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PRELUDE TO BATTLE

BOOKS
Edited by Phil Watson

THE COMING OF THE CIVIL WAR (University of Chicago Press, $5) by Avery Craven.

Here is a readable and exciting book that sweeps away the fog of passion and prejudice which has blanketed this period in American History. The Civil War decided nothing. It was a senseless war, demonstrating an almost complete lack of intelligent and effective leadership in the decade before the outbreak of hostilities. We still have the protective tariff, and the racial issue is far from solution.

Slavery was not the basic issue. The real cause of the war was the so-called protective tariff. Harriet Beecher Stowe's melodramatic "Uncle Tom's Cabin" did not paint a true, honest picture of the conditions under which the slave worked and lived. The Southern Planters did not wear horns nor wear all Yankees damned. The South was not a unit in its opposition to emancipation, and John Brown's Raid was a fiasco "of childish conception."

The South had its "blazing fire-eaters"; the North had many stupid lying propagandists on the platform and in the pulpit and press. Each side had its mad politicians, narow-minded short-sighted business men and educators. Even the New York Tribune said "Of all the Southern Presidents, hardly one has failed to have his mulatto children and southern plantations were little else than Negro harems." Falsehoods, passions, unbridled dishonesty and atrocity stories appeared in the northern press, much more lurid than the ones we were told during the World Wars.

There cannot be a war without good liars. The Civil War and all other wars upon which we have embarked were senseless and futile. Cicero said that he who does not know and understand history is doomed to forever remain a child. It is high time we learn something about the causes of these barbarous conflicts. Prof. Craven had the fortitude to say many of these things. Unfortunately there are too few historians with the intelligence and courage displayed by the author of this absorbing book.

THE 27TH DAY (Dutton, $3.50) by John Mantley.

A monster from outer space, called an "alien of Earth by the author, appears to five citizens of different countries throughout the world at the same time and whisks them off to his space ship, where he tells them his planet and his people face extinction. "We must, therefore, find a new world to which we may emigrate and our time is short," he tells the five—a Chinese girl, an American reporter, a Russian soldier, an Englishwoman and a German professor—and explains that the information he will give them will enable them to destroy all humanity on Terra through sheer will power.

Each of the five is given a box, containing three pellets, which can only be opened by the will power of its custodian. The monster explains that the pellets can destroy all life upon Earth, thereby placing in the hands of each of the five the destiny of the world. The trip to the space ship and return is accomplished in a matter of seconds, and the five return unharmed.

The various courses followed by each of the five recipients of the boxes, their fears, frustrations, philosophies of life and final decisions combine five hair-raising stories into one nightmarish, frightening fantasy.

THE ANGLOPHILE (Julian Messner, $3.95) by Egan O'Neill.

This exciting period cloak and dagger story focuses on Dennis McDermott, who returns to Dublin as an Anglican barrister, full of hate for the government which had hanged his father.

Joining a secret group of men pledged to break England's hold on Ireland, McDermott is in constant danger. His adroitness and good looks allow him to mingle with the men he is attempting to outwit, even to the point of intimacy with their wives. His marriage of convenience to a wealthy English girl, intended merely to bring money to his group, becomes a conflict between his final genuine love for his wife and his hatred of her country. It is her devotion which saves him from death.

AROUND THE WORLD IN WANDERER III (Oxford University Press, $6) by Eric C. Hiscock. Illustrated.

From Yarmouth, England, the Hiscocks—Eric and his wife, Susan—sail their 30-foot sloop, equipped with a four horsepower auxiliary motor, across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, down among the faery lands of the South Seas and on to New Zealand and Australia.

The long voyage home took them across the Indian Ocean to Mauritius and Durban, a layover at Capetown, up the coast of Africa to the Azores and Yarmouth. They covered 32,000 miles in three years, overcame a multitude of dangers and hardships, and in this bubbling account make it sound like a picnic. Much technical data makes the volume valuable for small-boating enthusiasts planning any kind a similar ocean voyage.

THE CONQUEST OF FITZ-ROY (Essential Books, $5) by M. A. Azema.

The reader's heart will pound with excitement, anxiety and concern as he climbs every step of the way with Dr. Azema, leader and medical officer of the French Expedition, which climbed Mt. FitzRoy in the Patagonian Andes.

This diary of Dr. Azema recounts with vivid description the harrowing experiences of his party as it assaulted the giant rock monolith, a sheer pinnacle polished to nakedness by the driving winds, equalled only by the intensity of the high reaches of the Himalayas. The author describes the spell cast upon him and members of his party by the awesome beauty of the mountain lakes, colorful rocks and aloneness of this mysterious land.

THE THREE FACES OF EVE (McGraw-Hill, $4.50) by Corbett H. Thigpen, M.D., and Hervey M. Cleckley, M.D.

The author of "The Mask of Sanity" teams up with Dr. Corbett H. Thigpen, his colleague in the department of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Georgia, to present their complete clinical study of Eve White, multiple personality, whose case first appeared in medical journals and later in magazines and newspapers.

Eve White, housewife in her mid-twenties, was the quiet, reserved mother of a small daughter, frigid to her husband, Ralph White. Her alter ego, Eve Black, was flirtatious, provocative. Ralph thought to be with Eve Black would be to commit marital infidelity. Here were two women in one body. Which self was real? Which Eve had he married? What was the significance of the opposite personalities? He knew his wife was suffering from a serious malady. Eve White visited the psychiatrists. Then came Eve Black and finally Jane emerged.

Jane was the third personality. Was this her true "self"? Drs. Thigpen and Cleckley believe it was.

THE HORSECATCHER (The Westminister Press, $2.75) by Mari Sandoz.

Increasing public information regarding Indian affairs will doubtless stimulate reader interest in this first Indian novel by Miss Sandoz. While this story does not deal with reservation life today it gives fine insight into the tribal customs and feelings of the red men.

Young Elk, a Cheyenne from a family of warriors, feels the scorn of his family, his tribe and even Red Sleeve, the flirtatious girl he is in love with, because he prefers to catch and tame wild horses on the prairies. The dangers he encounters and the fact that he kills an enemy during an attack on his tribe finally prove his courage, and he is free to become a "horsecatcher," with the blessings of his family and Red Sleeve. For the young readers.

Raw Tale of Life in the Raw

MANDINGO (Denlinger, $4.95) by Kyle Onstott.

For reading this book and reviewing it—with one eye closed and trying to see as little of it as possible—we have to blush, for this a raw stuff. But there's been a buzz-buzz-buzzing about it in book circles: A New York publisher wanted to get it away from this Virginia house, there are 20,000 copies in print already, it out-Peyton Places "Peyton Place," so the rumors go.

The worst of them are true. This is about a stock farm, a Negro stock farm in the days before the Civil War and if this is the truth about the South, let us all stop complaining about moonlight and magnolias.

While old Warren Maxwell, owner of Falconhurst plantation, lives on hot toddies and nurses rheumatiz, son Hammond raises Negroes. The land has petered out, this is the only crop left, he says, on which he can make money and also pleasure him-

self. The young man says his prayers at night, kisses his father hello and goodbye, feeds his "stock" well, keeps it out of the cold, doesn't overwork it. Otherwise this is a vulgar and vile and unspeakable way of life.

The author claims it's authentic. He has been accused of anti-Negro bias, but he is certainly no less anti-white. But this novel is right in his line, for an earlier book if his was "Art of Breeding Better Dogs."