

The TIMES BOOK PAGE

Calhoun Defended By Biographer for Nullification Stand

"JOHN C. CALHOUN, NULLIFIER." By Charles M. Wittse. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, \$6.

"AMERICAN THEMES." By D. W. Brogan. New York: Harper, \$3.50.

By ROBERT W. MINTON

HISTORIANS, especially liberal historians, have not dealt kindly with John C. Calhoun, the austere South Carolinian whose passionate devotion to the doctrine of states rights and the institution of slavery contributed heavily to the South's intransigence before war finally came.

Charles M. Wittse came to study Calhoun by way of Jefferson. He is not a Southerner, although he lived for a time in West Virginia. So his interest in this gaunt, unpopular figure is purely that of a scholar, fascinated by his tremendous intellect and undeviating integrity. The first volume of his biography carried him to 1808.

"JOHN C. CALHOUN, NULLIFIER," covers the years 1800-39. It is a highly sympathetic study of a man who was fascinating without being in the least appealing.

For Mr. Wittse, Calhoun was a victim. He was the victim of the vicious intrigue of the Jacksonian rabble, led by the Little Magician, Martin Van Buren. Calhoun was Vice President during Jackson's first term, but his conviction that a high tariff was running the South put him at odds with the President.

VAN BUREN spared nothing to discredit Calhoun. He made the most of the Peggy Eaton affair, in which Mrs. Calhoun snubbed the rather notorious wife of John Eaton, Secretary of War. In so doing Mrs. Calhoun was merely following the course of respectability pursued by most ladies in Washington.

But when the nullification issue finally came to a head, the worst possible abuse rained down upon Calhoun.

The right of a state to declare unconstitutional an act inimical to the interests of that state was distorted to mean secession, which Calhoun never intended, and secession was of course treason.

Mr. Wittse makes an excellent case for Calhoun's position, which stemmed from Jefferson's states rights doctrine.

Indeed today there seems to be no logical reason why a state should not have either the right to nullify or secede. But logic could not defeat power and it was clear then as it is now that nullification would weaken and perhaps eventually completely destroy the country.

A Southerner today may ask how much better off he is for the failure of Calhoun to win his battle.

IN HIS effort to vindicate an honest man with a great brain Mr. Wittse has gone too far. Calhoun becomes a flawless statesman in his eyes, whose only error, the championing of slavery, was forgivable because it was inherited. He even goes so far as to condone Calhoun's written order to whip and incarcerate a runaway slave.

And surely Mr. Wittse's picture of Jackson's administration is too severe. At moments he writes of Jackson with no more objectivity than John Flynn has shown toward Franklin Roosevelt.

But these are faults which an intelligent reader can dispense with in order to get at the minutiae of history Mr. Wittse has compiled. His intensive study of Calhoun should restore our perspective of a man whose ideas, though uncongenial to our democracy, still persist in the deep South.

Prairie Avenue Due On Sale Apr. 25

"Prairie Avenue," to be published by Knopf on Apr. 25, is the Literary Guild's selection for May. The author, Arthur Meeker, was born on Prairie Ave., Chicago, and remembers it as a "comfortable, pleasant place with its rows of elm shading the sunny, ugly, somewhat lovable mansions of Chicago's merchant princes."

Jacket Reflects Chevallier's Gallic Wit



This jacket design for "The Affairs of Flavia," by Gabriel Chevallier, gives some notion of the Gallic wit and ribaldry of the new book by the author of "The Scandals of Clochemerle." (Doubleday, \$2.75)

Prize-Winning Water Color on Display at Museum



"Respected Citizen," prize-winning water color by William A. Smith, is an important item in the 24th Annual Circuit Exhibition of the Ohio Water Color Society currently on display in Herron Art Museum through Apr. 20.

Scotland Yard Chennault Raps U. S. Far East Policy, Criticizes Gen. Stilwell

"SCOTLAND YARD." By Richard Harrison. Chicago and New York, Ziff-Davis, \$2.75.

THE TROUBLE with Richard Harrison's "Scotland Yard," purporting to be "the inside story of London's famous police," is that it isn't.

The author's record indicates that his knowledge of his subject is scanty and, furthermore, that more than a decade, as a British journalist, he has studied and written of crime in England, lectured on it at Cambridge.

During the war he was a member of the military intelligence. He furthermore has won popularity with his books of fiction on the cases of "Chief Inspector Bastion."

BUT IN his report of the real cases in which the Yard is involved, he disappoints by omitting the very facts the reader most wants to know. He will, for example, sum up the circumstances of a murder, the early bafflement of the police, the later more hopeful efforts, only to remark that the solution of the case was brilliant indeed.

What the method of solution was, the clues and their significance, the reasoning they led to, the exact incidents thereafter until the arrest, he does not tell.

Some years ago Groucho Marx, in a New York musical, made an after-dinner speech. Apropos of practically nothing he remarked, "That reminds me of the story of the two Irishmen." He laughed heartily, then added, "I wish I could think of it." The revelation in "Scotland Yard" are just about as explicit.

Morgan Portrait

Frederick Lewis Allen, editor in chief of Harper's Magazine, presents a new and unbiased portrait of a legendary financier in "The Great Pierpont Morgan" (Harper, \$3.50).

Gregor Piatigorsky, a famous cellist, is taking a year off from concert appearances to complete his autobiography and a novel. The manuscript of the autobiography is mostly in Russian and has been in preparation for years. Doubleday will publish it. The novel will tell of an artist who has lived through troublous days in Russia and becomes a lecturer to women's clubs in the U. S.

Tibetan Life Described

In Ladakh, Tibet, men outnumber women many times, and the matrimonial customs meet this situation. Most women have three husbands. A man shares his wife with his younger brothers. "Golden Doorway to Tibet," by Nicol Smith, to be published June 13 by Bobbs-Merrill tells all about these remote people and their ways of life.

Author's Love Notes

Harper will publish "The Love Letters of Mark Twain" this fall. The letters were written between September, 1868, when Mark Twain first wrote to Olivia Langdon, and 1904, when she died.

Book Needy Ready

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's hitherto unpublished "Philosophical Lectures: 1818-19," edited by Kathleen, will be brought out Apr. 27, by the Philosophical Library of New York.

Great Books

By Dr. E. Burdette Buckles CARL SANDBURG'S "REMEMBRANCE ROCK" 11 A. M. SUNDAY Radio—Sun., 9:15 A. M.—WFBM "Prophetic Religion"

UNITARIAN CHURCH

1453 N. Alabama St.

Book Out Monday

Kay Boyle departs from her usual patterns of writing in "His Human Majesty," a new novel which Whittlesey House will publish Monday. The story concerns a group of ski-troopers in training in the Colorado Rockies in 1944.

Book by Reporter

Ray Sprigle, Pulitzer Prize winning Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter, disguised himself as a Negro last fall, and traveled through the South for a month. His observations will be published by Simon & Schuster on May 9. The book, "In the Land of Jim Crow," has a foreword by Margaret Halsey.

Chosen for TV

"Dinner at Antoine's," by Frances Parkinson Keyes, published by Julian Messner, Inc., and a nationwide best-seller for four months, has been selected by Philco for its first video dramatization of a best-seller.

Book Postponed

Kenneth Roberts' own story of his career, "I Wanted to Write," has been postponed by Doubleday to Apr. 20. Besides showing the months, has been selected by artist at work, the book gives an intimate glimpse of the modern literary world.

A master of the American novel probes the basic conflicts of a modern American marriage

James T. Farrell

a new novel

The Road Between

by the creator of STUDE LOUNGAN At all bookstores - \$3.50

RADIO PROGRAMS

THIS EVENING						
WYON 1260 CBS	WIBC 1070 Mutual	WIRE 1430 WBO	WISH 1210 ABC	WILW 1550 WPM After 6:30 P.M.	WLV-700 WBO	
4:00 Make Mine Music	Easy Does It	Linda	Heater Request Time	Fun With Music	Author's Sports	
4:30 " "	Easy Does It	DePauw University	Chaparral	Small Star	Your Name Described To Be Announced	
4:45 " "	" "	Weekend Mat.	Chaparral	Learn Back and Litter	" "	
5:00 " "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	
5:30 Time for Fun	Wells Up	Melody Billboard	Housewifery	Eddie Laffer, Arch.	Value of the Empire	
6:00 Indiana Joe	True or False	Marion Band	Victory March	Dance, Parade	Midwestern Digest	
6:15 Waplecker Club	" "	Highways to Safety	Marlin Day	" "	" "	
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7:00 Gilbert Forbes	Howell Calk	Manhattan Music	Lulu-Wallace	Music for Dining	Saturday Jamboree	
7:15 Music for Modern	Good Kelly—News	" "	Frank Edwards	" "	" "	
7:30 Vaughn Monroe	Straight Arrow	Music, Bar	Rep. Jacobs Speeches	News	Vic Danmore	
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10:30 Gang Busters	Heater Hits	Hi Parade	Little Herman	Make Believe Ball 'n'	Hi Parade	
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11:00 Freddy Martin Orch.	Guy Lombardo	Jazz Canova	Pat Hawk	" "	Judy Canova	
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