

A BOOK OF YALE REVIEW VERSE

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A Book of Yale Review Verse by Various

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VARIOUS

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REVIEW VERSE**

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WITH A FOREWORD BY
THE EDITORS



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FOREWORD

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An anthology of contemporary verse, even a brief one, is quite as much a Tract for the Times as more ambitious and prosaic publications. Unfortunately, however, the message, or interpretation, or for some the grand moral it has to convey, must be sought by the reader himself, and cannot be put into an introduction.

6-16-20

The poems that follow are reprinted from "The Yale Review" because they deserve reading, or re-reading if they prove to be friends of an earlier encounter. Their value as reflecting the varying moods, and the still more varying manners, of a critical and rapidly changing period, may not be overlooked. Tradition and Revolt in form, Contentment and Rude Awakening in spirit, Democracy and Aristocracy in thought, will all be found here. And yet they date from a brief six years, and are by writers of two countries now more than ever closely akin. Diverse

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as these poems seem to us, they must be "of their age"; to another generation they would reveal the time spirit that is contemporary for us.

It might be interesting to speculate as to what keen words of appraisal Dr. Johnson would have said of this volume; as to what different inflection Herrick would have put upon the themes of its lyrics; whether Pope would have discovered a philosophy of life underlying this poetry of a period, as we do so readily in the work of his Augustans; what Chaucer would have thought of the temporal humanity that must pervade even the least personal of this verse. All this could be speculation only. For our generation, at least, there is between these covers a brief but moving picture of American and English minds and hearts in the years that began the war and felt its progress, justifying such an anthology, and adding another interest certainly to those merits of good verse that are not dependent upon time or place.

THE EDITORS.

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