

there is a Trollope Journal and probably a Trollope Society. There could be no better proof of the reality of this Anglo-American interest than the issue by the Oxford Press of these two beautiful well-documented volumes of *Can You Forgive Her?*, the first of what are called the "Palliser" series of political novels, after Plantagenet Palliser, one of the principal characters. *Phineas Finn*, *The Eustace Diamonds*, *Phineas Redux*, *The Prime Minister*, and *The Duke's Children*, are to follow in this series, but the Oxford Press plans to go on to other novels and end with the *Autobiography*. Michael Sadleir, the leading English authority on Trollope, is the general editor, and writes an introduction to this venture. American men of letters are consulting Trollope manuscripts in their country to decide doubtful readings, and it is hoped they will contribute introductions to some of the stories.

Trollope is read for two reasons. His novels are period pieces: "To the present generation," says Sir Edward Marsh in his preface, "his picture is antediluvian," and "it is pleasant to live for a space in a legendary era of peace and plenty." But Trollope was also "so true to his subject as he saw it" that his truth continues to hold good. He is not among the greatest novelists, but his best work deserves to be called great. There is some of it in this uneven but fascinating story, *Can You Forgive Her?* Of the three love plots, one is beneath Trollope—little better than padding—but the other two are admirably worked out, and Alice, whose fluctuations between two lovers give the book its title, Plantagenet Palliser, and his wife Lady Glencora, show Trollope's genius for character. Indeed Trollope himself thought that his chance of lasting fame (which he doubted) rested on Plantagenet Palliser, Lady Glencora, and the Reverend Mr. Crawley in *The Last Chronicles of Barset*.

—A.M.

THE AFRICAN SCENE

AN AMERICAN VISITOR, by Joyce Cary; Michael Joseph. English price, 8/6.

THIS book, now reprinted in a uniform edition of Joyce Cary's works, was first published in 1933. Since then, Cary has become known as a writer of unusual versatility; and some critics are beginning to suggest that he may be the one English novelist of his time who will reach greatness. *An American Visitor* is one of his African stories—less powerful, perhaps, than *Mister Johnson*, but on no account to be neglected by readers who want to know the full range of his talent. Africa is not merely a background: it is in the substance of the tale, so that the jungle is around us as we read, and the characters—natives and Europeans—reveal the country as well as themselves in all that they say and do. Bewsher, the British official who devotes himself to native welfare, is violently real; but all the people have breath in them, and it is only afterwards, when the jungle fades like a coastline seen from a plane which turns seawards, that many readers will realise how skilfully the effects have been wrought by sensitive writing.

H.

SOUTH SCHOOL, DANNEVIRKE

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE DANNEVIRKE SOUTH SCHOOL will be held from 12th to 14th May, 1950, and all ex-pupils, ex-teachers and ex-committeemen are invited to participate. If interested, and you have not yet received a circular, please write at once to the Secretary, Dannevirke South School Jubilee Committee, Box 12, Dannevirke.

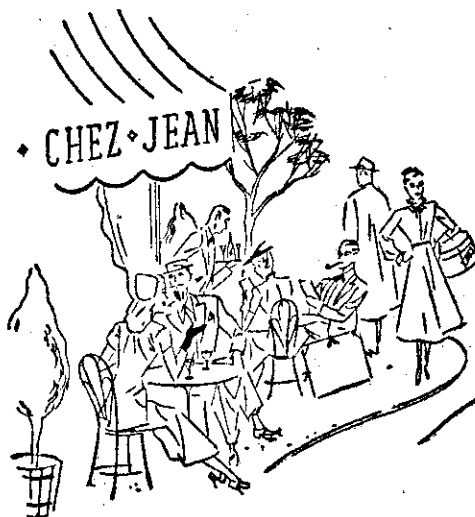
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