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Guest Editorial . . .

Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared in the Nov. 6 issue of the "Sennet" of the University of London. It should be of particular interest to those who believe that Britain is undivided on the Suez Crisis.

The demonstrations of this past week have shown that student interest in politics and current affairs was only hibernating. Maybe the possibility of fighting in a war which was considered unnecessary, unjustified and fantastic was the spark which set off the movement, but last week has revealed strong student feeling, all over the country, against action which, it is felt, has discredited this country. It is quite true that there have been Communists among those protesting but students of all political parties have united in the one opinion and the presence of the latter does not invalidate the strength of feeling behind the demonstrations.

In flouting the United Nations whom she once supported so strongly Britain has taken a step to protect her own interests which, besides all its other effects, cannot but harm this country in the long run. Every nation "protecting its own interests" can also be written as "war." The United Nations organization exists to find a balance between the national interests which inevitably conflict sometimes.

What right have Britain and France to issue ultimatums to other sovereign nations and to bomb airfields to safeguard the landing of their troops, some people might say, to re-occupy the canal. If the intervention was a "police act," surely the British and French forces should be a hundred miles further north—on the Israeli-Egyptian border, standing between the combatant nations and holding them apart in their own territories. Egypt may have provoked and frightened Israel into attacking but in objective justice she still remains the defender, so that our action is open to interpretation as a joint plan with Israel; to enable us to reoccupy Suez and Israel to overrun the Sinai Peninsula against a crippled Egyptian opposition.

If Britain aimed to protect the life and property of her citizens and keep the Suez Canal open, she has failed—doing more to endanger the first and has succeeded in getting the Canal thoroughly blocked.

Britain has discredited itself in the eyes of most of the nations of the world but we only have to suffer for this ourselves. In undermining the United Nations we have done great harm to others. Our country has set an example in disregarding internationalism in arbitrary intervention and which others have followed. After our defection, the United Nations cannot say to Russia "keep out of Hungary," nor does this country now possess the moral standing to do so. The fact that virtually no attention was paid to the small Hungarian march to Trafalgar Square on Sunday afternoon, when everyone was too wrapped up in the Suez question to notice it, expresses our mental attitude in a physical way. We may say that Russia would have marched into Hungary in any case, but it is not cheering to think that, to some sense, they have marched in British footsteps.

YEARBOOK PLANS
(Continued from page one)
ness and Advertising Manager. The Photo Editor, Ian Matheson, is assisted by Gus Van Loon and Terry Ingham.
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Homer & Humbug . . .

by STEPHEN LEACOCK

When I reflect that I have openly expressed regret, as a personal matter, even in the presence of women, for the missing books of Tacitus, and the entire loss of the Abracadabra of Polythemus of Syracuse, I can find no words in which to beg for pardon. In reality I was just as much worried over the loss of the ichthyosaurus. More indeed; I'd like to have seen it; but if the books Tacitus lost were like those he didn't, I wouldn't.

I believe all scholars lie like this. An ancient friend of mine, a clergyman, tells me that in Hesoid he finds a peculiar grace that he doesn't find elsewhere. He's a liar. That's all. Another man, in politics and in the legislature, tells me that every night before going to bed, he reads over a page or two of Thucydides to keep his mind fresh. Either he never goes to bed or he's a liar. Doubly so: no one could read Greek at that frantic rate; and anyway, his mind isn't fresh. How could it be? He's in the legislature. I don't object to this man talking freely of the classics, but he ought to keep it for the voters. My own opinion is that before he goes to bed, he takes whiskey; why call it Thucydides?

I know there are solid arguments advanced in the favour of classics. I often hear them advanced from my colleagues. My friend, the professor of Greek, tells me that he truly believes the classics have made him what he is. This is a very grave statement, if well founded. Indeed, I have heard the same argument from a great many Latin and Greek scholars. They all claim, with some heat, that Latin and Greek have practically made them what they are. This damaging charge against the classics should not be too readily accepted. In my opinion, some of these men would have been what they are, no matter what they were.

Be this as it may, I for my part bitterly regret the lies I have told about my appreciation of Latin and Greek literature. I am anxious to do what I can to set things right. I am therefore engaged on, and indeed have nearly completed, a work which will enable all readers to judge the matter for themselves. . . . What I have done is a translation of all the great classics, not in the usual literal way but on a design that brings them into harmony with modern life. I will explain what I mean in a minute.

My plan is to transpose the classical writers as to give, not the literal translation word for word, but what is really the modern equivalent.
Let me give an odd sample or two of what I mean. Take the passage in the first book of Homer, that describes Ajax* the Greek, dashing into the battle in front of Troy. Here is the way it runs (as nearly as I can remember) in the usual word-for-word translation of the classroom, as done by the very best professor, his spectacles glittering with the rapture of it.

"Then he too Ajax on the one hand leaped (or possibly jumped) wearing on the other hand yes certainly a steel corselet (or possibly a bronze undertunic) and on his head of course yes without a doubt he had a helmet with a tossing plume taken from the (or perhaps extracted from the tail) of some horse which once fed upon the banks of the Scamander (and it sees the herd and raises its head and paws the ground) and in his hand a

shield worn one hundred oxen and on his knees too especially in particular greaves made by some cunning artificer (or perhaps blacksmith) and he blows the fire and it is hot. Thus Ajax leapt (or better was propelled from behind) into the fight."

Now that's grand stuff. There's no doubt of it. There's a wonderful movement and force to it. You can almost see it move, it goes so fast. But the modern reader can't get it. It won't mean to him what it meant to the early Greek. The setting, the costume, the scene has all got to be changed in order to let the reader have a real equivalent to judge just how good the real Greek is. In my translation I alter it just a little, not much, but just enough to give the passage a form that reproduces the proper literary value of the verses, without losing anything of the majesty. It describes, I may say, the Director of the American Industrial Stocks rushing into the Balkan War cloud: "Then came rushing to the shock of war,

Mr. McNicholl of the CPR, He wore suspenders and about his throat,

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