

"ROMEO AND JULIET." In this romantic Shakespearean tragedy, old Capulet, head of a noble house of Verona, Italy, invites his friends and kinsmen to a masque in honour of his beauteous only child, Juliet, whereat it is his hope she may be betrothed to the rich Count Paris. Young Romeo, of the house of Montague, whose ancient feud with the Capulets has filled the city streets with many brawls and duels, dons a disguise in sport and mingles with the invited guests for a dance or so. No sooner does he set eyes on Juliet than the pair fall irrevocably in love. They are secretly wedded by their father confessor, the Friar, but before the wedding day is spent Romeo is provoked into slaying a Capulet and is straightway banished from Verona.

Romeo Hears that Juliet is Dead

Old Capulet now commands Juliet to prepare for immediate marriage with Count Paris. To save herself, she swallows a drug given her by the Friar, and is thrown into a death-like trance until word can be sent to Romeo to come and bear her away with him. But Romeo hears that she is dead. He arrives frantic at Verona, breaks into the tomb where Juliet lies, and at the foot of her bier ends his life.

Waking from her trance and discovering the sad miscarriage of her plan, Juliet makes Romeo's dagger the instrument of her own death and dies upon his body. Thus the children of the Capulet and the Montague become "poor sacrifices of their enmity," and by their death heal the ancient feud.

One of the most enchanting scenes in literature is found in this play—the famous balcony scene in the garden of the Capulets, where Juliet is wooed by Romeo and in return discovers her love to him. The whole is in language of purest passion and poetry.

ROOSEVELT, THEODORE (1858–1919). The son of a wealthy New York merchant of Dutch descent, Roosevelt was the last youngster for whom a strenuous career would have been predicted, for he was pale, thin, near-sighted, and asthmatic. At 14, however, he resolved to make himself strong, and started leading an active outdoor life, and in course of time he attained the splendid physical constitution which made him one of the most forceful presidents and also a notable big-game hunter.

Having taken his degree at Harvard in 1880, he entered politics, and was leader of the Republicans in the New York State Legislature from 1882 to 1884, a member of the United States Civil Service Commission from 1889 to 1895, and police commissioner of New York City from 1895 to 1897. In all these positions he proved himself a fearless and whole-hearted opponent of corruption.

In 1897 Roosevelt became assistant secretary of the navy under President McKinley. But when war broke out with Spain the following year he promptly resigned to become lieutenant-colonel (later colonel) of the famous regiment of Rough Riders, whose charge up San Juan Hill in the face of Spanish shrapnel created a great stir. Two weeks after the Rough Riders were withdrawn from service Colonel Roosevelt was nominated for governor of New York State, and was elected by a good majority.

Becomes President by Accident

Now, again, he brought all his forces to bear against corruption, with the result that the bosses of his party determined to render him harmless by nominating him as Vice-President—an office in which he would be harmless and forgotten. But six months after the election the assassination of McKinley (September 1901) made Roosevelt President—the youngest man who ever attained that office. Although an "accidental" President in his first administration, Roosevelt was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1904.

Wherever Roosevelt was, the "strenuous life" prevailed. In his political creed the prime article was "social justice"—an eager, open-eyed justice, turning its steady gaze on the relations of giant corporations to the public, the wasting of valuable national resources, and the inefficiency and dishonesty of many public servants.

Fights Trusts and Favouritism

In 1902 he started a campaign against the trusts and the favouritism shown to the big interests. He caused the Attorney-General to prosecute numerous railway and other corporations for violation of the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws, was responsible for a law conferring the power of railway rate-making on the Interstate Commerce Commission, and established the Department of Commerce and Labour. The "malefactors of great wealth," who felt the rigours of the law, denounced the President as a revolutionist, socialist, and anarchist. The true socialists, who distrusted and disliked reforms which would tend to make the existing economic order more tolerable, knew better.

One of the best things that the Roosevelt administrations did for the country was to define the policy of conserving national resources. The appointment of a National Conservation Commission, the development of the usefulness and activity of the U.S. Forest Services, the calling of a conservation conference of state governors in 1908, the reservation for public use of millions of acres of public land, and, above all, the formulation of a definite policy of administration of the public lands in