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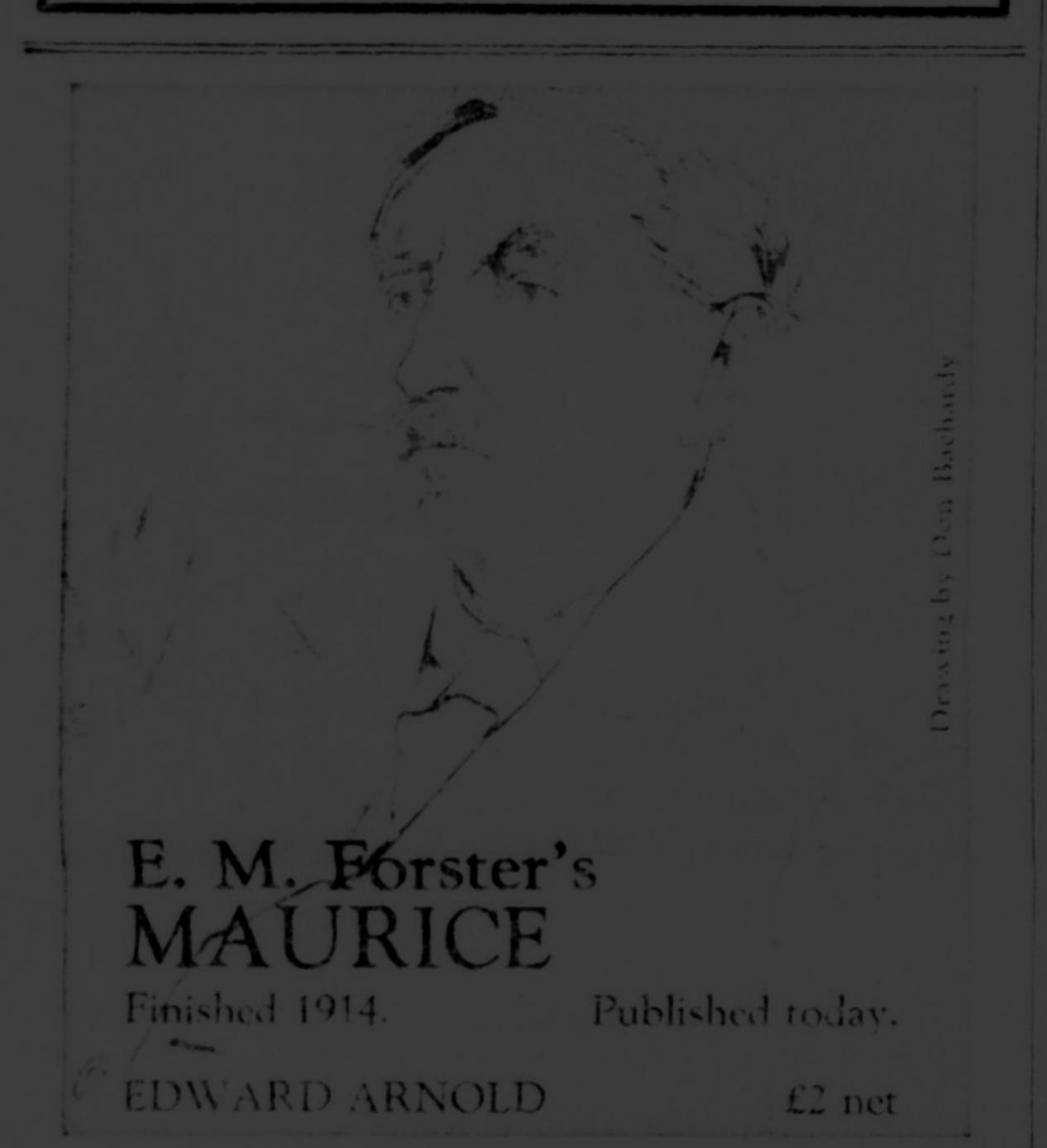
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TOLSTOY, MAN

By A. S. Byatt

A Daring Coiffeur. By Elizabeth Gunn. (Chatto. £1.50.) The Last Year of Leo Tolstov. By Valentin Bulgakov Trans. by Ann Dunnigan. (Hamish Hamilton. £2.25.

praised for the novelist's vir- this way in various places. tue, agnosticism, the capacity It is a great work, but flawe to create free people with a by life, by lack of detachmen ife of their own. Yet he was hysteria, nostalgia. ferociously dogmatic and narrowly exclusive as husband, moralist and theologian.

His life cannot be seen. We do not find life simple. W he live and powerful artist to like moralists and bullies. the ascetic prophet. The artist ascetic had always been there, reader around. She writes When he was 50, however, he an irritating first person plun had a spiritual crisis when sinister." which led him to embark on a search for some when we might quite legitimatel immutable "meaning of life" disagree strongly. But she which would transcend the shrewd and percipient and des terror of death.

In "Resurrection" he charac- man out of hospital . . . m terises his hero's new vision of a man newly reprieved from the simplicity of the moral death, who hourly escapes fro world as a common paradox of it." The clarity, the freshness the spiritual life. Everything the energy of his vision are based on a mythical resurrec- grinding search for the "mean tion; it was a set of hard but ing of life." practicable moral precepts. Sex distraction; chastity was practicable and laudable and the human race would do best to bring itself to the point of sensual response to his heroin dving out.

own slop pails, making one's draft she grew more beautiful own boots, was morally neces- more human, and thus mor sary; thought should be of the tragic. simplest kind, available to all men, and art was futile if it was too complex for the masses. However much I love Chopin, he said, he will be dead for the ambiguity of an immediate ex art of the future.

Elizabeth Gunn in "A Daring kov's diary of the ferocious of personal essays on Tolstov's thing of the same quality. two greatest novels. Her central intention is to describe the Bulgakov was Tolstov's secreeffects of the presence of Tol- tary in that year. His account stoy the ascetic. Tolstoy the is quiet, balanced, sensitive: h moralist, on his art-she points records Tolstov's small gestures out that this Tolstov can be and remarks and the progress of seen even in the early "Child- the terrible struggle between h hood." She quotes his claim hysterical, ageing wife and h that "the aim of an artist is fanatical disciples for possession not to resolve a question irre- of his diaries, his copyrights an futably but to compel one to his soul. Tolstoy was torn be love life in all its manifesta- tween opposing duties—to h tions and these are inex- creed which made his comfort haustible."

to dedicate all his existence and responsible. all his powers to denving these very words." It is Tolstov the His final flight from Yasnava moralist, she claims, who turns. Polyana at the age of guilty sensualist, who amused contradictions and triumphs and blood . . . with all the giving up riding as sensual glad of it, and though she is again. porcelain we are very happy," he wrote.

his account is significant beyon any Tolstovan hagiography. What finally impresses is the truthfulness of his record of a baffling nightmare, part tragedy, part comedy, part glimpse of wisdom. The experience was, as the man

POLSTOY'S genius was para- Tolstoy, Miss Gunn says doxical. He has been invades "War and Peace"

Miss Gonn herself pushes t life stood still and grew she attempts to involve us "we think," "we respons cribes Tolstov's essential qualiexcellently. He is, she says.

cause Tolstov's imaginative slowly eclipsed his moralising need to condemn her as Manual work, emptying one's woman - in each subsequen

> R. P. Blackman says Tolst characteristically exposes characters to "the terrib perience." "The Last Year of Leo Tolstoy," Valentin Bulga

able, property-owning life mockery and to his wife and She comments that he "was family for whose lives he was

Natasha Bostov into a fat, slow, simply brought him to the death submissive parody of Sonya he so feared and desired. Tolstov, as it was Tolstov the Bulgakov's narrative embodies moralist, driven by Tolstoy the from moment to moment the his sister-in-law with the an old man still very much alive pleasant fantasy that his wife smelling like a church, ridir "who had always been flesh wildly across hedges and ditches advantages and disadvantages duigence, dealing with follower a tiny, smooth, simple, porcelain gars, humorous and pedantic doll, "I frankly confess I am exhausted and springing to life

Bulgakov was a disciple but was, unique.



people. probably a giant Nile perch, caught in Lake Rudolph. This picture is aken from Vanishing Africa" (Collins. Mirella

ruous album of lyrical black-andwhite photographs taken during a series of visits to the six main tribes of Kenya. Here are the Maasai, the Samburu, the Bajun and others depicted in their traditional pursuits -hunting, herding, dancing, carfor their children.

Writers' journeys

By David Holloway

The Blossoming World. By H. E. Bates. (Michael Joseph.

Beyond the Vicarage. By Noel Streatfeild. (Collins. £2.) The Tiger and the Rose. By Vernon Scannell. (Hamish Hamilton. £2.25.)

THE opening of the second wait till the next volume to hear volume of H. E. Bates's autobiography "The Blossoming World" is a splendid example of memoir writing at its best.

Mr Bates, just 20, has had his first novel published and is com- was mostly ups, but there were feels able to discuss business age," was smoothly and usually unless he is chewing food at the lucratively ever upwards. Her same time.) And there he meets first manuscript was accepted by their Literary Adviser (very the first publisher to whom she hitherto been identified. He is the place in her life of Garnett Edward Garnett.

sentence of "The Man of Pro- he bowed politely and moved on. perty." He shaped for good or of the century. In 1926 when he amount of patronage. Short character called Victoria. stories with his imprimatur would be accepted by several literary magazines.

This arrival in the world of a pub where the helpings were large and the bills small, the pleasures of acceptance and the utter dismay when a major work, down. Then suddenly he begins to lose interest in people. He is happily married, the father of a growing family and the slave to a large garden.

Somehow "The Blossoming the boxing team, World" becomes a landscape without figures, and it is not jobs, mostly in the underbelly of until he reaches 1939 and pro- teaching, much drinking and duces some happy pictures of a several casual affairs, before he village at war and describes his became established as a poet and own efforts to offer his talents novelist. The boozing and the to his country that the book self-pity are at times tiresome reawakens. No one wanted him, but those put off by them should In desperation he became press on. The final chapter des-Literary Editor of the Spectator cribing the death of a handi--but not for long. Then, quite capped child is almost unbearsuddenly, and we shall have to ably moving.

about it, he was given the perfect job for him: short story writer to the RAF. It is a pity that the middle of this book does not have the quality of the beginning and the end

Mr Bates's career as a writer ing up to London from his home downs, and he was not at this in Northants to meet his pub- period financially successful. For lishers for the first time. They Noel Streatfeild the writing take him inevitably to lunch. (It journey, as she describes it in is a strange fact of the publish- the third instalment of her autoing world that no member of it biography, "Beyond the Vicarmuch capital letters) who has not submitted it. Galsworthy took in Mr Bates's, though only by This most potent of figures was long letters of encouragement. the man who guided Conrad and When they were introduced at made Galsworthy rewrite every their publisher's garden party,

Novels and children's books ill the work of many major followed at regular intervals. novelists in the first two decades One book, "Ballet Shoes," was so successful that a London booktook Mr Bates under his wing shop set up a special department he was perhaps past his peak to handle it alone. Miss Streatbut he was still a formidable feild is a good raconteur and judge of a book and, what was helps to smooth the rough edges almost more important for a ris- of her story by telling it in the ing writer, controlled a wide third person with herself as a "Beyond the Vicarage" does

not pretend to be revealing and tells not a word more than the author is willing to let drop. books Mr Bates describes well: Vernon Scannell, on the other the meetings in book shops, hand, tells all. In "The Tiger lunches with Graham Greene at and the Rose" he pours out his story in good poet's prose (spare, direct, clear images). His was no easy path to publication. At the end of the war, fed up with a year in the writing, was turned the army, he deserted and lived by his wits and what he could earn as a professional boxer. Later he attached himself to Leeds University as a sort of unofficial student and captain of

There followed a succession of

AT HOME

By Georgina Battiscombe

THE GLADSTONES

The Gladstones: a Family Biography, 1764-1851. By S. G. Checkland. (C.U.P. £5.)

pbringing is unreal and his atmosphere. utlook unsympathetic. There patronise him."

randfather was a small but strain this tension put on their rosperous trader in Leith, his children.

John's success story makes absorbing reading. Starting as a aronet, laird of a large Scottish arliament, master of great by an abundant affection. antations in the West Indies. nd owner of capital assets alued at some £800,000.

untry house at Seaforth.

Outdoors were well-kept rden and grounds, orchards d farms, dogs, guns, ponies ride; indoors, a library, a cture-gallery, an extensive ne-cellar. Music, card-playing, otheatres, novel-reading were vourite pastimes. From a illy's home differed very little potential in the eyes of God.

"O much of the modern from the homes of his aristomind," writes S. G. cratic school-fellows at Eton; the Theckland, "Mr Gladstone's distinction lay in its religious

John Gladstone had gone is a strong temptation to back to Scotland for his second wife, mother of his six children. Anne Robertson was a beautiful, Patronise Mr Gladstone- delicate woman and a devout Heaven forbid! If ever there Evangelical, interested in little vere a Great Man, spelt with except her family and her recapitals, it was he. And, as this ligion. Prof. Checkland perascinating book shows, he haps makes a little too much prang from a family hardly less of the tension between pious, remarkable than himself. unworldly wife and ambitious Contrary to popular legend, husband pre-occupied with Gladstone did not come of really business and politics, and umble origins. His paternal over-stresses the psychological

laternal grandfather Provost of The two were not so very far igwall, "a man held in the apart in outlook; John Gladstone rnest respect." Exceptional was himself a convinced Evanits, character and ability first gelical, and builder of several ppear in William's father, John, churches (typically, he made this charitable outlay vield a decent ive per cent, profit from pewrents). The young Gladstones rainy but brawny lad, heaving seem to have been under no out great sacks of corn in his greater psychological strain than ther's shop, he ended as a falls to the lot of most families rather less, indeed, since such state, several times Member of tensions as existed were eased

True, the eldest son Tom was no great success, the youngest daughter a definite "drop-out." Like so many enterprising A sense of failure and irustraung men at the beginning of tion, however, almost invariably e Industrial Revolution, John afflicts the not-so-able heir of a dstone went to Lancashire conspicuously able and successful seek his fortune. His fourth father, whilst Helen's drugon. William, was born in Liver- addiction can be as plausibly ol, in a fine house in Rodney ascribed to the large doses of reet, his boyhood was spent onium prescribed by her doctors an even bigger and better as to "rebellion against her role in the family."

As for William, he brilliantly combined the double heritage from father and mother. Willy Isays Prof. Checkland 1

"success ethic." It was his duty to strive. But he was not to do it in pursuit of wealth or power. aterial point of view young but to make the most of his

Footnotes to atrocity

By Robin Furneaux

Massacre on the Amazon. By Lucien Bodard. Trans. by Jennifer Monaghan. (Stacev. £3:80.) 1968 the Brazilian and Sir Henry Wickham's ex-

ews with Brazilians, linked by Pulumayo. cien Bodard's reflections on ume of its history.

disentangle the two. Since crescendo." azilians are notoriously in- There are some memorable ve been clearly made.

as of the Putumavo atrocities been much improved.

Government announced ploits being distorted by Angloit whole tribes of Indians phobia. "The agents of the d been slaughtered for the Putumayo company," we are told, "all rejoiced in Lusitanian or Hispanic names, (like achine guns and germ war- O'Donnell, King or Dvall) beire were used against them cause the English lords didn't th the connivance of the like dirtying their hands." We Indian Protection Service." have been succeeded as villains "Massacre on the Amazon," by the Americans, and the CIA instead of the House of Lords iblished in France in 1969, has now lurks behind a Lusitanian tle new information on these facade. The account of the rocities. We are offered in- American mine at Amapa is as ead an anthology of inter- misleading as that of the The translator has not helped

e Indian problem and a "Disease." "Far too many." "Only sperm produced." "Red This technique works well balls upon the dark green." h those dedicated champions. These may be adequate senthe Indians, the Vilas Boas tences in French, but in English others, and the passages det they are absurd. Nor is "rene ted to them are vivid and in- gade" a verb. One longer quotuctive. But too much space is ation will be enough for most en to the ramblings of jungle readers, "Apotheosis. The un venturers and these inter- expected deadened. For quite ws are so interspersed with close to the buildings the great text, that it is often difficult. Way ends with the law. A

tive this distinction should passages in "Massacre on the Amazon" and with ruthless edit-The historical chapter rein- ing, more research and a less ces such doubts, its descrip- literal translation it could have

The least of Forster

Forster.

mainly historical.

himself, is not.

create a character who was com-

pletely unlike myself . . .; some-

Maurice. By E. M. Forster. With an Introduction by P. N. Furbank. (Edward Arnold. £2.)

THIS posthumous novel comes with an introduction by his biographer, P. N. Fu bank, and a postscript by For g ster himself, dated 1960, wa written in 1913-14, worked o at intervals over the veand, according to Mr Furbar

professed a dislike of As Crown Princess of Prussia William I, the Princess at exchanged political infor- more formidable troubles. Her tions, It was her husband, the E script, Mr Furbank tells u on and comment. They were mother-in-law, Queen Augusta, well-meaning Crown Prince day. Thus Queen Victoria an English-born princess who effort by the Prince to assert 'Aurora Leigh," whereas the formalities of the Prussian ted to his wife's influence.

ishing is that this book, in part of the United Kingdom. son, the last Kaiser, whose vindictiveness forms the theme of By Walter Allen

E. M. Forster's, which revised once more, fair drastically, in 1959-60." (

the cover of the 1960 typ Forster wrote. "Publisha -but worth it?" Worth it? Of course. Anythi by a novelist of Forster's dis not have it during his life cause it is a novel about ho sexuality written at a time wh the subject was taboo in ficti

As Forster makes plain, his own homosexuality. It is thesis novel, a plea for the p lic recognition of the hom sexual and his right to expres The plot is simple. Mauric

Hall discovers his condition Cambridge when he and Cl graduate, fall in love with ea other. But Clive, in Gree realises that for him hom sexuality is merely a stage growing pains when he falls love with a girl, whom marries. Maurice as lover is c nis condition - "congenit homosexuality" - and its co country with Clive and his wif ne meets a voung gamekeeper spontaneous, uninhibited, a ki of Noble Savage, with whom, think we are expected to heve, he settles down for life.

ever it was, having read 'Maurice," I can only wish of the advanced methods

But why, oh why, is it neces Mrs Bennett's later chapters.

The novel will not, I think, directly or in fiction. He was beacon among autumn books. 2 of a sociological research em sarv to stifle all imagination and Fate had played into Bismarck's anyone to change his as a man more interesting than Frederick Bueckner was or y placed in writing it, reveals as abandon almost all literary grace hands by keeping William I = notions of Forster as a man or Maurice and too fine a novelist dained a Presbyterian Minister must as it does.

in order to establish this im- alive 20 years too long and kill- of his stature as a novelist. If to waste himself on the thesis in the 1950s, and in his current many that the stature as a novelist. work of reference, it is memorial fact in a way accept- ing poor Frederick off with E it had come to us anonymously, novel, however worthy the thesis novel, the hero, one Antonio (

V. S. NAIPAUL, that gifted and versatile writer who understands the expatriate so well, has turned his attention to certain aspects of the misused and misunderstood term " freedom."

"In a Free State" contains four studies of people looking for it, far from home. A tramp, observed with Chekhovian exactitude, crossing from Forster's. Yet I am bound to Piraeus to Alexandria, pays for The Green Pope. By Miguel triumph against a monolith? The say that of all his novels it his freedom from responsibility, seems to me the least in literary with solitude and loss of human value. He himself realised it dignity. The Indian diplomat's was dated. Dated, I think, in a servant, translated from the way in which the earlier novel, pavements of Calcutta to a com-"The Longest Journey." over fortable cupboard in Washingwhich, if I read it right, the ton, discovers that loss of idenshadow of homosexuality hovers, tity is the price of freedom from is not. Simply, "The Longest poverty. So do the two West Journey" contains more of Indian brothers, bettering themselves in London.

In "Maurice" Forster was The long novella of the title writing a thesis novel. It was a explores the consequences of brave thing to do and would colonialism. A free state in have been a braver one if he Africa is torn by civil war, and had striven to publish it. But motoring back from the capital the faults are those of the thesis to the peripheral safety of the novel, the over-concentration on European compound are two illa single issue. And reading assorted English people: Bobby, "Maurice," one can't fail to be a homosexual official in the new struck by the difference 60 years black government, and Linda, have made in our attitude to the wife of a colleague, who wards homosexuality. The novel, loves Africa but not the emerof course, has its interest for gent African. this very reason, but the inter-

Their long, frightening drive est, it seems to me, must be through a country they both need but which no longer needs And there is something else, them is superbly done. Selected In his "terminal note" Forster incidents build up menace; a pack of dogs gone wild among says: "In Maurice I tried to the ruined villas of a lakeside resort: campfires flickering in one handsome, healthy, bodily wrecked drawing-rooms; the attractive, mentally torpid, not sudden gratuitous violence offered to Bobby, placatory in a bad business man and rather

a snob." Maurice becomes a stockbroker interested in the We are left, even without the Territorial Army. He is a near somewhat tacked-on Epilogue, relation to the Wilcoxes of with a feeling of futility. All "Howards End." the novel that these people demand a freedom preceded "Maurice". I must say from something: authority. I found him a bore, as Rickie in hunger, responsibility. Perhaps "The Longest Journey", who Mr Naipaul is too subtle a seems to me a version of Forster writer to spell out the indisputable fact that the only true freedom (to twist Hazlitt a little) is In 1913 or thereabouts some the retirement of the passions. thing happened to Forster. What the repose of the spirit.

Forster had written about it STYLISTICALLY adroit, wise it would have been recognisably may have seemed to him. Parr, 34-year-old ex-teacher, a

By Elizabeth

Gregory Rabassa. (Cape.

(Michael Joseph. £2.)

he Least and Vilest Things. By Elizabeth (Gollancz. £1.80.)

e Inc. (The Inc. is important his cleverness. tax purposes.)

ap fun at the expense of the very end. Love Inc., but Mr Buech-

ve to fall for such easy manner of men, and does so human condition.

The banana combines are at "" "".".

an annexed Guatemala, a try-on that does not succeed.

Sr Asturias is most powerful with his Indians and his Shamans in the deep green of Naipaul. (Deutsch. £1.75.) His novel flows on, as poetic and luxuriant as the vegetation, in Country. By Frederick hypnotic as the drumming feet Buechner. (Chatto, £1.75.) of the Indians. Revolution is Angel Asturias. Trans. by third volume will let us know.

JUST how incompatible are justice and the law? Sol Stein builds up a convincing and gradually horrifying picture of now an obvious case of vicious assault can be made to look any. North, thing but that in a court of law. "The Magician" is set in suburban New York, and concerns a 16-year-old boy who gives a show of magic tricks to his tradic writer and sculptor, is classmates, and is afterwards ained through the post as set on savagely by a gang of rister in the Church of Holy schoolboy toughs who res

The story moves along at a fter a meeting with its good pace, but is slightly icipal. Leo Bebb-a man weakened by the introduction of h a small hinged mouth and a psychiatrist who has a pet face of a clean, fat nun- theory about the three cateonio is intrigued enough to gories into which mankind falls. a visit to Florida and the and how the lowest will always attack the highest. This admirsterwoven with his astonish, able character disappears while visit is Antonio's deep in Thomassy, the Machiavellian rement with his twin sister Criminal lawver, zets to work am, dving in a New York twisting justice. Mr Stein loads pital, and her family. It the odds in his favour, but prod have been easy to make vides a splendid shock-twist at

"THE Least and Vilest Things" n Dorset, on a farm failing to h humour and erudition, and pay its way. Hannah, 12 years harp compassionate eve for married, with three children. husband and family and farm. Denied an equal voice in the running of the property, she PLOITATION is a word that toys with the idea of becoming th America is mentioned, education, etc.-but makes do d it is the theme of "The With a lover instead (more reen Pope," the second novel enslavement). This is typical a trilogy by Miguel Asturias, female behaviour, and a beauti-

again, burning and killing. The combination of the dayabbing land, brooking no pri- to-day management of a home. ate competition from the with emotional disturbances dians. Cruelty and greed running underground like a ake George Thompson (the river, is conveyed with a een Pope) a multi-millionaire, vigorous realistic attack red very nearly Governor of markable in a first novel.

Governing Without Consensus: an Irish Perspective. By Richard Rose. (Faber. 16.) " QOOD morning/afternoon, to know about what Northern of his spies around her. I am conducting a pub- Ireland produces, how its econ- Bismarck's successful plotting ic copinion survey for an omy ticks over and how many for war was watched by the American University Professor. Roman Catholics and Protestants Crown Princess and her husband Hesis trying to find out what there are in Fermanagh should with horror. However, once

ferent countries today. (His More than this, the author her adopted country, for which which Bichard Rose's team of the central truth about the Ulster regarded, in her own words, as academic snoopers assaulted the question. This is that the place "a kind of Marie Antoinette."

and Harvill. £3.50.)

greeted, each in turn, with

Austria and France, Mr Fulford

had, as before, to discard

repetitions or trivial. What he

retained is full of life; ex-

rranged or disarranged. Though

ans three-quarters of the

readers.

pedole think about life in dif- go to the extent of buying it. Prussia was engaged, the Prin

its conventions and exclusions.

Queen Victoria keeps in touch

By H. D. Ziman

Your Dear Letter: Private Correspondence of Queen Victoria and the Crown Princess

Vicky: Princess Royal of England and German Empress. By Daphne Bennett. (Collins

natural confidante of the Queen

on the unsatisfactory behaviour

of Prussia, 1865-1871. Edited by Roger Fulford. (Evans. £4.)

edited by Roger Fulford and Prince Consort, she was the

a Boyal Salute from grateful of "Affie" (Prince Alfred)-

Now, in a third volume, blameless Arthur (the future

entitled "Your Dear Letter," Duke of Connaught) but even

we, have reached the years to the Prince of Wales, whose

1865-71, covering among other amiability and affection the

events. Bismarck's wars on Queen had come to appreciate.

amily stresses and marriages hints from the Princess Royal.

incess "put it down with Court and quietly scornful of

sh were the words with in spite of his cumbrous ways, did not stop her from being already strained population of cannot be governed in that ter in order to gain the amiable, slovenly, ill-defined naterial for this exhaustive Maudling-like manner which the one at the Prussian Court analysis of their troubles, run- pompous call "consensus." Grasp shared the "deep interest in night in all to nearly 600 pages. this, as virtually no British poli- the cause of liberty and prowere, apparently, none of tician does, and you have the gress—on each and every convivial preliminaries nor- key to what British policy ought ground and in all things" essential to the discovery to be. Ulster will always need which she expressed so powernything important about more public force more obtru- fully in one of her letters. Least hern Ireland. What is sively deployed than any other of all her discreditable eldest

invaluable. Anyone who wants able to modern academics? cancer.

WO earlier volumes of the As the eldest and most re- Queen Augusta, on the most letters that passed be. sponsible of the Queen's child- unloving terms with her tween Queen Victoria and her ren, nearest in mind and tem- husband, was a social tyrant of

eldest daughter have been perament to the lamented relentless energy. power and stronger nerves than 50 dozens of different persons

One sees the Queen's dis- The Crown Princess fell into approval of the Princess of Wales particular disgrace when one rather stiff and cold, and of her ladies-in-waiting eloped of what the people are accuse with a nobleman by whom she fatory notes are few, but guished lady of society, but declined to marry him. Oneen Nother and daughter dealt hand's home comfortable- this early exponent of "women's frankly and lengthily with gradually worn down by lib." Not so Augusta.

(not having a quiet chat)."

ics, they freely and deliber- the Queen's correspondent faced 'imes had better personal relainclined to sound one once a close friend of Queen Frederick, whom his father deanother out on the writings of Victoria, had no patience with lighted to humiliate. But any mpressed by Mrs Brown- was plainly ill at ease among his liberal ideals was attribu

ises in "Vicky," her new and scholarly biography of the Prin-Ulster questions By T. E. Utley cess, the contemporary German picture of her as a tactless meddler in high politics was drawn mainly from the lying propaganda of Bismarck's controlled press and the misrepresentations