INVITATION TO DANGER

By Alfred Stanford

Alfred Stanford, who gave us that wonderful story of the sea, The Ground Swell, a few years ago, has come to the front again with his fine story, Invitation to Danger. Invitation to Danger is a tale that brings us against the stark realism of the sea quite abruptly.

It is the story of a boy, an orphan, who ran away to sea at the age of fifteen, cherishing the memory of Ann Duane, his childhood sweetheart, and his father—a father, who before his ship foundered while rounding Cape Horn, wrote a letter to his infant son charging him to have a proper fear of the sea and always let the "invitation to danger" hover over his head that he might be strong among men.

The boy, Daniel Bover, left New York in 1839 as a cabin boy. He returned in 1847 grim and embittered over the loss of his first command. A first command won after seven years, seven long, hard years in the northwest fur trade, seven years of waiting and planning. All taken away, literally in a moment, by a hungry Cape Horn.

He returned to chaos, his guardian angry with him and his sweetheart in the midst of fashionable New York society, that began and ended out of his sphere.

In despair he turned to the only thing he knew, ships. He put his small heritage into one of the new clipper ships that Donald McKay, the master builder, was constructing.

As he worked on his ship, one of his own radical design, new strength seemed to flow through his veins and enabled him to carry out his purpose, a purpose grown strong through months of brooding and thinking.

The ship was launched and he found that he had successfully tried something new, for he had the smartest and swiftest clipper ship of the day. The ship, "The Southern Cross," was outfitted and he sailed for California with his bride, for like all stories we must have a happy ending, and he and Ann Duane were married on the day of his departure.

Feeling that he must conquer the shadow of Cape Horn that hung over him and his family, he plotted a course straight south. South past the straits of Magellan and past Wollaston Islands into the Antarctic ocean. After the ship's crew almost froze to death, they struck calm and then eastern winds that blew them into the warm Pacific and a happy ending for everybody.

The story is not a romance, nor a story of adventure and travel, but a story of a man's struggle with himself. Of a man who heeded "Invitation to Danger" and made himself strong among men.

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Maybe there's something in it, after all

Trying out for the editorial board, Simpson, '33, is all energy. Here, there and everywhere to cover events, he is busy on the write and rewrite—confident that experience will fit him for the post.

And Jones, his roommate, shows equal determination in football.

Tackling, bucking the line, practicing signals, he trusts to solid ground-work to get him on the scrub this year.

Good training, both of them.

Perhaps there is something in high scholarship, too. Industrial leaders of today think so.

Western Electric
Manufacturers... Purchasers... Distributors

SINCE 1882 FOR THE BELL SYSTEM
BOOKSHELF

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We know that Mr. Stanford is at home in writing of the sea, for he has been a common sailor and an officer in the merchant marine. We also suspect that the story is woven around a family legend, because one of the characters bears Mr. Stanford’s grandfather’s name.

—J. F. P.

"G. B."

By W. F. Morris

The “World’s Greatest War” continues to make money, month after month, for enterprising authors, poets, and ex-war officers, as is shown by the list of war stories published each month. It is not necessary to know anything about writing craftsmanship, or about the war for that matter; as long as you can tell of the superior officer who delights in torturing his men, and if you can swear prettily in print your success is assured. Once in a while, however, a war story comes along that stands a little above the others, and in this class I do not hesitate to place “G. B.” This book is written by a major in the British army, who seems to have just enough of a plot to warrant the writing of a story. What makes the book stand out, however, is the unusual way in which Mr. Morris develops the plot.

The story is written in three parts as told by Dick Baron, David Gurney, and Gerard Bretherton or “G. B.,” as he is called. These men are friends in the same platoon of the British Army, and each tells his part of the weird account of “G. B.” who is together a spy, a traitor, and the bravest, most loyal man in the British Army. How Dick Baron hears music coming from a woods which is infested with German machine gun nests and snipers, and finds it to be played by “G. B.” in a German officer’s uniform, accompanied by a lady in full evening dress, both of whom he sees killed; how David Gurney finds “G. B.” queerly sympathetic with the German cause, and associated with missing maps and other information, and finally sees him in the great Somme offensive, charging into the British trenches and actually killing two British soldiers, and then being shot himself, will test your imagination to the utmost. And finally “G. B.”’s own story of how he is captured by the Germans and placed in a prison camp, how he heroically manages to escape, and not

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Starting in about 1870 the use in this country of Steel Castings has grown to over a million tons per year.

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BAILEY GAS METERS record and integrate the flow of low or high pressure gas or air at any temperature. Special meters built for measurement of chemically active gases.

BAILEY GRAVITY RECORDERS FOR LIQUIDS record the true specific of a flowing sample on a 12-inch circular chart.

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BAILEY METER COMPANY
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Cleveland, Ohio

NOVEMBER, 1929
until his buddy is shot before his very eyes and he is dying of hunger and thirst within sight of the British lines, does he finally lose his mind and so explain his startling actions.

The plot, like a detective story, keeps you guessing as to the outcome. The vivid description of dead and dying men, and the associated horrors of war, and the rough humor of war days, sided by a generous sprinkling of oaths and profanity, keeps you both smiling, and gripping your chair in horror. The author is supposed to have drawn on personal experiences, which shows that it is true to life.—J. S.

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BOOKSHELF
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THE BLACK CAMEL
By EARL DERR BIGGERS

The Black Camel by Earl Derr Biggers is the latest and some say the best of the Charlie Chan stories. The jovial Chinese detective inspector of the Honolulu police force is in his element in this story and acquits himself very creditably by solving the murder of the beautiful but not very much beloved actress Shelah Fane. The story takes place in Honolulu rather than in California, the scene of the preceding Charlie Chan book. The (Continued on Page 38)

NOVEMBER, 1929
Aerated Cement flows through Pipes, at this modern mill

How another leader of industry uses Balanced Angle Compressors to reduce production costs

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Two Fuller-Kinyon screw-type pumps do the mixing, and force the cement to the top of the 80-ft. silos, 600 feet away. Two Sullivan Balanced Angle Compressors supply the air power.

The system—which saves labor, investment and operating costs—is typical of this new modern mill. Methods and machines were picked to reduce production costs.

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NOVEMBER, 1929
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