

OF ALL THINGS

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Of all things by Robert C. Benchley

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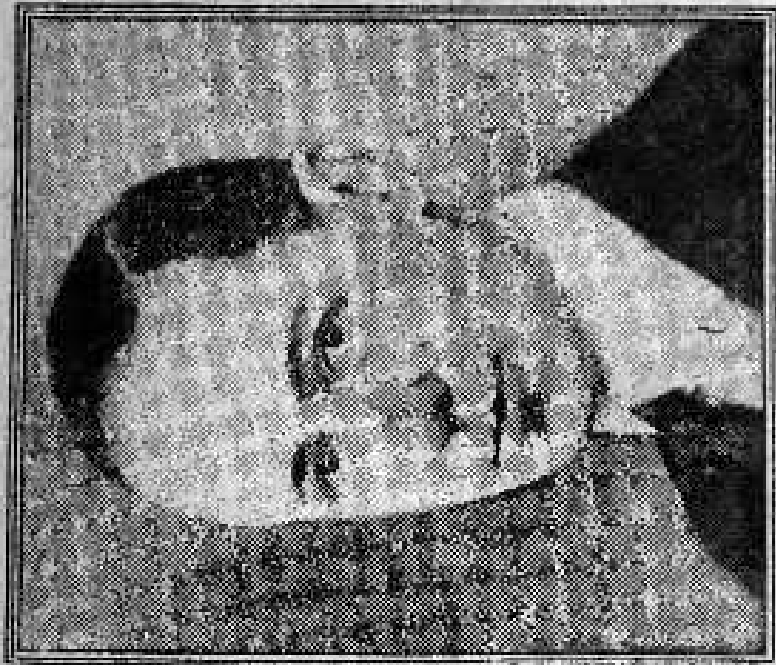
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ROBERT C. BENCHLEY

OF ALL THINGS

Writing People at a Glance: Robert C. Benchley

ROBERT CHARLES BENCHLEY, who has won a conspicuous success among the new men in American humor, is a native of Worcester, Mass., where he was born September 15, 1889. Graduated from Harvard with the class of 1912, he went to work with the advertising department of the Curtis Publishing Company of Philadelphia. Then for a year he was engaged in industrial personnel work in Boston, and then turned to newspaper work in New York, first as an associate editor of the *Tribune Sunday Magazine*, and later as editor of the *Tribune Graphic*. There was a year of war work in Washington as secretary to the Aircraft Board. The war over, he returned to New York and became managing editor of *Wovvy Foir*. At the present time Mr. Benchley is the dramatic editor of *Life*. His books are "Of All Things" and "Love Conquers All."



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BY
ROBERT C. BENCHLEY



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1921

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TO

HENRY BESSEMER

Without whose tireless patience, unswerving industry and inexhaustible zeal the Bessemer steel converter would never have become a reality, this book is affectionately dedicated by

THE AUTHOR.

These sketches appeared originally in *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Tribune Sunday Magazine*, *Collier's Weekly*, *Life*, and *Motor Print*, all but two of these magazines immediately afterward having either discontinued publication or changed hands. To those which are old enough to remember, and to the new managements of the others, the author offers grateful acknowledgment for permission to reprint the material in this book. (As a matter of fact, permission was never asked, but they probably won't mind anyway.)

RETURN TO
GAG FILE

PREFACE

WHEN, in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident,—that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train

of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their own future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

R. C. B.

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