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**DFG-Projekt "Digitalisierung und Erschließung des Nachlasses des
Ägyptologen Adolf Erman (1854-1937)"**

Brief von Caroline Ransom Williams an Adolf Erman

Williams, Caroline Ransom

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EDUARD MEYER, professor of history at the University of Berlin and once exchange professor to the United States, has given Cotta the manuscript of his "Beginnings of Christianity." The advance reviews claim that Meyer has thrown bright light on the historical significance of the four gospels.

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New York Evening Post

FOUNDED 1801

New York, Friday, December 24, 1920

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candor of the rising generation, so complacently contrasted with the alarmed discretion of the Victorians, somehow stops at words. But words can be used as effectively as silence to conceal ideas and to destroy sincerity.

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January 10. Re-
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and carry it home by hand; tucked in behind some holly or some mistletoe. The average step is more elastic than its wont. Every one has been given some new purpose in spite of himself: every one is being driven mad, pursued and led by this new something which comes every year, and which

THE following hitherto unknown poem by Friedrich Hebbel (born 1813) was published recently in the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*. Entitled "Der Thautropf" and presumably written in 1834, it symbolizes to a degree Hebbel's entire philosophy. The dewdrop rejoices that the sun is reflected in it; it adds to its beauty and gives it a feeling of exaltation. But the dewdrop is thereby soon consumed:

"Blickt ein Thautropf rein und mild;

Sonne scheint hernieder,
Und ihr wunderschönes Bild
Glänzt im Tropfen wider.
Liebe Sonne, blicke du
Ewiglich hernieder!

"Tropfe, Tropfe, freust du dich,
Dass in dir die Sonne,
Dich vergoldend, spiegelt sich,
Bringt's dir süsse Wonne?
Armer Tropfe, weine du—
Dich verzehrt die Sonne!"

The Evening Post
Dec. 24, 1926

Walpole Galleries. On the same day the library of Edward M. Robinson of Philadelphia, with additions, comprising standard sets, sporting books, private and special presses, and first editions of modern English and American authors, was sold by Stan V. Henkels in Philadelphia. On December 20 and 21, seventeen consignments, aggregating 882 lots, and including manuscripts of English and American authors, early printed books, association items, illuminated manuscripts, rare editions of the Bible, first editions of English and American authors, autograph letters, colored plate books, eighteenth century French illustrated books, library sets, and fine bindings, were sold at the American Art Galleries. Surely, these sales, taking place all along the line, covering a very wide range of material, and happening at the very end of this part of the season, furnish an excellent opportunity to gauge general conditions.

The results at all of these sales show the same general condition. It should be noted,

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Early Victorianism

When Lytton Strachey set Englishmen chuckling over "Eminent Victorians" Edmund Gosse was one of those who rallied to the defence of the idols now so remorselessly mocked by a new generation. The term "Early Victorian" has now become synonymous with all that is most antipathetic to the youth of to-day. Mr. Gosse is again protesting in the London *Sunday Times* against the "wearisome iteration" of the mockery of that first half century of Queen Victoria's reign. He contends that "no well-balanced intelligence, whether young or old, can pass in review what English men and women wrote between 1830 and 1880 and fail to acknowledge that this was a half century of noble ambition and splendid performance."

Few will dispute the claims of the Victorian era to great achievements in the field of literature. The names which stand out as representative of that time have become such an intimate part of the average man's intellectual life, as distinct from the mere historians of literature, that it is unnecessary even to mention them. The fact that any such enumeration would be banal to the point of naïveté is in itself a triumphant justification of Victorian literature. There have been other great periods in the development of English letters, but none in which so many works survive outside the memory of students and specialists. The contemporaries of Shakespeare are the joy of a few, but the contemporaries of Dickens are almost all as familiar to us as he himself. Mr. Gosse is on safe if unpopular ground when he reminds his readers of the impregnable fame of Victorian English literature.

It is true, of course, that the iconoclasts have not indicted the period for its literary shortcomings so much as for its scientific and economic fatuousness and its social ignorance. Darwin alone would establish that epoch as one comparable to the most significant in the evolution of human progress. Precisely in the degree of our "modernity" do we recognize the Darwinian theory as an event in the history of man which has affected the development of the race no less than the fall of the Roman Empire, the discovery of the New World, or the "heresies" of Martin Luther. The more we learn of the manifold speculations and adventures, political, scientific, and religious, of the Victorians, the more superficial seems the revolt of "our young Athenians . . . so tired of hearing Aristides called 'the Just'"—to quote Mr. Gosse. The truth is, there is more reason to believe that future generations will smile condescendingly or sardonically at the spectacle of the Edwardian and Georgian periods of English history than at the preceding generations. The amazing

Shop at Lord & Taylor

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