

Vachel Lindsay Visits Vancouver

It is a happy revival of an ancient custom which bids the modern bard sing or recite his own verses, for we are apt to forget, in this age of silent reading and silent drama, that poetry makes its main appeal to the ear. To the University Women's Club is due the credit of this revival in Vancouver. Last year, Bliss Carman, as their guest, recited his poems, and this year Vachel Lindsay, the distinguished American poet, has been introduced to us in a similar manner.

Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Bliss Carman were the guests of honor at a well-attended reception at Glencoe Lodge given by the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors' Association during Mr. Lindsay's visit here. Mrs. Julia Henshaw and Mrs. Ecclestone Mackay acted as hostesses, while Miss Molison and Mrs. Douglas Durkin served tea. Mrs. J. R. Reid, who has a most lovely and finished voice, gave several solos. Mr. Lindsay, when asked to recite, paid a happy and fitting tribute to his brother poet, Bliss Carman, and delighted his audience by his rendering of Swinburne's "Ode to Athens."

It was unfortunate indeed that the University students, who should have been his most enthusiastic audience, did not turn out in greater numbers to hear Mr. Lindsay when he addressed them in the auditorium at noon on Saturday. Here the poet was in his happiest vein, free from the seeming affectations and mannerisms that somewhat marred his evening recital. He spoke of the "West-going spirit" as the spirit of civilization, and delighted his college audience by saying that the Western college yell is the "perfect blending of the classic Greek and the primeval Indian." He then recited the "Calliope Yell" (please pronounce "cally-opy") in his own imitable fashion.

In the evening Mr. Lindsay gave a most unique entertainment at the First Congregational Church. Again the audience was not as large as it should have been. Vachel Lindsay is not a "high-brow" poet, and there are few people in Vancouver who would not have thoroughly enjoyed this original and dramatic recital.

Mr. Lindsay is emphatic in declaring that he is not a "free verse" poet; he claims that careful reading of his verse will show it to be "full of rhyme and meter, if these be virtues." It might be called, he says, "Orthodox verse about free subject matter." Among the poems he recited with a wealth of gesture and fine dramatic effect, often chanting and even singing, were "Lincoln Revisits Springfield," in which the great president mourns the invasion of Belgium; "Samson and Delilah," a sermon in the negro style, for whose humor he half apologized, for he takes the negro seriously, his hope being in the great religious capacity of the "Africo-American"; the famous "Congo" and "General William Booth Enters Heaven."

Whatever may be the opinion of the general philosophy underlying his poems, none can deny their virility and poetic power, their originality and high musical quality, which the poet's beautiful voice brings out to full advantage.

Mr. Lindsay's visit has been one of the outstanding literary events of the year, and one can only regret that more people did not avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing one who takes his place in the foremost ranks of modern poets.

(L. A.)

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ETIQUETTE AS SEEN FROM THE SCHOOL ROOM.

Boys' ideas of "How Ladies Should Behave," and girls' opinions on "How Gentlemen Should Behave," are quoted by Mr. Donald A. Fraser in the **Public School Magazine** for September. We give some of the opinions, which are those of children of about eight years of age:

"When a boy meets a lady he should make a bough (sic), and be a gentleman, as much as a growed-up man is."

Undoubtedly the young lady who wrote the following will stand up for her rights when the time comes.

"A man shouldn't drink, smoke, or swear, and everywhere his wife wants to go, he should go with her. And he should do what he was told, and work hard. He should give his wife lots of munny, and his children, too."

The boys evidently use their eyes on the street:

"Ladies should walk sensibel on the street, and not smile at fellows."

"Ladies should behave theirselves wherever they are, and have good manners."

"Ladies should not drink, and smoke, and play baseball. They should not be tough, and go out with a lot of fellows."

"A lady should not be sassy to a gentleman, nor step on his toes, nor slap his face. And after she has finished her speech, she must let him have his say."

"Ladies like to go out for boat-rides, but they must be good, and behave theirselves. Men take them to shows, and men make them behave theirselves, and be good, and not be tuff."

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND IN EARLY DAYS.

(By Agnes MacMillan, aged 13 years.)

"England's the land of mountains and floods,
Where many Britons shed their bloods;
Where the Picts and the Scots disputed in lots,
And covered the land with crimson dots.
Where the Romans sent their bravest men,
To copy down with ink and pen,
Some notes on Scotland, England too,
And get wet with Scotland's heavy dew.
Where the Jutes had plundered many a store,
Who had come in flat-bottomed boats to the shore,
And took away the corn and wheat,
For all their hungry children to eat."

—Public School Magazine.