

- BOOK REVIEW -

WINDSWEPT

By Mary Ellen Chase

(Reviewed by J. J. MacIsaac, '44.)

The novel *Windswept* deals in general with three generations of the Marston family and their lives, influenced by their natural surroundings.

Windswept is the name given by Philip Marston to the house which he planned, and also to its location. The situation is on the eastern coast of Maine, isolated by miles from the nearest town and devoid of all rich vegetation. As Miss Chase admirably puts it, "there was mystery in its very emptiness and grandeur in its security." Here Philip Marston wished to live and to "entrust his son to better instruction of sea and sky and of this bare and sturdy land." Here he comes upon his tragic death and here his son John remains, entering upon his chosen work of studying and making translations from ancient Greek and Latin writers, and bringing up his children under the influencing atmosphere of the land.

The most striking features of the novel are its picturesque description of time and place and its physiological insight into the natures of common characters. The almost constant winds to which the somewhat barren and wholly unsheltered coast was subjected, the surf pounding on the rock-studded shore, the dense fogs settling and lifting with unannounced abruptness, the leaden sunshine of autumn days, and the occasional storms that smote the open spaces are pictures the description of which hold the reader fascinated and thoroughly delighted. The actions and reactions of ever natural personages to the joys and contentments, trials and disappointments of life are told by the authoress simply but beautifully. Further Miss Chase shows the change of life and advancement of America over the span of sixty years which the book covers.

The characters in the story are unique. Jan, the steadfast and loyal Bohemian, who was befriended by John's father from his first coming as an immigrant to America, proves to be a "Rock of Ages" to the three generations of Marstons at Windswept. His fellow countrymen, Anton,

and his sister, Philomena, also give to the reader an appreciation of foreign peasant manners. Mrs. Haskell, the housekeeper for the first ten years of Windswept's reign, is a woman of firm beliefs, unbending ways, and sound convictions, and is a likeable person because of her altruistic outlook. Miss Chase also affords us a glimpse of youth with its pleasure and its problems, notably in Dan Perkins and Adrienne Chartier. Dan, a moody and sensitive lad causes his friends much concern, while Adrienne, attractive and self-possessed takes life as she finds it.

Miss Chase, like many modern writers, is decidedly too unreserved in this novel with regard to natal events. For this reason the reviewer hesitates to wholeheartedly recommend the book. It is interesting reading because of its descriptions of time, place, and characters, but it is not entirely suited for juveniles.

THE MEDIEVAL PAPACY IN ACTION

By Marshall W. Baldwin

Reviewed by Henry O'Shea, '45

This book reviews the period in the history of the papacy from the accession of St. Leo IX in 1049 to the death of Innocent IV in 1254. The author considers this period as one of the most important chiefly because three developments stand out as momentous in papal history: the return of the proper exercise of the supremacy of the pope after a long era of decentralization, the formation of institutions to enable the primacy to become permanently effective, and to attempt to instil into European society the principles of Christian living.

The book does not contain a complete account of papal temporal policy as space does not permit such an account. The first chapter, however, contains a short summary on the subject.

The ecclesiastical policies of the middle ages are emphasized throughout the book especially the formation of the papal policy as an institution of church government and the functioning of this government in medieval Christendom.

The book shows how much popes as Alexander III, Gregory IX and Innocent IV exercised considerable influence in the temporal affairs of Europe. It explains, too, how the popes not only preserved Christian faith against heresies and schisms during this period but also spread it to non-Catholic lands.

This book cannot be understood properly by casual reading but requires serious thought and study. The student of papal history will find in *The Medieval Papacy In Action* an account of several reforms in the Church and of certain medieval customs which exist in the Vatican even today.



True happiness is to no place confined
But still is found in a contented mind.

—*Horace*

Who to his friends his money lends
May lose his money and his friends.

—*Plautus*

Preachers can talk but never teach
Unless they practice what they preach.