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The Two Swinburnes

An Appreciation of English Poet Who Died Recently

By T. P. O'Connor.

There were two Swinburnes-he who was known to the generation of the sixties and the seventies; and the very different Swinburne of the last thirty years. Those of us who were alive when his "Atalanta in Caledon" and 'Poems and Ballads" appeared, will recollect him as the poet who was then regarded as the mouthpiece of the sensuous, even of the sensual, in poetry; and whose songs were regarded as an incitement to the licentious and almost vicious manifestations of sexual passion. No man probably would have been more shocked than Swinburne-whose nature was refined and spiritual at bottom—at the use to which his verses of that period were turned.

Swinbourne was then held to be the apologist for that prurient and rather morbid sexuality which was then the dominant mood of much of London life. Indeed, it was probably the rather coarse and roystering environment of the London of the sixties that accounted for a good deal of the character of Swinburne's early Muse.

For the London of that period was very different from the London of ours. Decency was only beginning to come in; we lingered still in the coarseness of the eighteenth century. You can always derive something of the morality of an epoch from its amusements; and the amusements of the London of the sixties and the seventies were very different from those of the London of today. In the "Judge and jury" in Leicester Square you could hear ribald jokes that would be hooted in the roughest music-hall today; in the Argyll Rooms you could find Anonymas with crowds of open admirers about them, their photographs were in every window side by side with those of bishops and statesmen. The public house was allowed to be open all night; and in some of the smaller streets near the Haymarket you could meet through all the hours of the night the most prominent men in almost every sphere of life vying with each other in depth of potations and in the worship of Venus Aphrodite.

It was out of such haunts that there suddenly jumped on to the stage one of the most beautiful and one of the most perfect actresses the world has ever seen. It was the epoch, too, of the semi-nude circus rider; the epoch when Ada Isaacs Menken set the whole world of Young London crazy-including, I believe, Swinburne himself. Ada Menken was a picturesque and even a pathetic figure. A Jewess of American birth, she became, at an early period in her life, the wife of some rascal; then she divorced him; and then she tried a second experiment with John C. Heenan, the famous as I have said, a period of roystering, and par-

historic of the prize fights of the nineteenth

At that epoch she had got rid of Heenan and, possibly, of even a third husband; and was drawing huge crowds nightly to the old Sadler's Wells theatre to see her beautiful figure stretched on a horse in an adaptation of Mazeppa. This was London of the sixties and partly of the seventies; a sensual, hard-drinking, coarse, pagan London; and it was, perhaps, the influence of such an atmosphere that inspired some of the red-hot outpourings of purely pagan and sensual love which were to be found in Swinburne's "Poems and Ballads," and that gave such currency in the mouths of the coarse boyhood of the time to some of its worst and most objectionable verses. Swinburne, I have heard, rather regretted some of these early indiscretions; and no man had so much a right to do so. Many people who had not the intelligence to read or to understand the splendid verse which Swinburne poured out in such a lavish tide for so many years, could understand the nude sensualism of the "Poem and Ballads."

It was all they knew of Swinburne, it was a good many others ever remembered of the poet; and thus one of the purest and most serious and most virile poets of our language was pictured to so many people as merely the embodiment of the Satyr spirit in literature. It was such verse probably that prevented Lord Salisbury from appointing Swinburne to the Poet Laureateship. That exclusion has been attributed to Swinburne's early Republican opinions, but, though Lord Salisbury was a strong and hot partizan, I think he was far too broad-minded a man to have refused to Swinburne the laurels that popular acclaim had already placed on his brow simply because of political views.

It was the family man, the lover of domestic purity and the foe of all pagan expressions sexual passion that was revolted in Lord Salisbury; he did not relish the idea of sending back Young England to the luscious verses of "Poems and Ballads." And thus it was that the very verses which first gained Swinburne fame were those which, for all the rest by my friend Mr. Haweis; and it is a prominof his career, stood between him and that universal love and veneration which England would have been glad to have offered to one of the sons whose work has rendered the literature of England as supreme as her Imperial fabric of world-wide dominion.

In another way Swinburne was the victir of the bad old sixties and seventies. It was,

boxer, who fought Tom Sayers in the most ticularly among men of letters. I shudder, as wondrous octogenarian who, from the heights number of men who at that period, threw themselves into that purulent Styx which is to be found in the tavern. In those days you could go almost any night of the week to some taproom which remained open most of the night and find gathered around the tables the most brilliant figures of the literary London of that period. You will find plenty of such houses scattered through the pages of Thackeray-notably the Coal Hole, of course, where Colonel Newcome flared out indignant protest against the style of song which was then

> Swinburne would have been quite unlike nearly every young man of letters of his time if he also had not had his youth of Bohemianism. He had also the high spirits of youth, and was of a volcanic nature. There used to be all kinds of stories current of freaks of his. Once, it was said, he cleared out all the hats of his fellow members of a distinguished literary club; and, as the night was a rainy one, he did injury not only to their hats, last perhaps to their comfort and their health; and there was a great to-do about it all.

> These things need only be mentioned because they stand out in such sharp contrast to the dignity and the magnificent detachment of the later Swinburne; and because, after all, when he was very human and was as young as the youngest when he had to sail the stormy ocean of youth in London, with its temptations and appeals. The later part of the life would, indeed, have been less worthy of the admiration and respect it finally conquered from those who knew, if it had not had that background of Bohemianism and did not, therefore, prove what splendid powers of selfcontrol and self-respect there were in Swin-For his self-conquest was complete; and self-conquest is the hardest of all victories

It was to this period, too, belonged that strange experiment when Swinburne, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and George Meredith lived together in Queen's House in Chelsea. I know the house well; for it was occupied later on ent house in Chelsea, fronting as it does the river; and with a beautiful quaint old-world air. It was here that Rossetti went through some of his darker hours; and it was here also that Swinburne spent Tsome of his most Bohemian. But what a splendid company it was -these three men; the greatest novelist, the greatest poet, and, possibly, the greatest paint-

a survival of that age, when I think of the and the seclusion of the Surrey Hills, looks out on the world, whose laughter and tears and mixed destinies he, more than any man of his time, has been able to portray.

Theodore Watts-Dunton will go down to all time as the man to whom Swinburne owed most. A poet, a novelist, a man of broad, large views, and with a genius for friendship, Watts-Dunton was able to take Swinburne on the right side, and to take him entirely out of that odious Land of Bondage-the Bohemian life of London. The Pines at Putney has now passed into the historic houses of literature. For the long term of thirty years Swinburne had there his home. Although the builder has made a fierce invasion of this bit of London during the last few years, Swinburne was right in thinking it one of the most delightful parts of England; certainly one of the most delightful of those within easy reach of London.

Into his once disordered and feverish life there settled down something of the peace of the region. Still full of lovely and unepected bits of perfect country, with big trees, long wastes of common, fresh and invigorating air, and little corners and nooks that seem as remote from the city life as though they were a hundred miles from London, the Putney and Wimbledon region is just the environment to bring back peace to a once feverish nature. And yet the house had a good deal of those very features of English life which Swinburne tilted against so vehemently in his early days of revolt.

His life at Putney was a model of almost iron regularity. Every day he took the same three miles walk over Wimbledon Common to the Rose and Crown, an old-fashioned inn; and there, standing at the counter, he had his glass of beer. I have heard that he then went out, walked some distance, and returned and had a second glass of beer. It was a quaint custom, the explanation of which is probably that he had made some mental resolve never to take two drinks in succession; and that this little divagation was an innocent departure from the strict letter of the law. Though he lived a life of such seclusion, he was too familiar a figure not to have become known in time to some of the people of the region; and the standing figures of the suburb-the police constable, the postman, the milkman-saluted him as he passed; always walking rapidly-always retaining in his demeanor something of the restlessness of his nature.

Sometimes he was assailed by the daring interviewer or the impertinent, who respect no laws, and to such Swinburne took full ad-

vantage of the deafness from which he suffered more and more during his later years. He refused to stop, to speak, or even to listen, To London society-always eager to suck into its vortex any celebrity-he was equally obdurate; he was not one of the men ever to be seen at an evening party, or any other of the ordinary collections of men and women. He received plenty of visits from old friends, and he gave interviews to those who sought them with any claim.

I remember he was most gracious to a young colleague whom I sent once to ask him for a poem for a publication I was then about to start. He even conferred upon this literary youngster the favor of inviting him into his library, and reading to him some of the passages from the Elizabethan dramatists which he loved most; and my colleague could not help remarking that when Swinburne-the imaginary apostle of immoral revolt-came to some of the full-bodied words which abound in Elizabethan literature, Swinburne used to cough and seemed rather confused, and then gabbled over the word as quickly as he could.

As to Swinburne's physical appearance, it was singularly like that of other members of the family whom I knew. Sir John Swinburne is a cousin of the poet and, if I mistake not, now occupies the ancestral home in Capheaton, Northumberland; and Sir John has the same long, narrow face, the same Norman aquiline nose, as the poet. The resemblance is equally strong in Sir John Swinburne's daughter, Mrs. Richard Chamberlain; with, in her case, much of the brilliancy of eye and of expression which were so noticeable in the poet.

I quote two descriptions, the one by an admirer and intimate friend who saw Swinburne with all the glory of the man's genius shining through his earthly tenement; I mean the nous description by Burne-Jones:

"His sensitive face, his eager eyes, his peculiar nervous excitability, the flame-like beauty of his wavy mass of hair, his swift speech and extraordinary swiftness of thought and apprehension, and a certain delightful inconsequence all his own, made him quite the most remarkable-certainly the most poeticpersonality I have ever known."

The second is from the pen of Guy de Maupassant, that grim and terrible realist, who wrote "La Boule de suif"; and "La MaMison Tellier." It was written after Maupassant had seen Swinburne at Etretat rescued from drowning. "I saw," Maupassant said, "a man of thirty with the body of a child, and an enormous forehead that seemed to have devoured

American Tobacco Culture

labors, albeit their initial investment and subsequent expenses may be greater. The production of wrapper tobacco has been most successful in the Connecticut River valley and in Florida. The product of these districts has been pronounced equal to the best Sumatra wrapper tobacco, and that is the world's standard of quality. It seems strange that two climates so different as arethose of New England and the "Land of Flowers" should foster similar crops as well as the tropical islands of Cuba and Sumatra do, but such is the case.

To accomplish so much the Connecticut and Florida growers have had to pass through a struggle that was disheartening at times. Through steadfast perseverence the Connecticut in Hawaii without shade, the heavy for blanket hanging over certain porfolio blanket and ready for curing.

This latter process is said to be a surfar leady for curing.

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This latter process is said to be a for the pile in a warm, hunid atmosphere. It soon begins to a time at times reaches a temperature of 140 degrees. This is ascertained the bat and at times reaches a temperature of 140 degrees. This is ascertained to be at times reached a the beat and at times reaches a temperature of 140 degrees. This is ascertained to the pile in labors, albeit their initial investment and subsequent expenses may be greater. The production of wrapper

disheartening at times. Through have almost reached the point where Connecticut's tobacco is as well known as her mythical wooden nutthe world. Twenty per cent of Con-necticut's population is interested fi-nancially in her totbacco crop. Although the acreage of that crop is only two per cent of the total acreage of the American tobacco crop, it yields appendith of the gross returns from the one-fifth of the gross returns from the total tobacco production of the United little district in Connecticut and Maslittle district in Connecticut and Massachusetts have been producing one of work with the state agricultural colthe most valuable crops in the counleges and experiment stations in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Florida, Alaover 31,000,000 pounds, valued at more barne, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, than \$5,000,000 on the farms, which kentucky, North Carolina and South walue was increased greatly through carolina and south the various processes of curing, marketing, and manufacturing. This work is most varied in character, government experts have made was greater than that of the entire cotton crop in some southerr states.

To produce wrapper tobacco successfully in the Connecticut valley requires constant care from start to finish. First, seed beds are prepared and sterilized with steam or are burned over, to kill fungl which attack the roots of the young plants. The field is hann rivers, in Pennsylvania, and soft the young plants and filled tobacco grows best in sile.

Susquesting and manufacturing. This work is most varied in character. Government experts have made sold with great care, Probably the best results are obtained in producing wrapper tobacco with use of the Young the work in the feel is in the Florida peninsula. Cigar binder transplanted and cultivated with great care. Probably the best results are obtained in producing wrapper tobacco, and ming the producing wrapper tobacco of \$200 per acre. The seedlings are transplanted and cultivated with great care. Probably the best results are obtained in producing wrapper tobacco, and ming the producing wrapper tobacco, the use of the young plants. The field is field in Florida covering the entire field. The work bluit over fields. The work bluit value was increased greatly through Carolina.

ready for the market.

Good wrapper tobacco is being grown in Hawaii without shade, the heavy fog blanket hanging over certain portions of those islands serving as a substitute for tents. Tobacco is grown under shade in Porto Rico and Cuba. of course, the cost of this system of cultivation is very heavy, but the financial returns are compensatory. Some of the first shade-grown tobacco in Connecticut was sold for \$1.65 a pound.

being a net profit of \$1,000 an acre.

The benefits conferred upon the tobacco production of the United bacco industry by the Department of A few thousand acres in a Agriculture are almost incalculable, istrict in Connecticut and Mas-

through a machine invented by a gov-ernment expert, which fans out the lighter seed, leaving only the heaviest, which is best for planting. Cuban seed has been acclimated in

Texas and is yielding 800 pounds to the Texas and its yielding ow points to the acre, good Havana wrapper and filler The government is encouraging the growing of tobacco from Cuban seed it Alabama and is meeting with success It is believed the yield of fire-cure Virginia tobacco can be doubled by in-tensive cultivation. In Ohio the Agri-cultural department has been carrying on tobacco investigations for a number of years, and good fillers and wrappers from Havana seed are being pers from Havana seed are being grown. Recently the department has been testing a batch of 1,000 cigars made from its Ohio-grown tobacco. One cigar is made from each plant and carefully marked. A corps of young men who are willing to take the risk, like Dr. Wiley's celebrated "poison squad," are given all the "smokes" they want, to pass judgment upon the they want, to pass judgment upon the flavor and aroma. The burning qualities are tested in a smoking machine. The cigars averaging the best are traced back to the plants that bore them, the seed of which are to be planted next year. Thus the strain is improved.

Some of the worst enemies the to some of the worst enemies the to-bacco grawer has to combat are de-structive insects. These include the flea-beetle, which attacks the lower leaves of the plant; the horn worm or "hornblower", with which the farmer's children become familiar in the "worm-ing" process; the bud worm, the name ing" process; the bud worm, the name of which describes it; the suck fly,

25,000 cigar factories. Pennsylvania leads in the production of cigars. The United States consumes almost haif a billion pounds of tobacco, in all forms, annually, or more than Germany

er of their age. And now only one is left, that

The American Egg Trade

raised among the farmers, by means of and attendance of lectures on the subject, there is no reason, according to exeal eable perts, why the American hen may not be brought to lay 200 eggs a year, and be brought to lay 200 eggs a year, and eggs of a large size and good quality.

then Pullets are the best layers, and all egg layers should be killed when three and layers should be killed when three and layers are used in the salt may of these farms, boxes that hold many of these farms, boxes that hold each, a dozen eggs and that are sealed with the name of the shipper and the date on the seal This guarantees freshness. A number of the shipper and the date on the seal This guarantees freshness. A number of the shipper and the date on the seal This guarantees freshness. A number of the shipper and the date on the seal three leggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantio fleet when it went on international exhibition. Tainted eggs are used in the shipper and the date on the seal three leggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantio fleet when it went on international exhibition. Tainted eggs are used in the salt may of these farms, boxes that hold each, a dozen eggs and that are sealed and stamped with the name of the shipper and the date on the seal This graph and the stamped with the name of the shipper and the date on the seal three leggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantion fleet when it went on international exhibition. Tainted eggs are used in the each, a dozen eggs are used in the sealed part of the food supply of these farms, boxes that hold each, a dozen eggs and that are sealed and stamped with the name of the shipper and the date on the seal three eggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantion fleet when it went on international exhibition. Tainted eggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantion fleet when it went on international exhibition. Tainted eggs forming a part of the food supply of the Atlantion fleet when it went on international exhibition.

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The tobacco growers of the United States over years on their crops and the production of the weed this year will be a sea, the production of the weed this year will and the production of the weed this year will and the production of the weed this year will and the production of the weed this year will and the production of the weed this year will be a production of the year of the of the production of the year of th

when eggs are sent to the packing the staken many the its integrity, the poor farm the pure food laws in the matter, as are used by boxes that hold when it went on its integrity of the food supply of the Atlantic feet when it went on international experiments of the food supply of the Atlantic feet when it went on international experiments.