholarly inspiration that towards the end of the term we gave him a complimentary dinner one evening in one of the best hotels in Oakland. Unfortunately, being so far on in the year, finances were at a low ebb with us all and, I remember, at the end we had an anxious consultation outside in the anteroom while with the greatest diffi-

versation at the table inside until the embarrassing moment was past, I had just finished a term of postgraduate work when the San Francisco earthquake came along putting a stop to all activities in the University as well as outside. Strangely

several pockets enough money to

pay the bill. Meantime, one or two

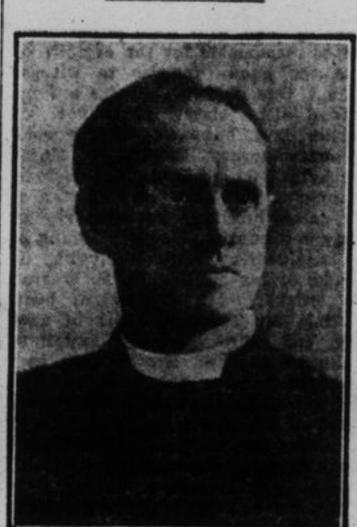
held the guest of the evening in con-



I forget which, had prophesied truthfully of this event, a long time bethat San Francisco would be one day swallowed by an earthquake but that Oakland would be spared as there were some things that even an earthquake couldn't stomach."

What a glamour of romantic association Bret Harte has woven about the early days of California. If we, the fences that the animal had brok- much for our Canadian West, if we in our country, could only do as could catch and interpret something When I arrived at Los Guilucos, of the spirit and significance of its to my boyish eyes it appeared a verit- pioneer days and depict worthily the quainthess and self-denials and herothere was an orange grove and grape isms of characters that have passed vines and the long avenue was lin- or are passing, it would be a real achievement.

> To Canada. Canada to make my home in Van- brother of her benefactor. couver and there I have been ever my story. This might be considered a happy ending as, apart from a certain humidity in winter time, Vancouver may be considered as near to being a Paradise as anywhere earth. However, I do not want the reader to remark of this confession as one Chicago reviewer did rather wittily of my first book, "The Chiv-



TREVOR H. DAVIES

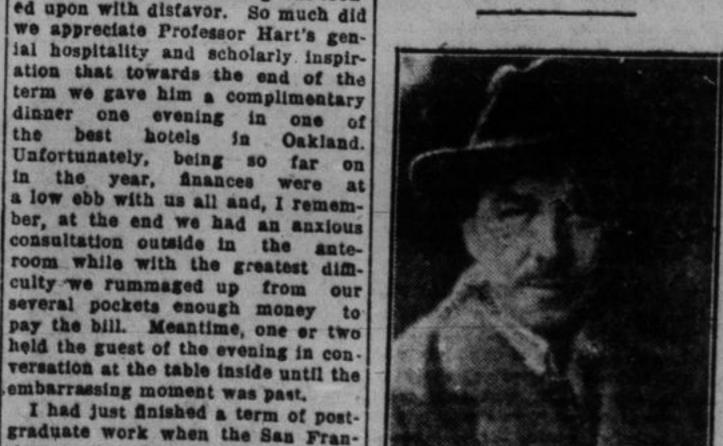
Four year ago when the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Toronto, wanted a new minister, they brought over from England a young man who had made a very considerable reputaion as a successful preacher in several of the main churches of the old land. Mr. Davies very shortly made his influence felt in the Metropolitan Church where he has attracted enormous Sunday evening congregations of young people. This appears all the more remarkable when it is leans to the ascetic.

as Francis Thomson's "The Hound type. Mr. Davies has become a proud

The chief difference between the story is full of the mysticism. apes lies in the thumb, which is al- periences of the author.

dressed as "Your Grace." because in the past they had the power of granting favors or graces.

for a lady in the street car.



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ican factory town. Its leading char- a little piece of gossip and this story acters are the old employer, the old records the amusing results. Despite workman, the new employer, the the sinster title this book bubbles new workman, the radical employer, over with laughter. the radical workman, the interpreter and the new woman.

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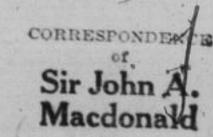
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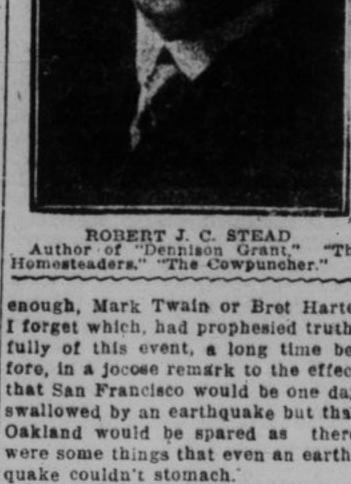
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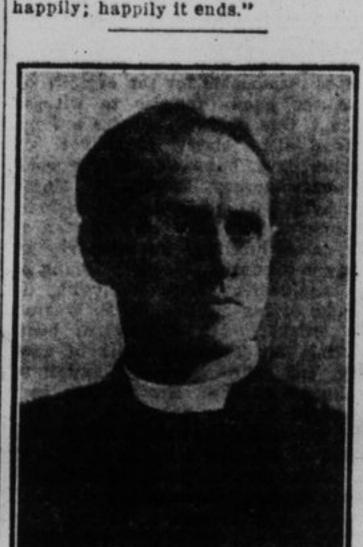
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