

work he was trying to do, namely to write a History of Historians. He explained that in order to get a correct view of any given historian, it was necessary to study not only all that he had written, but all written about him; and to correctly estimate each of his commentators their works had to be studied, and so on. The sister then remarked, "Why it is an endless task." This little bit of dialogue appealed to me because, while not undertaking anything as stupendous as a history of historians, yet the sixty-one years that have elapsed since *Leaves of Grass* first appeared has been a period of almost incessant controversy over it, and you can readily imagine, from the various headings I have enumerated, that trying to compile a complete bibliography is no small undertaking.

Whitman himself issued nine editions of *Leaves of Grass*, besides his prose works *Specimen Days*, *Democratic Vistas*, etc., and since his death other writings of his have been published—two volumes of his letters, to Pete Doyle and to his Mother; a volume of his *Notes and Fragments*, and four smaller items with the titles *Diary in Canada*, *An American Primer*, *Lafayette in Brooklyn*, and *Criticism*. The first edition of *Leaves of Grass* is much sought after being very scarce and quite unique. Whitman assisted in setting up the type for it, so it has an additional personal link. At recent auction sales in New York copies have been sold at an average price of a little over \$100.00.

There have been many reprints of his works, the most important being the ten volume Putnam edition, which contains almost everything the poet wrote, both in poetry and prose, besides a number of the important essays on his work. Among other reprints we now have an India paper edition published by Mitchell Kennerley which is a good and convenient piece of book making.

Of books entirely on Whitman there are about 50, commencing with John Burroughs' little book issued in 1867, which is now a very scarce item, selling for about \$25.00.

Of books and magazines containing Whitman essays there are an enormous number. In my own collection there are 80 volumes, and a very large number of magazines.

When we come to less important items the list grows with tremendous strides. Whitman permeates a large proportion of all present day serious literature.

Of poems and parodies on Whitman, 126 are listed and there must be many more.