"What I Object To"

In the Desert,
22nd October, 1941.

"Salient!"

I have just received from New Zealand a cutting from a newspaper of 24th September which quotes a Manifesto adopted at a Student's Association of Victoria College, Wellington. It is a clever statement couched in the best Free-man-Watson technique of more than 20 years ago. It would be described as "splendid" if Kings Tahiti or Men in Egypt were notactal. I am certain it would not have been adopted nemine contradicente if it had been written by professors who are mentioned with such possessive pride in our textbooks.

I do not, of course, suggest that the University Red is a "splendid" or a danger to anyone, and I am in favour of a proper answer being given to avoid criticism of the College. But is that the Manifesto the opinion of V.U.C. today? What I object to, first, is that "Communist propaganda should make the Manifesto; secondly, has the Manifesto claim that people who "give the Universities a bad name" are the only beings capable of intelligent thought and expression; and, finally, I object to the inference that "we fellows students" are overseas playing our part in this war to enable the "onward march of the great temper of the world" to take place according to the doctrine of Marx. This, with the ubiquitous implications of this document, reminds me of certain Quakerish orations or, rather, Calentations; gives the impression throughout of having been used as a vehicle of propaganda, and therefore, by those of us who believe that the world will not, and cannot be beautified by Communism. I cannot help wondering whether the authors of the Manifesto would have written it if Russia had never entered the war. This war, which was seen "coming for so long, was always hailed by the "University Red" as another Imperialist feud between "Fascist" nations. Suddenly, however, it has become a "Communist" war and to this because "Imperialist" Britain has joined hands with "Fascist" Russia against a "Communist" enemy! One cannot help but smile at the duplicity of the writers of the Manifesto who set themselves up as prophets in their own land. They "saw" the war coming, but they did not go to the democratic principles of Baron von Mannheim." They had "denounced" Reynard. What outstanding perspicacity! They forget that they "expressed" a "call to the democratic principles of and "denounced" every public figure of repute who didn't breathe red. In these circumstances it is easy to pick out a few prophecies after the event.

Editorial.

We Can Be No Longer Neutral

Ever since the outbreak of war, many students have tended to regard the University as an institution where the search for pure learning is free from all partisan bias, has continued unaffected by the immense social changes at work outside. We have been in fact a neutral.

This session opens in a new phase of the war. The alignment of the democratic nations in one solid anti-fascist bloc removes all doubts as to the progressive nature of our war aims; removes all fears that the war may be "switched" and become a war to aid the fascist aggressors. The entry of Japan makes action urgent on the part of everyone.

STUDENTS IN THE WAR-EFFORT.

The University must become a vital part of the nation's war-effort. Already many students are away fighting; some have given their lives. Others are helping in Home Guard and E.P.S. These students are part of the University, putting into practice those concepts of freedom and right that they have acquired here. Our studies are no less part of the struggle. We may learn science to make the war-machine more effective technologically; we may study arts to give the lead in social questions, to press for army education, for the better organisation of soldiers and civilians in the struggle. At the same time, those cultural values which are a vital part of the civilisation we are defending must be maintained.

"SALIENT"S POLICY

"Salient," as the reflection and mould of student thought, will participate in this University life. Other years editors have been bound by the diversity of opinion at the College-have had no standard which they could call College opinion. We are fortunate this year in suffering no such disadvantage. The Manifesto accepted by the Students' Association last year provides us with a clear guide in this matter.

UNIVERSITY AND LIFE.

New students, by taking as active a part as possible in University life, will find that in so doing they are taking an active part in national life, and will come closer into contact with the people. This should be a chief end of University education.

As I finish reading the Manifesto this morning I marvel that it could have been passed unanimously by a V.U.C. 'Students' Association as I see it was done "as the conclusion of a recent meeting." I suppose such things are possible when coffee and biscuits are in sight!

Yours etc.,

"P.C."

[It is not surprising that the writer of this letter sees the bloody hand of the Comintern at work in the Manifesto. The phrase, "onward march of the common people of all lands towards their just and true inheritance," is apparently written in the nivid of Marxist demagogy in the document, is a quotation from a broadcast delivered to the French people on 21st October, 1940, by that notorious Balbo, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill. —Ed.]

The Wild and Woolly Places

OUR MEN OVERSEAS.

In England, Paul Powell and Cedric Wright are with the Navy: George Culliford and Kingi Tahiti with the Army: University newspaper now left England, and the last news of him is from South Africa. Very recently our number one of H.M. Ships, sent Stan. Lowe and Joe G. gest, who was Hampshire, to land over most of the island. Hap. Downes is also in Zanzibar.

COUNCIL REJECTS STUDENTS' MOTION

A motion was passed at a special meeting of the Students' Association last year that "Salient" be supplied free to students of the College, the Association fee being raised to 27/6 to meet this expense. Even with this increase our fees would be lower than those of the other colleges in New Zealand.

NO UNIVERSITY REDS HERE!

La vraie place de la femme, elle est a la maison, au foyer. Le role de la femme est essentiellement d'être mère. Evidemment il ya des femmes qui, soit par vocation, soit par nécessité, choisissent le célibat; elles peuvent faire un bien immense; elles ont toute notre admiration. Mais dans l'état normal des choses, la femme la plus libre et la plus coûteuse, c'est c'est la mère de ses enfants. Qu'on se rappelle le passage de l'histoire où le divin guerrier instituait le mariage en même temps qu'il posait une première règle de civilisation: "Aller, Multipliez-vous!"

—Le Carabin, Journal Officiel des Étudiants de l'Université Laval, Quebec.

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SALIENT

Jack Aimers

Jack Aimers was lost at sea outside Tokruck on December 5, 1941. He was returning from the war, served as a private at Port Dendor, and after receiving his commission, left New Zealand as a Lieutenant in the Anti-Aircraft (Regiment) 152, a unit of the Royal Artillery. He was one of her oldest students. His academic record was excellent, and the College knew his ability as an administrator, his conviction as a debater, his friendliness and cheerfulness. We pay tribute to his achievements, his degree, his Plunket Medal, his Brilliance Medal, his leadership of the N.Z.U.D. Debating team in Australia in 1939. We pay grateful tribute to his service to the students, the Executive, the Building Fund, the N.U.E.A. Student Movement Association, the constitution of the Drinking Horn contest, the Extrav as actor, producer, author.

The war interrupted a brilliant career of service to ideals, and his bitter opposition to Fascism over several years has reached its climax. His war experiences led him to drop everything, and now the end is still to be attained. In his last letter to me he explained his "charter."

"If we can win the war quickly we can then turn our attention to win the peace. (I've got a mental note of a number of arch—s who should be shot before they can gather round a conference table). All I want now is the right to live a decent life and to be left in peace to do just what I like. I haven't become a pacifist but don't want to be 'muddled about it.'"

Jack would hate heroes over his death, but we must feel that he has left us with a job to do when the war is over which he could so ably have led himself.

○

THE CAFETERIA

OLD AND NEW.

In August of last year the Executive formed a sub-committee to investigate the problem of the Cafeteria organisation. This Committee, after three months' careful investigation, stated that the Cafeteria in its present form was completely inadequate for cooking and kitchen work, and that a good healthy and satisfying all-round menu could be supplied only if certain alterations and installations were carried out.

The report was endorsed by the Executive and placed before the Council, who agreed to grant £100 and lend another £200 to be paid back over a period of years from the profit of the Cafeteria.

The report had strongly recommended that the men of the new Cafeteria be in the hands of a woman. Qualified in Home Economics, she would be an asset to the College. This position was filled by Miss Tita Griffin, graduate of Otago University College, was appointed.

The new Cafeteria has now been completed, and all the time the wants and needs of students have been considered, the production increased, and the hours have been arranged to suit both lecture times and the employees.

One of the greatest problems facing such an organisation is the labour question. Both the situation of the College and the hours of work are a great handicap, and students are asked to realize and consider the demands of these people.

As regards the menu—morning and afternoon teas, with soup and other light extras, will be supplied; also luncheons of eggs in all forms, entrees or light savoury dishes, and a hot dinner in the evening.

To enable the meals to be well cooked and well served in the small kitchen space available, the aim of the Committee has been to concentrate on one choice of hot dinner each night, with plenty of vegetables.

From day to day, however, the menu will be varied.

Much thought was also given to an artistic appearance of the Cafeteria and the service of meals. "Then why," they question, "the check table clothes?" The only reply, "That checks check big cheques." and after all, there are the flowers.

Eat at these times, consider also the difficulties of a new organisation, and co-operate.

Doors Morning Tea ..., 10.45-11.15 Luncheon ... 12.30-1.15 Dinner ... 4.45-6.15

Service: Close.

○

CAFETERIA

FOOD

Builds

Bonny

Babies

GENERAL McARTHUR ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA.

The Jap no shelter now shall find Within his parti-coloured mind; But from his valour sad Shrink under weakness said. (Andrew Marvell)

THEY ARE STILL THERE!

"They believe they're looking for the chap that painted all those 'Don't buy Japanese Goods' signs. Nothing political. It's simply that the paint lasted longer than the pedestrian crossings, and they wanted to know what the messages is to mean."


The signs were painted by the Communist Party in 1931.

STUDENTS FIGHT FASCISM

EXTRAV 1942

A looking of the Opera House for 1941 V.U.C. Extravaganza was pencilled in for April 17th. (April 17th being Anzac Day). Unfortunately, though all other arrangements were sorted out, no scripts were forthcoming.

Without scripts there can be no Extrav. If you think Extrav should go on, begin to write now.

IT'S UP TO YOU.

MARGINALLA

I

I looked at a stream running over rocks and wondered whether the water really moved; it may very well be that it was only the waves at the surface. I do not believe that anyone is sincere past a limit; ideals, demonstrations or symptoms of sickness. Rather, I cannot conceive otherwise, no deeply sincere affection, because they force me to admire, to build a new mode of life. Our way of life could be changed if it were possible to advance a honest mind," one image to trust, to draw where beyond our own restrictions."

II

No, comrades, do not read Housman. Yeahs says: "It has sometimes seemed of late years that we could at any moment write a poem by recollecting the fortuitous scene or thought perhaps it might be enough to put into some fashionable rhythm:

I am sitting in a chair—there are three dead flies at the corner of the ceiling. It is true; in Dutch there is a poem: "Lonely I listen to Daven-

 struck, tremendously beau-

if someone might have been forcedly expressing himself. I am ex-

 according to the passage, some abstract conceptions arbitrarily chosen and applied to his own pers-

2. There is a great emptiness since we cannot admire it really. We take this substitute for friendship but we are not yet to experience any emotion, real or unreal—it is the same response, the same mental it makes itåseasy to follow. (Lejaune et al. in 'Paris comme une bête').

Brulant et susent des poisons Ouvraille d'un fait nonchalante et cynique (Son ventre plein d'exaspérations).

(Concluded on page 3, columns 3)
It should hardly be necessary to emphasize that face the literary section of "Salient" under war conditions. So far as the editor is concerned, the absence of many of our contributors on military service is unavoidable, and must be endured. So far as they are due to the belief that literature can be written in a more efficient manner to horse-racing that ability, in the face of a prolonged war, is unnecessary and should be eliminated.

"There are obvious reasons why it is difficult to write well in war-time, but it is also obvious that, once these obstacles have been surmounted, something may be achieved of greater worth than would have been the case under normal conditions. Those same circumstances that make it difficult to secure the tranquillity necessary for the production of anything of artistic value provide also the stimulus to the aims of adult life for the less complicated standards of the nursery, or we can make an endeavour to be honest with ourselves and achieve some sort of unity between what we have done and thought and read in the past and what is happening as it is now. It would be foolish to pretend that this struggle will find artistic expression within the walls of a house, or with those who work in it. Some, and their work has a chance of being both less "private" and more profound than that arising from the least justified feelings of more tranquil days.

But we will not achieve anything by forcing ourselves to write only "war poetry" or seeking to deal with the immediate reference to the deeper issues that lie behind the surface. In particular, we must avoid the disastrous provincial tendencies that are encouraged by the cessation of overseas contacts and the stimulation of patriotic feelings. One of the great virtues of genuinely national literature, as distinct from a few provincial whimsies, is that it can only be after contact with the best of whom, is being written abroad, in both English and non-English-speaking countries. For this reason, and because much of the work of the great foreign writers is not available in translation in New Zealand, "Salient" will publish translations of sections of their work from time to time. Thus, next week we shall publish a translation of part of the first of Rilke's Duino Elegies, together with a note on his work.

But our greatest need is for original contributions, both verse and prose, and please need the cooperation of all students if "Salient" is to fulfil the hopes expressed above.

EXTRACT FROM AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY OF THE SPANISH WAR.

"Loyalist milisman to his comrade in a shelling during a battle."

Don't worry, Juan; the American students will help us.

THAT ENGLAND!

The "New Statesman and Nation" recently held a competition for remarks to which no rational reply was possible. We quote:

"What's the average price of an old master?"

But 48 hours a week! That's only two days out of seven.

My husband is really not at all interested in sex.

"Somehow Stalin seems to have become much less red now."

Of course we send George to Eton.

"No great man is really great, do you think?"

My brother says that the only way to win this war is through moral rearmament.

WELLINGTON RATIONALIST ASSOCIATION.

PROFESSOR T. A. HUNTER ADDRESSES RECORD AUDIENCE.

"Adult Education and Democracy" was the subject of an address delivered to the Wellington Rationalist Association in the Association's rooms at 30 Courtenay Place on March 15th. The attendance was a record even for this usually well-attended weekly function.

Before we can achieve real democracy, said the speaker, we must regard education, not as a painful drill through which we must be hurried through as a preparation for "real life"; but as a means throughout life of meeting the ever-increasing demands which modern society makes upon the citizen. Only by making education something more than mere training for a job can we avoid the danger of government becoming a dictatorship of the elite.

Dealing with the immediate organisational details of adult education, the speaker stressed the need for small classes with the utmost contact between lecturer and student. Rigid authoritarian methods do not attract adults—discussion is essential. The furnishing of educational buildings might also be expected to receive some of the care lavished on woolstores and banks.

DISCUSSION.

Speakers from the floor were numerous and enthusiastic. The anti-progressive effect of many radio programmes and of popular novels, the dependence of lecturers on vested interests, the need for education in the Army, and Russia's great strides in adult education, were mentioned. Some thought that no great changes for the better could be expected in education without first of all achieving a radical change is society.

MARGINALIA—Concluded.

We could not understand Baule-laire's "Une Charogne," perhaps his comparison to une femme lubrique. But what does son ventre plein d'exhalations mean? We can admire female abdomens in "Pix," "Life," "Illustrated," wherever we wish, and of New York ballet girls too—we really cannot comprehend what cruel mystery there could be in this woman suddenly showing her belly. This cruelty is no Victorian conception, a surrender of great horror, dangerously sophisticated, merely not visible to those who enjoy tragedy only in substitutes.

IV

Et vous avez pas au lumiere et l'homme,
D'une arme brave et fort;
Joyeux dans le maheuer grave dans le heur;
Jeune jusque a la mort.

We also fail to understand Dav-son's "Elos Lusae": I would not ater thy cold eyes. What are cold eyes; what are warm eyes; what are wild eyes? These may be some primary conceptions—but I would have to see eyes and have the sensation that they are cold before I can follow this line. I would need to know what expressions are in any eyes. To us eyes are things to look through. There is no culture in eyes, knowledge of slight nuances, refined varieties. Such eyes as expect affection are distinguished by a commercial twinkle, a stupid uniformed gladness, but not so that was said to say "glad eyes," because there is... gladness in the person behind them but banality and the subconscious gladness that there are 1,000,000 spinners of marital age. English women. If the culture of eyes dies out like that of cobalt glass colouring this poem is done and done to be incomprehensible, every line of it except one; "Desiring thee, desiring sleep." We understand this fully. You may sit in your room for days waiting for some intimation of poetic childhood to appear, but you will not succeed: this is a dying culture.

But, comrades, do not read Hous- man. Stand up and end you, if your sickness is your soul. We think the love has died, and how and what would it be if it had really died—the head that I shall dream of, that will not dream of me. But we will not do anything about it, "smooch our hair with automatic hand, and put a record on the phonograph." What is the use of poetry? We know this, and think that we are no longer by our hypocrisies because we know we are even if we know we are. With this I want to say that a chilling insincerity has invaded our tastes, since we are interested in accounts of emotions other than those we never really experienced, written by persons so uninteresting as ourselves are. Art can only be produced by the stimulating of continuous excitement. It does not save Housman that he knew it.

Ho, everyone that thirsteth, And hath the price to give;
Come to the stolen waters,
Come, and your soul shall live.

Auden consequently described him in an imitation of "The Vision of Judgment":

"Housman, all scholarship, forget at last;" Sipping the stolen waters through a straw.

Housman's sedentary existence, impassive and dull, could only lend itself to artificial stimuli and, au fond, to the artificial.

This is the logical conclusion of the poet's tendency to substitute for a "current of ideas in the highest degree animating and nourishing to the creative power" his books and a "kind of semblance of it in his own mind."

MORPHUS.
Our Christians

We announce the first issue 1542 of "Student," organ of the New Zealand S.C.M. It was, as usual, very amiable and compromising. Most general in interest was the article on "War and Sex," the writer of which had the well-known S.C.M. tendency to please Christians as well as sinners; so it pleased the holiness of marriage with, for an atheist too much unution, for any good Christian too far too timidity, in this way pleasing neither. Cease compromising, Christians! We oppose but like you rather more as you were, strong by the assumptions of an ethical basis founded, not upon humanitarianism (that ephemeral nostrum!), but upon a forceful texture of magnificent myths. In order to be of value that basis should be rigidly fixed. It is sadly impossible to build any moral system without unreasonable assumptions, and most who do not accept any and see through their own "sex-consciousness" and incapability to approve or condemn have a secret admiration for your tradition. But I believe there is more force in stopping Catholicism than in suave modern "movements" that compromise.

And don't think you can conciliate us by concessions. Remain rigid (as the Communists did) and far distant friends who don't want to see nothing. Of virtue or afraid or proud.

An S.C.M. Hike took place on Saturday, March 18, in excellent weather and spirits; there were 18 people present. We had tea with buns in Winton's Bush, and our abundant community feeling, in danger of this community, is a blessing. We explored in rain by "almost communistic," W. Newell said) mutual distribution of fruits and cakes. Hubert Withford tested Christian charity by breaking into the symbolic packet of ginger nuts, and was not disappointed. We played some games in Winton's Bush, amongst other things an attempt in finding new methods of progression. So inverting the company that after the third round, when some of the women had already displaced themselves along the ground in various unladylike fashions, someone thought of running across.

The day was concluded by a very pleasant social evening at Beryl Brown's home, where we sang and played games, and it was again asserted that Hubert W. looks exactly like the Japanese War Minister (even in this dangerous hour) and Jean Horse as coming out of the first illustrated edition of "Pride and Prejudice." It was typical that looking for the words to be formed from the letters of "schedule," we found everything except "reduce." Mr. Engel gave an interesting account of the early history of the S.C.M., and also expressed some unfounded hopes, announced an S.C.M. study circle, led by Mr. Miller, every Monday, 1-2 p.m. (See notice board.)

On Sunday, the 16th of March, a University service was held at the Kelburn Presbyterian Church. Supper was served in the hall afterwards, and there were large numbers of Taumata College students present as well.

Soviet Youth Calling

(QUOTATION FROM "STUDENT INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN")

At a huge Youth Rally held in Moscow the following message (re-printed in "YOUTH") to the Youth of the World was broadcast on September 23rd:

"Youth of the world! Fascism is our deadly enemy. We now have a common task—to smash Fascism. Only the smashing of Fascism will give the peoples a chance of breathing freely, of building up their own states and culture. . . .

"All our strength, all our thoughts and aspirations are for victory. With contempt for death, in the battle of victory, we must hurl ourselves on the enemy at any cost! We shall, give the army new and fresh reserves—everything to secure victory. . . . Students have always been a mighty progressive force, defending the freedom and independence of their peoples. In these days of historic battle, let every university become a mighty fortress of struggle for the people; let every student, wherever he may be, become a fearless fighter for the cause of his people. . . .

"We call upon the youth of the world to strengthen this united front of struggle! Fascism will be crushed. Victory will be ours!"

He sent his bands to bomb the peaceful cities of England. Now he has hurled a tremendous army on our peaceful country. . . .

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"We call upon the youth of the world to strengthen this united front of struggle! Fascism will be crushed. Victory will be ours!"

Scientists Cannot Avoid Politics

Science is a part of human history, and human development is conditioned by social development," said Professor H. Levy in a talk to 180 students at the Cambridge Congress. "Science at different periods is a reflection of the history of human processes. It represents a steady development of information, experience, and application. Ideas develop with experience, and science is changing. This interaction of theory and practice is vital to Science."

"Just as the scientist gets his problems out of society, so the way he tackles them depends on his education. The same is true of politics, laws, etc., into rigid legal categories—all far or all true— is alienation to science. The 'All False' school say that nature is hopelessly sick and everything is indecisive. This anarchistic outlook has developed from social stress of the last 15 to 20 years. It leads to mental vacillation. Denying that there are social causes and the world is results in a reactionary social outlook of helplessness.

"The 'All True' school, which was dominant until about 20 years ago, developed a very mechanistic outlook and regards people as machines. Hence the view of the factory workers in the 20th century as just part of machinery.

"We must put the two together and ask ourselves in what circumstances any statement is false or true?"

The Scientist cannot keep aloof from politics, but must play his part as a citizen. This is the feeling of the Science Commission, which found that the present system of production; production for private profit, does not make full use of scientific knowledge for the health and happiness of the human classes. It protested against the severe lowering of teaching standards and distortion of courses, which lead to the production of half-trained scientists. Amongst its practical proposals for the reform of teaching was that more emphasis should be laid on the history and philosophy of science.

—From "Student News."

WHY STARVE AT HOME?

Come to The

Cafeteria

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