

News Of Books And Writers

Edited By Cameron Shipp

The First Reader: Recalling "Little Women"—By Harry Hansen

The golden glamour of a vanished day hovers over my memories of Louisa May Alcott's books. They reached me before I was ten. They were read aloud by my mother in school, and then they drifted into my possession as gifts. There is a cherished copy of "Under the Lilacs," still somewhere in the house, and if you ask me I can tell you the plot and described the latter here and his performing too.

For Louisa May Alcott's books are plots, and that says Katharine Anthony, who has labored there, is one of the reasons why she was greater than her father. A Bronson Alcott, the Concord philosopher, Miss Anthony, writing "Louisa May Alcott," wishes to let Louisa be thrust into the children's corner and left there as a writer of juveniles. She could build a story, says she (even if it were the story of her own life), she had sincerity, and she understood youth. Therefore she disputes the judgment of Henry James, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Gamaliel Bailey and Catherine Tilton, who thought she did not think Louisa mattered.

THEY THINK LOUISA MATTERED.

Henry James is chiefly to blame for this condemnation. He had welcomed Louisa's first work of fiction, "Mosses from an Old Manse," which appeared in 1850, partly as Miss Anthony suggests, because he was a great admirer of Hawthorne and Miss Alcott was Hawthorne's neighbor. But by 1870, when "Eight Cousins" had appeared, he had ceased to look for ideas, or psychological quirk, or stern style in her writing. He had accepted the reception of the book was like a "festive" one. He concluded that "Miss Alcott is the novelist of children, the Thackeray, the Dickens, the Trollope, the schoolroom," and called her work "poor entertainment and poor instruction."

Miss Anthony thinks Henry James knew little about children. The new children of America were not because they had mirrored the living, breathing, moving world around them. And they found her stories out of the world of her home, the world of the greatest Alcott talents. She was greater than her father, because she was a self-conscious artist, whereas his dreams were never focused on books.

That's something for Miss Anthony to argue out with Odell Shepard, whose "Pedlar's Progress" is a study of the girl's educational career. Professor Shepard admits the "frank character" of the "frank" physical and mental rambling, but he thinks it will consider it the greater of the family.

LOVE WITHOUT HEAT—FF&L

Miss Anthony has a chapter called "The Love Lines" among past shades. When Louisa went to Vevey and Paris after the death of her father, she became good friends. He was Ladislav Wladislaw and he had a beautiful career. She completed a reputation of the George Sand pattern. But Miss Anthony's "Pedlar's Progress" is a study of the girl's educational career. Professor Shepard admits the "frank character" of the "frank" physical and mental rambling, but he thinks it will consider it the greater of the family.

editor to profit by her talent was Thomas Niles, of Raleigh Bros., a shrewd Yankee who did not see the great success was "Little Women," in 1850. editor to profit by her talent was Thomas Niles, of Raleigh Bros., a shrewd Yankee who did not see the great success was "Little Women," in 1850.

James Sutherland, author of "The Biography of the Man Who Wrote 'Robinson Crusoe' and 'Moll Flanders'"

Stevan Janssen, who writes of "Verity Professor, who has written a book to prove there are such things as too-beautiful tales."

Strong Man: Chiang, No. One Man of Far East—An Explanation

Another Opinion: Tragedy of One Girl's Lifetime—By Edwin Lashburn

THE UNVANQUISHED, by William Faulkner, Random House, \$2.50.

THE CIVIL WAR SHORT-STORIES, by William Faulkner, Random House, \$2.50.

Marginalia, Two on One: Bonfires for too Many Books

—A Double Hoot at a Sacred Cow

ONE of the most colossal frauds practiced by and upon you and me is the sanctity of books. It is a fraud because it is a lie and we can understand it, but the thing is nevertheless a delusion and a vast nuisance. The best way to find out about it is to witness the burning of all the books you might want to save, free, and to have to pack those books up and move them across town.

By W. J. Cash

By the first time Mr. Herbert's book "The Complete Story of the Chinese" is so brilliant writing. Mr. Herbert's book is a masterpiece of the hand.

THE BURNING OF BOOKS is a subject that has been treated in many different ways. It is a subject that has been treated in many different ways.

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Notes for Your Week-End Reading

ICF HILLS, by W. E. Spenser; \$2.50.

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