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Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

ROGUE'S HARBOR by Inglis Fletcher, The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., New York, 1964, 242 pages. $4.50 is Inglis Fletcher's sixteenth published novel—twelfth in her Carolina Series, which has done much to awaken interest in the state's early history. She has searched old records and brought back to life the fascinating Colonial Times in the backwaters of the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds and has written of those days with deftness and color unmatched by anyone.

"Rouge's Harbor" was England's name for a settlement in the Perquimans district. The colonists hated this slur on their town as well as the tobacco tax and naval blockade imposed on them in 1677 by the Crown. They organized a rebellion for the purpose of ousting the English representative sent to govern them and to seek more sympathetic representation from the mother country.

The novel contains fragments of many novels. We meet Captain Ralph English, the sea captain of Salem whose wife is whispered to be a witch. He drifts off stage and we become acquainted with the Willoughby family. Nathan Willoughby is one of the "iron" men of Albemarle. His wife, Dorcas, is a strong-willed woman whom we might grow to understand, but we are sidetracked by the intrigues of Frances Culpepper, widow of one colonial governor, and shortly to marry Lord Berkeley, Governor of Virginia. The romance of Judith Willoughby and her schoolmaster becomes the new focus of the author, but again we feel no strong interest in this affair because we have become only sketchily involvel with them. Matthew Willoughby is kidnapped by pirates off the harbor, a potentially fascinating story in itself, but we hear no more of this.

Mrs. Fletcher in this book omits the richness of background material, of character development and of historical detail which so enraptured lovers of her other historical novels. But she is still one of North Carolina's great and beloved ladies, and we salute her.

—KATHRYN GILMORE

THE GREAT ARAB CONQUESTS by John Baget Clubb (Prentice-Hall $6.95). Convinced of the significance of this little known chapter of history, General Sir John Glubb has given us a fast-paced and impressive account of the first fifty years of the Muslim rise to power. This was the short span of years in which the poor and ragged Bedouins defeated the trained armies of rich Persia and Byzantium and established an empire that stretched from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa to the Indus river in India.

No one could be better equipped to tell the story. Formerly the head of Jordan's Arab Legion, Sir John Clubb has spent some thirty-six years in the Middle East. He has fought over much of the ground where the campaigns he describes took place. He has lived with Arabs, talked with Arabs, fought with Arabs, and it is this understanding of their characters and beliefs that makes so vivid his reconstruction of the development of Islam from just a handful of believers in an obscure prophet to a power that changed world history.

Beginning with Muhammad himself—born 570 A. D.—we get a picture of a quiet man fond of solitude and meditation. He was forty when his first vision came to him on the mountain. His first converts were his wife, his two adopted sons and his best friend, Abu Bekr, a well-to-do merchant who was to prove a tower of strength in future difficulties and to become Muhammad's successor as head of Islam. The new religion was not popular in Mecca; it was persecuted and in 622 Muhammad and his followers were forced to flee to Medina.

Ten years later Muhammad's power extended over most of Arabia, and a shaky unity had been established among the warring Bedouin tribes by their acceptance of Islam, verbal or genuine, and the payment of an annual tribute to Muhammad in Mecca. So shaky was the unity that it nearly fell apart at his death, and the first task of Abu Bekr was to punish the apostates—some had even produced rival prophets. His next was to march against Syria as Muhammad had planned.

The story of the early successes and setbacks grows into the dramatic sweep of one great campaign after another. Sir John prefaces each chapter with appropriate quotations, often from the Koran and the Old Testament side by side, showing how like they were in spirit. "And ye shall chase your enemies and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight." (Leviticus 25:7).

Words similar to these were often recited to the troops before battle. The confidence so inspired in the support of God—together with the assurance of immediate entry into Paradise should they die fighting the Unbelievers—account, in Sir John's opinion, for their fabulous success against enemies superior in numbers, resources and military science.

The book is excellently organized with a generous supply of maps, at the end of each chapter, lists of notable dates and personalities to enable the reader to follow complicated events without confusion.

SUNDIAL OF THE SEASONS by Hal Borland (Lippincott $5.95). Here is a pleasant book. Hal Borland, writing of another March—"There is a succession in the days now that quickens the human heart. Whether they are gusty days or days of calm, chill days or days of deepening warmth, they have the air of change." Through the whole cycle of the seasons he shares with us his keen perceptions of the small signs that mark the turning year and the human response to it.

Of the October wind he says, "A sweater-cool wind with a chrysanthemum in its buttonhole and a glass of sweet cider in its hand. . . It is a shimmering wind, gleaming with thistledown and silken with milkweed floss."

There is a brief essay for every day in the year, making the book an ideal companion to keep on a bedside table. Readers of the New York Times may find some passages familiar as these have appeared on its editorial page from time to time since 1941, some 1,200 of them. Here he has collected the best for his almanac of the year.

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Bookmobile Schedule

March 31-April 2

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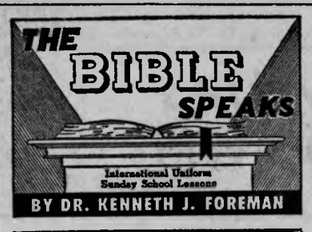
Wednesday, Cameron Route: James Hardy, 9:30-9:40; M. M. Routh, 9:45-9:55; E. F. Carter, 10-10:05; Lloyd Thomas, 10:10-10:20; Mrs. J. A. McPherson, 10:25-10:30; Mrs. H. D. Tally, 10:35-10:40; Mrs. Archie McKeithen, 10:45-11; Mrs. Isabelle Thomas, 11:05-11:15; Walter McDonald, 11:20-11:25; Miss Ellen Gilchrist, 11:30-11:35; Wade Collins, 11:40-11:50; Lewis Marion, 11:55-12:10.

Thursday, Mineral Springs, Sandhill Route: W. R. Viall Jr., 9:35-10; Dr. W. C. Neill, 10-10:25; J. W. Greer, 10:30-11; Mrs. E. T. McKeithen, 11:10-11:25; S. R. Ransdell Jr., 11:30-11:40; Richard Garner, 1-1:15; D. H. Hall, 1:25-1:35; Mrs. Bertha Harms, 1:40-1:50; Ed Smith, 2-2:15; Mrs. W. E. Munn, 2:30-2:40.



Easter Faith

Lesson for March 29, 1964

Background Scripture: John 20:1-29.
Devotional Reading: Corinthians 15:42-57.

EASTER IS a Christian festival. That seems to insult your intelligence, perhaps? No offense is intended. But Christians as well as non-Christians need a reminder that apart from the Christian faith there would be no Easter.

Dr. Foreman

All sorts of people try to latch on to Easter, so many in fact that it is observed as a holiday season by millions of people who have not the least idea what it really means.

What word goes most often with "Easter" in newspapers and greeting cards? Over and over you will see or hear the expression, Easter bonnet, or Easter outfit, or Easter parade. A day to show off, to dress up to the nines and in fact try to out-dress everybody else; to make yourself into a fashion model. Sometimes the reason is given that because this is the season when all nature is bright and singing, we should be bright and gay ourselves. But of course this is not it, it isn't even a parody, it is not the Easter idea at all.

It is not a festival to celebrate the returning spring. There is a poem which is quite lovely and yet makes a sad mistake about God. The last lines go:

"Green April is thy very soul,
Thou great Lord God!"

But green April is not God's soul. Its beauty was no doubt in God's mind before the world began; but God's soul is not a season of the year.

Faith on the first Easter

Easter does not celebrate even immortality or resurrection, though this is getting "warm." On the first Easter morning in Jerusalem, what disciple of Jesus was happy? Not one, so far as we know. The disciples were anxious, downcast, in dire confusion. In a few hours it was quite different; but when that Sunday morning dawned, although all Jesus' friends so far as we know believed in immortality or resurrection, they were not made happy by that belief. We have two examples in John's story: Mary Magdalene and Thomas the apostle. Each of them began the day in confusion and sorrow. Spring had come, but how empty and mocking spring can be to a grieving heart! Mary on that very day, and Thomas a week afterwards, came to the Easter truth, the great fact: He is risen! That is the right message of the day. Not, we shall live again (although that is included), but He lives. By His resurrection Jesus was proclaimed Lord of death and the place of the dead. (See Rev. 1:

expressions at their first discovery of the truth. Thomas said "My Lord and my God!" while Mary Magdalene said only "Rabboni!" which means "My teacher." Mary had a long way to go before she came to have the faith of Thomas; but Christ does not rebuke her for not being humble enough. If you start with realizing that in Christ we confront one who has battled with death and won—won a victory for us all—and if you keep on thinking what that means, you will be sharing the meaning and message of Eastertide.

Because He lives . . .

If that had been all it would have been enough. But there is something more. Christians have long believed: Because He lived, I too shall live! The writings of St. Paul are bright with the thought that we share in the risen life of Christ. The Resurrection, which is the reason for Easter, is also, and more importantly, the reason for the Christian's life of joy. Easter is not merely a time to re-tell wonder stories from the days of old. It is not a time to celebrate the heroic triumph of Jesus of Nazareth alone, it is a time to begin to share in the triumph. Each Christian is set free to say, because this is **His** Day, it is my Day no less. What does it benefit us that a light brighter than the sun shone in Joseph's garden long ago, if no light is kindled in your own soul?

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Next Sunday

METHODIST CHURCH
Midland Road
A. L. Thompson, Minister
Church School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Youth Fellowship 6:15 p.m.
WSCS meets each third Monday at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
New Hampshire Avenue
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday School, 11 a.m.
Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.
Reading Room in Church Building open Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

MANLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship service 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. PYF 6 p.m.; Women of the Church meeting 8 p.m. second Tuesday. Mid-week service Thursday 7:30 p.m., choir rehearsal 8:30 p.m.

EMMANUEL CHURCH (Episcopal)
East Massachusetts Ave.
Martin Caldwell, Rector
Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sundays and Holy Days, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.)
Family Service, 9:30 a.m.
Church School, 10: a.m.
Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Young Peoples' Service League. 4 p.m.
Holy Communion, Wednesday and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday 4 p.m., Penance.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Church of Wide Fellowship)
Cor. Bennett and New Hampshire
Carl E. Wallace, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday, 6:00 p.m., Youth Fellowship
Women's Fellowship meets 4th Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC
Vermont Ave. at Ashe St.
Father John J. Harper
Sunday Masses 8, 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Daily Mass, 7 a.m. (except Friday, 11:15 a.m.); Holy Day Masses, 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Confessions, Saturday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Men's Club meeting: 3rd Monday each month.
Women's Club meeting. 1st Monday, 8 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop No. 873, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop No. 118, Monday, 8 p.m.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Civic Club Building
Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Ashe St.
Jack Deal, Pastor
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
L.C.W. meets first Monday 8 p.m.
Choir practice Thursday 8 p.m.

BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH
(Presbyterian)
Dr. Julian Lake, Minister
May St. at Ind. Ave.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m. Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m Monday following third Sunday.
The Youth Fellowships meet at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening.
Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York Ave. at South Ashe St.
Bible School, 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m., Training Union 6:30 p.m., Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.
Youth Fellowship 8:30 p.m.
Scout Troop 224, Monday 7:30 p.m.
Mid-week worship, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; choir practice Wednesday 8:15 p.m.
Missionary meeting first and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Church and family suppers, second Thursday, 7 p.m.

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