



**WALTER MURDOCH**  
"A scholar without being a snob"

those, too. I know what a malicious book is, a book written by an author whose ink was mixed with mud. I saw one the other day written about T. E. Lawrence. I know what a fanatical book is, a book written by a blind man who had a blind man for a father, who addresses himself to blind readers, and can never be happy as long as there are readers left with eyes. Wars produce them by the thousand, religions by the tens of thousands, and every page of every book is sooner or later spattered with blood and tears. The incurably blind are, however, a small percentage of mankind. I know what salacious books are, but offhand I can't name one that would interest the police. Perhaps the salt on my shelves has lost its savour. I know what bloodless books are, gutless books, books without compassion or charity, books, whoever wrote them, that serve, feed, and glorify man's inhumanity to man. I have so many of those, though I no longer read them, that the police would have to bring a lorry to carry them away. They are nine out of ten of all books written, but the police would find nothing wrong with them, and in the end, if they took them away, they would have to return them to me. I know, and possess, and read, and enjoy many books that the police may one day be instructed to impound—Chaucer and Shakespeare and Burns and the Old Testament and Byron and Whitman and Voltaire and Rabelais and Rousseau; all our great novelists except Scott; nearly all our famous autobiographies. When the police come for those I will insist that the Lord came before them—that the moment I put the *Delinquency Report* on my shelves everything flew out of the window but a few fairy tales, one or two missionary books, my cobwebbed Euclid and Algebra, *Eric or Little by Little*, and *Dame Buckle and Her Pet Johnny*.

(To be continued)

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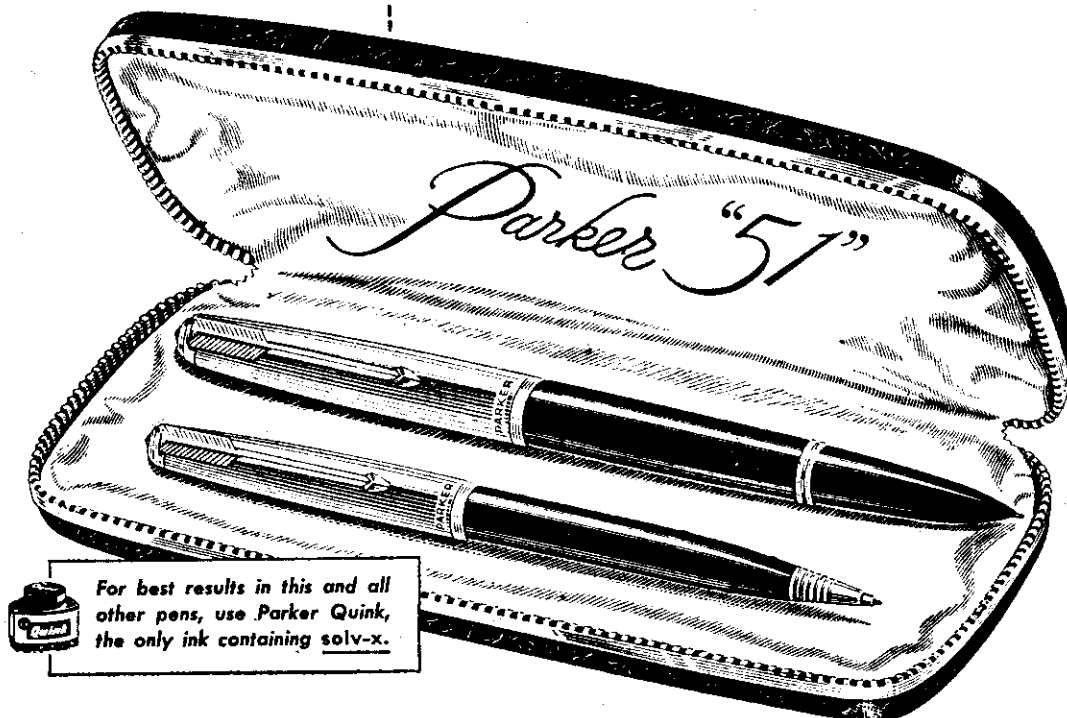
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