

COUNTY CHRONICLE 1950

- p. 8-9 **If there had been a garden path...** see Dickens, *David Copperfield*, Chapter 13. Also 128 below, [garden path and Mr Dick references] Headmistress p.43, LAR p.341, NTL pp. 11,266, JC 126, DA pp.58,71,274, LAAA p.178. (And King Charles's head, WDIM p.182).
- p. 9 **Your son marries a Duke's daughter...or forges a cheque:** this is from Trollope.. Mark Roberts signs promissory notes in *Framley Parsonage*. Frank Tregear marries Lady Mary, daughter of the Duke of Omnium, in *The Duke's Children*.
- p.10 **That feller Cripps:** Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1945 Labour Government. (see 136)
- p.10 **jumped-up Welshman:** Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health in the 1945 Labour Government, when the National Health Service began.
- p.12 **Hepplethwaite & Crowther.** Can't associate this to any old-established wine-merchants that I know of.
- p.13 **The emotion it recollected in tranquillity:** Wordsworth, *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads*. See also JC 38.
- p.16 **Leave your old father....** OT, Ruth, 2.11
- p.24 **MacPhairson Clongocketty Angus M'Clan:** W S Gilbert, *Bab Ballads*, *Ellen M'Jones Aberdeen*.
David I. King of Scotland 1084-1183. Known as the Saint, uncle of Matilda, claimant to the English throne, but I can't trace "ain saire member".
- p.32 **A raven in the wilderness:** Elijah was fed by ravens when he was hiding from Ahab's army in the desert. 1 Kings 17, 1-17
- p.34 **Unconsidered trifles:** Autolycus in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*.
 I run, I run, I am gathered to thy heart: *Renouncement*, by Alice Meynell, 1837-1895.
- Hokey-Pokey, winky, wum:** from a song *King of the Cannibal Islands*. "His subjects sharpened their teeth with files", as in Mngangaland, see p.342 below.
- p.36 **We all wear our rue with a difference.** *Hamlet*, Act 4, Sc 5, Ophelia says to the Queen "You may wear your rue with a difference".
 From gold to gold of my girdle: can't trace this, but it sounds like a ballad.
- p.37 **His little bark attendant sailed:** Pope, *Essay on Man*, epistle 4, l. 385:
 "Say shall my little bark attendant sail/Pursue the triumph and partake the gale." (thanks to AE and RB)
- p.46 **Rosa Dartle:** Steerforth's mother's embittered companion, Dickens, *David Copperfield*.
- p.51 **Most unadmir'd disorder:** AE thinks that AT just added 'un' to Lady Macbeth's 'most admir'd disorder' in the Banquo's ghost scene when she scolds Macbeth for 'displacing the mirth' and so on. The reference to the old dining table on p.51 strengthens this possibility, since Banquo's ghost interrupts a banquet.
- pp.62, 103, 235 References to Trollope's *The Small House at Allington*.
- p.73 **In fang and out fang** – the right of a landowner to hang one of his men or someone else's if caught wrongdoing on his property (or anywhere if one of his own men). (see WDIM 214)
- p.74 cheval de charrue and cheval pur sang: cart (lit. plough) horse and thoroughbred.
- p.75 **The Great Harry:** Henry VIII's warship, launched in 1514.
- p.84 **Katherine Barlass:** put her arm through the bolt fastenings of the door at the siege of Perth Castle in 1437. (see DD 224)
- p.89 **Fluvius Minucius.** Can't trace this. Fluvius = river, Minucius =
- p.94 **The first hundred thousand:** were recruited in the first two weeks of World War I.
Kitchener was Secretary of State for War .
Be courteous to women, but no more: "You are ordered abroad as a soldier of the King to help our French comrades against the invasion of the common enemy..In this new experience you may find temptations both in wine and women. You must entirely resist both temptations, and, while treating all women with perfect courtesy, you should avoid any intimacy. Do your duty bravely. Fear God. Honour the King." Kitchener, Lord: *A message to the soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force, 1914, to be kept by each soldier in his Active Service Pay-Book*. Thanks to RB for finding this.
- p.97 **Todgers could do it:** Dickens *Martin Chuzzlewit*, chapter 9. Refers to dinner laid on at Todgers' boarding-house to entertain the Pecksniffs.
- p.98 **Good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow:** Bottom, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 4, Sc.1

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- p.100 **Libel action:** AT was threatened with a libel action in 1948 by a Miss Vera Telfer, whom she had portrayed as “Miss V Lefter” in *Love Among the Ruins*. She also lampooned Sir Stafford Cripps as Kripps in later novels, but was persuaded to delete these references.
- P101 **The creature had glimmerings of reason in her:** can’t trace this.
- p.105 **Out of God’s blessing....** *Out of God’s blessing into the warm sun*. One of Ray’s proverbs (there were various editions of John Ray’s *Collection of English Proverbs* from the first in 1670 to the last in 1817) meaning from good to less good. “*Ab equis ad asmos* When the king says to Hamlet “How is it that the clouds still hang on you?” the prince answers, “No, my lord, I am too much i’ the sun,” meaning, “I have lost God’s blessing, for too much of the sun”- *i.e.* this far inferior state. “Then out of heaven’s benediction comest/To the warm sun.” *Shakespeare : King Lear*, ii. 2. Also: “Let me leap out of the frying-pan into the fire; or, out of God’s blessing into the warm sun” – Miguel de Cervantes, 1547-1616. Can’t trace anything in the Bartlett’s entry for Lyly, who was an English playwright (1544-1606), author of *Euphues and his England*, and used as source material by Shakespeare.
- p.106 **Hippocampus, Bishop of Rhinoceros:** presumably this is a parody of St Augustine of Hippo, though he was 4th Century, and the Nestorian heresy was a 5th century heresy taught by Nestorius of Antioch, holding that Jesus was not only two natures, but two persons, human and divine, and that Mary was the mother only of the human person.
- p.106 **Yorick, nothingness:** Hamlet, Act 5, Sc. 1, of course, but there is much on the internet about Hamlet and nothingness. Oxford being depressed and Nuffielded into nothingness is an allusion to the New Bodleian Library on Broad Street, provided by Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield, and much derided for looking like a factory building. Thanks to AE, who adds: “I’m puzzled by Yorick and nothingness. I can’t find the word ‘nothingness’ in Hamlet V:1 and, though the Prince often muses in the play on the concept of nothingness, does he ever use the word? Isn’t the word a later coinage – about the time of the Romantics? Eg Keats, *Endymion* ‘A thing of beauty is a joy forever,/Its loveliness increases,/It will never pass into nothingness.’”
- p.113 **Earthly Paradise:** poem by William Morris
- Miss Pleasant Riderhood:** Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*. Her hair kept tumbling down and she kept twisting it up again.
- p.113 **Gaiters’** = Boots, whose lending libraries always stocked the latest Angela Thirkell.
- p.114 **Happy Thoughts:** by Sir Francis Cowley Burnand, English humorist and regular contributor to Punch. Author of *Cox and Box* (music by Sullivan) (see also 161)
- p.113 **Great Pilot at the helm:** AE writes: “The use of Pilot for Christ goes back at least to Milton (Lycidas 1.109, ‘The Pilot of the Galilean lake’) but it became very common indeed in 19thC hymns...Christ the Pilot at the Helm is the subject of an unfinished painting by Holman Hunt (in 1894) and that he used the words ‘great’, ‘pilot’, and ‘helm’ in correspondence about the painting. There’s an interesting article about this by George P Landlow on www.victorianweb.org/painting/whh.shadlow/pilot/html. And Watts painted a similar subject which he called ‘Love steering the boat of humanity’”.
- p.116 **Triumph of hope over experience:** said by Dr Johnson about marriage.
- pp 118, 220,221. 240, 241 **Bohun** = Donne. A wonderful opportunity for AT to exercise her gift for parody.
- p.119 **Bombast Paracelsus:** The poem, *Consequences*, is a chapter heading in *Plain Tales from the Hills*, by Kipling. Paracelsus’s name was Theophrastus Phillipus Aureolus Bombastus von Paracelsus.
- p.127 **The base Indian:** *Othello*, Act 5, Sc2.
They is a short story by Kipling from *Traffics and Discoveries* (1904)
- p.128 **Henry Fielding wrote Tom Jones.**
Mr Dick...: Dickens *David Copperfield*, Chapter XIV. On being asked by Miss Trotwood what she was to do with the child, Mr Dick said “Have him measured for a suit of clothes directly”.
- p.128-9 **Miss Banks....Uraynus** (See OBH)
- p.130 **Knights = Barts** (St Bartholomew’s Hospital)
- p.131 **Nation spoke to a Throne:** see Kipling, *Our Lady of the Snows*, (1898), notes to Duke’s Daughter, p.18
- p.132 **Restrictions....on food....:** Rationing didn’t end until 1954.
- p.133 **Whether bird or blossom is the lovelier:** is this a poem?
- p.134 **Honka-Tonka-Bodyline:** Where does she get this from? Is it anything to do with the great bodyline bowling furore? But that was in the 1930s.

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- p.136 **Sir Stafford Cripps**, a teetotal vegetarian, was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and responsible for much of the post-war austerity measures.
- p.138 **Sally Brass and Richard Swiveller**: Dickens, *The Old Curiosity Shop*
- p.139 **Analects of Procrastinator**: Still trying to trace the relusion here.
- p.141 **Paul Sabatier**: won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1912. Why he should have been lecturing on St Francis is a mystery.
Scottish Students' Songbook was published in 1891, then again in 1929. Which song is meant I do not know.
St Sycorax: Sycorax was a witch, and mother of Caliban in *The Tempest*.
- p.146 **Amethyst**: In April 1949 HMS *Amethyst* was attacked by Chinese Communist forces and ran aground in the Yangtze River. With her commanding officer and many others dead, she eventually fought her way to freedom three months later in a legendary act of courage.
New Look: important change in fashion postwar, with nipped-in waists, flared over the hips, with longer, fuller skirts.
- p.147 **Sister Helen**: this predates the "Dead Men Walking" Nobel prizewinner, might be a Canadian nurse from WWI, but unlikely, as she married!
My Lesbia has a roving eye: refers to a poem by Sappho, paraphrased by Catullus, and later by Byron. Or, see WDIM page 305, Thomas Moore, *Irish Melodies*
My sister, my spouse: *Song of Solomon*, 4.12. Much more in Miss Hampton and Miss Bent's line!
- p.148 **Florence Nightingale**: Cecil Woodham Smith was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for her biography of Florence Nightingale in 1950.
- p.149 **Pantellaria** (sic): Pantelleria is a small Italian island between Sicily and Tunisia. On 11 June 1943 Combined Operations successfully carried out Operation Corkscrew (just the thing for Mr Wickham!) as a preliminary test before the planned invasion of Sicily and Italy.
- P. 153 **Mr Traill**: Hugh Walpole wrote *Mr Perrin and Mr Traill*, a story of two feuding schoolmasters, in 1911. Why Mr Feeder, I don't know.
- p.155 **I wish I were the Devil, with a rat that could speak on my shoulder**: Charles Dickens, *Ihe Uncommercial Traveller* (1861) ch. 15, *Nurse's Stories*. (Thanks to Sue J and RB for this)
- p.157 **Taffy...Welshmen**: Aneurin Bevan was Minister for Health.
- p.159 **Sir Isaac Newton and Descartes**: both were mathematicians.
- p.160 **Chevaux-de-frise**: a defensive structure made of barbed wire or spikes on a moveable wooden frame, used to obstruct cavalry.
- p.161 **Lars Porsena**: *How Horatius Kept the Bridge*, by Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay. What with.....the end of the sentence: one of AT's *tours de force*, but she's forgotten to include a main clause!
- p.163 **Arshy, booshy...:** Sir Francis Cowley Burnand, 1837-? English humorist and contributor to *Punch*, and editor of *Happy Thoughts*. Can't find it in more detail. (see also 114)
Bacchante; Priestesses of Bacchus, the god of wine and drinkers.
- p.167 **The devil a monk would be**: "The devil was sick, the devil a monk would be/ the devil was sick – the devil a monk was he." Rabelais. Said of those who make pious promises in times of danger or sickness, but forget them once things get better.
- p.175 **Pelican**: the pelican, a Christian symbol of piety, was said to feed its young with its own blood.
- p.185 **Kipling**: the quotation is from *Soldier, Soldier (Barrack Room Ballads)*.
- p.187 **That peculiar service**: Agnes is referring to the 1928 Prayer Book, which was called the Deposited Book, twice offered to Parliament in 1927 and 1928 and rejected both times as returning to Roman types of doctrine and worship. The new (and 'objectionable') bits had black lines printed down the side so that MPs could recognise them more easily. After Parliament's rejection the House of Bishops still had it printed again with a disclaimer in the front that Parliament had rejected it, with the unspoken implication 'but we are saying that you can use it'.
- p.190 **Nelson's brother received a pension, but Emma Hamilton did not** After Nelson died at Trafalgar, George III gave his brother William an earldom, Trafalgar House in Salisbury and a pension of £5000 (whew! £3.7 million per annum) to last as long as there was a Lord Nelson. Attlee's government passed the Trafalgar Act 1947, removing the pension (by then worth £403,000 a year) but allowing the family to keep the house.
Two of Them whose names ... sound exactly alike: Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, and Aneurin Bevan, Health Minister.
- p.193 **Hiram's Trust**: cf. *The Warden*, Trollope.

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- p.198 **Ice Hell of Pitz Palu:** *White Hell of Pitz Palu*, German silent film of 1929, directed by G W Pabst.
- p.200 **Strarkie:** John Strachey was Minister of Food.
- p.201 **Ecrasez l'infame;** Voltaire's motto "crush the infamous thing" (Christianity)
- Holy League:** in Italian history, alliance formed (1510-11) by Pope Julius II for the purpose of expelling Louis XII of France from Italy.
- p.203 **Henry Kingsley's *The Boy in Grey*,** 1871, a children's book. AT often mentions Kingsley's *Ravenshoe*, and a preliminary draft for an article on Kingsley is among her papers in the Brotherton Collection.
- p.206 **Fleet marriage:** Fleet Marriages were clandestine marriages that took place in London between 1667 and 1777. They were performed by a clergyman without banns or licence, and took place in the Fleet Prison, the Mayfair Chapel, and the Kings Bench Prison, among others.
- p.217 **The Bendor:** Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster, was known as "Bend Or" the "Golden Duke". So the hotel must be either Grosvenor House or the Grosvenor, Victoria (probably the former, because it was much smarter).
- p.223 **Bishopsthorpe:** palace of the Archbishop of York. The Archbishop of Canterbury's palace is at Lambeth.
- p.226 **Love's Cross-Currents:** novel by A C Swinburne – subtitled *Lesbia Brandon*.
- p.230 **De mortuis: *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*.** Of the dead speak kindly or not at all.
- p.237 **Armour from Wardour Street:** Wardour Street was formerly noted for the sale of antiques and mock antiques.
- p.239 **Isabel Boncasson:** cf. *The Duke's Children*, by Trollope.
- p.244 **The Carasoyin:** fairy tale (1871) by George Macdonald, author of *At the Back of the North Wind*, etc. Thought by some to be the origin of *The Secret Garden*.
- p.245 **That man at Oxford:** Either Tolkien or C S Lewis (I favour the latter, as Tolkien didn't come to prominence until the 1960s)
- p.248 **Begum = Aga**
- p.257 **Richard Hannay:** hero of John Buchan's *The Thirty-nine Steps*.
- p.258 **Bishop of Rum-ti-Foo:** The subject of two poems in WS Gilbert's *Bab Ballads*. The Colonial Bishop was taught what sounds like an early version of breakdancing by a man he saw in the Borough Road but thought that the islanders of Rum-ti-Foo wouldn't understand the joke if they saw their Bishop land, His leg supported in his hand.
- Mr Frank Churchill:** cf Jane Austen, *Emma*.
The Cat and her Kittens came tumbling in: *A Frog He Would A-Wooing Go*.
- pp. 261, 163 Dr Joram takes his leave on page 261 but is still there on page 263!
- pp. 267, 338 **The Fisherman and his Wife:** from a tale by the Brothers Grimm where after wasting numerous wishes the couple end up back where they started.
- p.275 **Elisha:** 2 Kings, 4.10.
- p.278 **Blackstone:** William Blackstone, 1723-1780, *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.
- p.281 **The Heptarchy:** The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms – Nortumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Sussex, Wessex, Essex and Kent. See also BL 41
- p.282 **Golden boots and silver underclothing:** From *The Periwinkle Girl*, W S Gilbert's *Bab Ballads*. "Duke Baily greatest wealth computes, and sticks, they say at no-thing, He wears a pair of golden boots, and silver underclothing."
- p.283 **Naker:** A kind of kettledrum, dating back to the Crusades and mentioned by Chaucer.
- p.291 **Duke, duke:** Why is there sometimes a capital and sometimes not?
- p.301 **Lay:** unusual use of the word. Is this gypsy language, or "lay" in the sense of a narrative poem or song?
The man that was going to paint a picture.... : Lucy must be referring to Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
- p.307 **"And then I would always have you remember ... your affectionate father Omnium."**
From Trollope's *The Duke's Children*, Chapter 15.
- p.314 **We players know.... :** "The rest may reason and welcome; 'tis we musicians know." Robert Browning, *Abt Vogler* (1864), ix.
- p.321 **Jupiter in a shower of typewriters:** Jupiter transformed himself into a shower of gold in order to seduce Danae, who had been locked up in a tower by her father.
- p.322 **Guibert le Biau:** I think he is the hero of a French mediaeval epic, or is he a creation of AT's? *De cortez tout confait* presumably means "all made of courtesy" (possibly "courtliness", in the sense of our Old English "courtesie")

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- p.323 **Egeria:** Roman nymph who inspired Numius Pompilius, king of Rome after Romulus. See also JC 82.
- Félibriste:** *félibre* means poet in the *langue d'oc* of Provençal poetry.
- p.331 **Hysterico passio:** hysteria which causes choking, shortness of breath, thought to rise up from the stomach or womb; "hysterica passio" is the Latin medical term. See also notes on OBH.
- p.334 **Mrs Squeers:** The evil schoolmaster's wife in Dickens's *Nicholas Nickelby*.
- p.340 **Juggernaut:** A large powerful force that cannot be stopped.
- p.342 **Teeth filed to a point:** cf. p. 34 above, *The King of the Cannibal Islands*.
- p.344 **N or M: from the Catechism,** "What is your name, N or M".
- p.347 **Dr Joram and Mrs Brandon's guardian angels:** Denis Mackail uses a very similar conceit in *Greenery Street* where the hero and heroine's household gods hold discussions.