MARLING HALL (1942)

Hilary Temple

Dean Swift (Jonathan Swift): ‘I shall be like that tree, I shall die at the top.’ Works of Swift ed. W. Scott 1814 vol 1 p.443

Actaeon: hunter in Greek myth who accidentally saw Artemis bathing, was turned into a stag and killed by her hounds+MB 236, AF 200

There is here and there a grayling but mostly there isn’t: ‘I wind about, and in and out. / With here and there a blossom sailing. / And here and there a lusty trout. / And here and there a grayling.’ Tennyson, The Brook

One letter changed in Nutfield: Lord Nuffield, manufacturer of the first mass-market British car, the Morris. +CC106

dog watch: the two short watches of the 24 hours, 16.00-18.00 and 18.00-20.00. Also p. 170

One that has had losses: Is this a quotation?

Teaching is no inheritance: ‘Service is No Inheritance, Or Rules to Servants’. Jonathan Swift – subtitled ‘To be read constantly one night every week upon going to bed’. Various versions by AT include Reading law … SH48; poor relations PE378; Red Cross LAR98; service LAR278; a fellowship HaR 190; teaching 196; service NTL286.

Pook’s Piece an allusion to Kipling’s [Puck of] Pook’s Hill? Appears as Pooker’s in Wild Strawberries

Bench, ie in court as a magistrate – a US edition misprinted this as Beach

race: more usually ‘racé’ or ‘de race’, meaning thoroughbred.

A Bean-Stripe; also Apple Eating: real poem by Robert Browning, 1883, as obscure as its title!

Valoroso – King Valoroso is from Thackeray’s The Rose and the Ring

two little girls – the Leslies only had boys.

Regional Commissioner: part of civil defence network, ready to take over government and practical management of their region, eg food distribution, in time of invasion (or other collapse of society). See also p.171 below

as did the eagle – parody of Homeric extended metaphor.

Hobo-Gobo [and the Fairy Joybell, of course] – reference to the children’s books of Enid Blyton? She lived in Beaconsfield, where AT stayed during WWII +WS 46, MB 147, ESR 27, 91

Brave New World: novel by Aldous Huxley (1932) about awfulness of future society, title a quotation from The Tempest, 5:1 +PE 190, LAR195, OBH 120, 182, HaR 6, ESR 40,LAA 15; 54. TST 137

Driving with tears in my eyes: ‘Dancing with tears in my eyes’, 1930 song by Al Dubin and Joe Burke+[laughing…] NTL 159 +DA 55

Tite Barnacle: the character in Dickens’s Little Dorrit who administrates the Circumlocution Office [and was thus ‘a commissioner, or on a board, or a trustee’]

Colney Hatch: pun on an asylum of the same name for the mentally disturbed at London Colney in Hertfordshire

Campness of Geoffrey is most marked at this stage; later (p61) it is remarked that Frances is more of a gentleman than he.
Tolpuddle Martyrs: Six Dorset agricultural workers who formed a union (1834) to protest against grinding poverty resulting from enclosures of common land; as punishment they were transported to Australia, but mass protest led to their return.

45 **elemental**: physical manifestation of a supernatural force. **old person of Sheen**: limerick by Edward Lear. Other Lear Relusions NR267, OBH 16, 123, HaR15

49 Julian Rivers: appears in Pomfret Towers. Set of Five, bus ticket collage. Kurt Schwitters, the Dadaist and master of collage, used bus tickets around this time.

53 **bought cakes**: would this have been normal at the time? Surely most households reckoned on making their own?

Lord Lundy: Hilaire Bello, Cautionary Tales+NTL106

56 **Melted in his careless beams? Sounds like a quotation!**

Fool all the people all the time: You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time (Abraham Lincoln)

57 **witch balls**: decorative balls of blown glass, sometimes silvered, that (like the garden ornaments) nobody with any taste would have had in their house.

bought picture of red horses in Sloane Square, presumably from Peter Jones. A picture by Marc, Penny Aldred was given one of these around this period.

58 **Pull the bobbin and the latch will fly up**: instruction to Red Riding Hood from the wolf disguised as her grandmother.

the Harveys remind Penny Aldred of the Crawfords in Mansfield Park, very intense and rather excluding relationship.

58 **Shakespeare – Browning**: A formula (now unknown?) when two people speak at the same time. Penny Aldred remembers it from school, but you were not allowed to say Burns!

59 **One touch of governessing made all ex-governesses kin**: ‘one touch of nature makes the whole world kin’, Troilus and Cressida 3:3

**Coz, coz, coz**: Rosalind speaking to Celia in Shakespeare’s As You Like It, 4:3. It continues ‘that thou didst know how many fathom deep I am in love!’ which David plainly isn’t.

70 **No promise ever passed these pure lips?**: ? quotation

Your speaking countenance: a much-used phrase, eg in a translation of Ovid and in the play Arden of Feversham. Most likely AT borrowed it from Dickens’s Our mutual friend. Silas Wegg says (ch.7) ‘What a speaking countenance is yours’, whereat Mr Venus ‘smoothed his countenance and looked at his hand, as if to see whether any of its speaking properties came off’. Also HaR 120

**Bulldog breed**: so much used that its origin is obscure.

71 **Bright was the ring of words**: ‘Bright is the ring of words when the right man rings them’, Robert Louis Stevenson, Songs of Travel

72 Berkeley and Barclay are pronounced the same by the English. Whose father lately dead: ‘whose father that was lately dead’. Olivia in the Merchant of Venice, in Charles and Mary Lamb’s Tales from Shakespeare.

b an excellent sort of fellow: echo of Dick Swiveller’s view of Sally Brass in Dickens’s The Old Curiosity Shop

76 **Like parent, child and wife**: ‘I love my mill, it is to me/Like parent, child and wife’ Traditional song ‘The Miller of Dee’ +OBH 171

**Lytton Strachey, Elizabeth and Essex**: (pronounced Straychee as is John Strachey, postwar minister of food). Certainly not a ‘nice’ book, Strachey was famous for challenging conventional views of historical figures, eg of Queen Elizabeth I and the Earl of Essex.

78 **Pico della Mirandola, Giovanni**: Italian renaissance philosopher (1463-94), wrote an Oration on the Dignity of Man (appropriate to Geoffrey, but not a good choice of hero for a novel!)

80 **Mr Gummidge**: ie a male version of Mrs Gummidge who describes herself as a ‘lone lorn creetur’ and is always ‘thinking of the old `un’. Dickens, David Copperfield

82 **Roving blade**: either from the Middleton Pace Egg Play ‘And the last that does come in, he is a roving blade/You’ll find him where the ladies are, for he is such a jade.’; or (less likely) from a song c.1900 ‘I am a weaver, a Calton [district of Glasgow]weaver/I am a brash and roving blade’ – he takes to ‘Nancy Whiskey’ for 7 years before kicking the habit! See also p.118 below

80 **Ariel**: the ‘airy spirit’ of Shakespeare’s The Tempest

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Children of a larger growth: ‘Men are but children of a larger growth’, John Dryden’s play All for Love+LAR 245, ESR 255

Poetry of the anti-Jacobin; and The Double Arrangement: the procession at the end of the latter consists of an assortment of characters throughout history. See article on both these by Harold Roemmele in ATS Journal no 20, 2000. +OBH232

tutelary genius: ‘Freed from a genius tutelary’, W. S. Gilbert, The Mikado

Clash of war: a common enough phrase, but in the Odyssey Achilles is described as ‘measureless in the stormy clash of war’

Lionel Harvest – see Wild Strawberries. Lionel Hale was broadcasting round about this time, but no particular reason to think this is a portrait.

Sound o’nights: ? ‘such as sleep o’nights’, Shakespeare, Julius Caesar 1.2

Guest towels are what was later to be called Non-U by Alan Ross and Nancy Mitford - as presumably were these colours at the time, white being what the gentry would use.

In all the wide borders my car is the best: ‘O, young Lochinvar is come out of the West./In all the wide borders his steed was the best’. Sir Walter Scott, Marmion

Ruin seize thee, ruthless Lucy: ‘Ruin seize thee, ruthless king!’ Thomas Gray, The Bard (1757), a curse on Edward I as he marches into Wales

If you not be driven by me, what care I by whom driven you be: ‘Shall I, wasting in despair,/Die because a woman’s fair?…If she be not so to me,/What care I how fair she be?’ George Wither (1588-1667) The Shepherd’s Resolution

Stephen Phillips (1864-1915) poet and very popular dramatist, wrote Paolo and Francesca in 1900, based on story in Dante’s Divine Comedy. (Francesca believes she is to marry her true love Paolo, only to discover she has been married off to his brother, who discovers the two together, kills Paolo and mortally wounds Francesca.)

On such a night as this: ‘In such a night as this’, Merchant of Venice 5.1, scene ending ‘In such a night/Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,/Slander her love, and he forgave it her.’

Grind its bones to make chicken food: ‘I’ll grind his bones to make my bread’, the fee-fi-fo-fum words of the ogre in Jack and the Beanstalk

He was the more deceived: ‘I was the more deceived’, the tragic words of Ophelia (Hamlet III.i)+PE203, 34, LAR 326, OBH 9;17;88(!), DA 165

Blondin: French acrobat (1824-97) who crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope pushing a wheelbarrow.

Sibylline utterances: prophetic words

ice-cubes – would have been a rarity in such a house at this period, we think.

oshkoshes – workwear from company in Oshkosh Wisconsin from1895, then manufactured children’s bib overalls. Now very trendy!

Infant Scholastic Weekly is probably fictitious, perhaps the weekly Child Education? Enough, no more, tis not so off-white as it was before: ‘Tis not so sweet as ‘twas before’, Twelfth Night I.i. Also ‘It [beer] is not so good now as it was before’, BL 53

Being made a motley to the view: ‘And made myself a motley to the view’, Shakespeare, sonnet 110 +HR 52, PBO 81, JC 266, WDIM 100, LAA 166

Peace egging: perhaps refers back to the Middleton play on p.82

A green thought in a green shade: Andrew Marvell (1621-1768), Thoughts in a Garden

A Diabolist of the Restoration: at the end of The Brandons Hilary Grant was going to change his study of Jehan le Capet (that charming AT-created poet with the consumptive mistress who was a Satanist and died of absinthe) into a novel; clearly he changed his mind.

Belphegor: Moabite deity, whose worshippers practised licentious acts, an appropriate subject for this poet. Interesting that the squalid Duval adopted as a pseudonym the family name of the first royal family of France, Capet

Mallarmé: ‘difficult’ French Symbolist poet, but influential despite the obscurity of his poems.

Enjambement allows a line to flow into another without a break. Maitresse…I cannot bear poetry that has the word ‘breast’ in it (a personal prejudice of AT? Certainly shared!) A literal translation might read (for what it is worth): ‘Fertile mistress, you who carry in the small of your back the dribbling worthless twins of your breasts’.

Newgate frill: beard that grows under rather than on chin +NR 40

Mr Nandy: character in Little Dorrit

Heureusement…fréquentes: ‘It’s a good thing that crises don’t occur very often’
on ne s’en aperçoit que trop; ‘that is all too obvious’
Ça, je le crois bien! ‘I can well believe it!’

135
[Un] Chapeau de Paille d’Italie – play by Eugène Labiche (1815-1888) famous for his comedies/vaudeville;
successful film 1927 (An Italian Straw Hat)
Labiche and the Palais-Royal – the building was used as a Paris theatre

136
Ah oui…Hugo: ‘Ah yes, the verses of Victor Hugo
Vous êtes…des Free French: ‘Are you Free French? I am a great admirer of General de Gaulle, the leader
Je…anglais: ‘I come to collect National Savings every weekend. We have a National Savings Group at
Marling and I collect for it. Nearly everybody has been not at home today. Dishes [should be tasses, not
coups] of tea are so English.’

137
Vous savvay…triste: literally ‘You know, I am drunk since Mr Smith passed on, he is very sad.’, which
given her history is ironic. Mrs Smith means ‘I am alone…it is very sad’, as Mrs Marling tactfully
indicates.

139
Ah par exemple…pas: ‘Oh, my goodness we wouldn’t pay’
Vous payriez [for payeriez]…valuables: Mrs Smith’s French is as bad as her tact, especially her English
pronunciation ‘franks’ and ‘valuable’ [for valable]: ‘You would pay in francs, which are much easier.
Shillings are more difficult than francs and worth a lot more.’

140
Ces Russes…pas!: Those Russians! Don’t speak to me about them!

141
‘Hullo!’ especially shouted, would have been deprecated by Nurse, who would have been training her
charges to say ‘Good morning’ or ‘Good afternoon’

142
ancienne institutrice: former governess
Sir Smith: a frequent error among non-Brits, presumably from reluctance to use the forename (as in ‘Sir
Winston’ for Churchill).
How do you call your pony? Mlle Duchaux is too literal in her translation of ‘Comment s’appelle votre
poney?’

143
Quant à… outre: ‘As for the Poles – but let’s leave that’
Two Poniatowskis:?? Stanislaw August (1732-1798) was the last king of the Polish-Lithuanian
Commonwealth, Josef his nephew was heroic in battle. Cannot trace another Stanislaw.
Earl Percy sees my fall: +LAR 217, HaR 211
Regrettet Norton Park – ie missed. Mlle Duchaux’s English isn’t as good as Miss Bunting’s French

144
Bohun: this metaphysical poet bears some resemblance to John Donne, and the overt parallel is drawn on
p.173.

145
Sodden ginger pudding – the brown uniform of the ATS was not very attractive!

146
Vous…sucre?: ‘Do you take sugar?’
Je ne…regrette! ‘I won’t say no. Oh, how I miss the wonderful sugar in France!’

147
Si vous…vivre: ‘If you would pass me another cake - thank you, mademoiselle Lucie. We must eat to
live.’

Bonne poularde de Bresse: a fine chicken from Bresse (famous indeed for its poultry). accommodate
fowls: a ‘false friend’, as Miss Bunting reflects. ‘Accommoder’ = prepare.

Abel and Marguerite Chevalley were authors of the Concise Oxford French Dictionary

148
Mais il est…gentleman: ‘Oh, how delightful monsieur Marling is. I say, monsieur Oliver, would you mind
closing the door. I cannot get used to your English draughts. Yes, charming. He seems just like a country
gentleman’. [One is reminded of Mrs Elton speaking of Mr Knightley!]

149
like that is entirely inappropriate in wartime. It’s a weakness of your whole nation, I know, but I believe
that at the present time the English could and should analyse their weaknesses and attempt to correct them.
It’s a crime against humanity that the English and the Americans should stuff themselves as they like while
my brave, heroic countrymen are dying of starvation. You won’t resent me speaking to you with characteristic French frankness: we are like that, we French.

Alors…friandises: ‘Well, it must be goodbye, then. Thank you a thousand times, madame, for your delightful welcome. Your little cakes are not bad at all: you might ask your cook to send me some, will you? I am very fond of delicacies.’

Graves and worms and epitaphs: ‘Let’s talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs./Make dust our paper and with rainy eyes/Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.’ — Richard II 3: 2 +CQ 228

quondam oppressors – Russia had become one of the Allies by this stage of WWII

Two or three are to be gathered here: ‘For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them’, — St Matthew 18:20 +HaR 47:

Fair fa’ their sonsie faces: ‘Your honest, sonsie face’ from Robert Burns’s ode to the haggis, Great Chieftain of the Pudding Race

Sibyl: divinely inspired prophetess in ancient Rome, presumably known for untidy hair

The rank is but the guinea stamp: again Burns, A man’s a man for a’ that+WDIM 108

And your funeral baked fur coat Did coldly furnish forth the armistice table: ‘Thrift, thrift, Horatio! the funeral baked meats/Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.’ — Hamlet 1:2

Matthew Mark Luke and John: from the children’s prayer which continues ‘Bless the bed that I lie on’ [lay on is a solecism]

How all occasions did conspire [sic] against her: ‘How all occasions do inform against me,/And spur my dull revenge!’ — Hamlet 4:1

doctor watches: see above p.6

Regional Commissioner: not a bad description; see note on p.28 above

she would tell them what: Lucy’s speech manners are even funnier in oratio oblique (indirect speech).

pleasing anxious being: ‘For who to dumb forgetfulness a prey./This pleasing anxious being e’er resigned’ — Thomas Gray, Elegy in a Country Churchyard. +BL 94, HaR 113

laggard in love but not a dastard in war: Young Lochinvar again+OBH [167 Lochinvar]336+HaR 177;190. See note on p.94 above

How all occasions did conspire [sic] against her: ‘How all occasions do inform against me./And spur my dull revenge!’ — Hamlet 4:1

sisters under their skin: ‘The colonel’s lady and Judy O’Grady are…’ Kipling, Barrack Room Ballads.+PE 101, HaR 311

Left a wound behind by his rapid flight: sounds like a quotation, or parody of one

Sarah-like improbability: the wife of Abraham apparently had Isaac when she was 90(Genesis 17:17)

L’innocence au ciel tient la palme/Et sur la terre le hoquet [sic: this means hiccup! Really ‘hochet’, baby’s rattle or toy]: Victor Hugo’s poem about a sleeping child, Une Alcôve au Soleil Levant’. Roughly, Innocence holds up a palm-leaf to heaven, while a rattle lies on the ground.

Herod Society: AT’s familiar theme about the good mother’s urge to murder her children. See ATS Journal, no 24 (2004) p.29. + MB175, PE 30

Mme Defarge – the sinister spectator at the French Revolution guillotine in Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities Merci…point: ‘No thank you, I do not smoke’

Like Mr Frank Churchill a slight but correct second: Jane Austen, Emma. + HaR 229, WDIM 116;311, DA 161, CQ 154

Silly Little Baa: from which collection (in, presumably, landscape format)?

‘Mais …Watson?’ ‘But what is the matter with Mrs Watson?’

‘Je pense…savez’: ‘I think she’s thinking about her husband. He was a sailor, you know.’

‘Mais cette histoire …égarée’ : ‘But this story of a lost lamb has nothing to do with the sea’.

‘Vous…pas’ ‘you don’t understand’.

Kindness was his motto: might be a quotation, but may be Mrs Smith rambling

Phoebe Rivers – married Lord Humberton [sometimes Harberton] after Pomfret Towers. See Barbara Burrell, Angela Thirkell’s World
Surtees: R. S. Surtees wrote comic novels about hunting, centring on Mr Jorrocks, who in some respects resembles Sam Adams; Kipling’s Stalky was devoted to them and frequently quoted from them. Dixhuitiémerie/Chevalier de Boufflers/Madame de Boufflers – Stanislas Jean, Chevalier de Boufflers (1738-1815), showed his spirit of the 18th century by being the lover of Mme de Sabran at the court of Marie Antoinette. Both he and his wife composed poetry and other works of literature.

Penelope web: in the Odyssey, the tapestry woven by the wife of Ulysses during the day and secretly unpicked by her at night so as not to complete it until her husband arrived home.

Stoner – should be Stonor (Before Lunch)

éminences grises also 219: grey eminences, ie powers behind the throne

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Penelope web: in the Odyssey, the tapestry woven by the wife of Ulysses during the day and secretly unpicked by her at night so as not to complete it until her husband arrived home.
Enoch Arden: in Tennyson’s poem he came back from a perilous voyage to find that his wife had assumed he was dead and married their best friend, so he nobly remained anonymous. + MB123, LAR 347, OBH 27

Free from stain… vain: ‘To my true king I offered free from stain/Courage and faith; vain faith and courage vain.’ Lord Macaulay. A Jacobite’s Epitaph (1845)

294 Grouse in the gun-room: ‘Your worship must not tell the story of Old Grouse in the gun-room.’ Oliver Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer, act 2. +JC152, which also has ‘Old Bill in the gunroom’ p98 [q.v.]

295 Let who will be clever: ‘Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever’, Charles Kingsley, A Farewell (1858)

311 Quant à cela…caractère: As far as that goes, I’ll tell you a bit about myself, to explain what sort of person I am. I have to tell you first of all that I have a very bad character.

312 Tenez… raconter: Hang on, I’ll tell you about it.
Par suite…ma mère: As a result of certain things that have happened to me, which I hope you will not ask me to explain, since it is a painful subject involving my mother…
Pour vous…non: Just to please you, I won’t refuse

d’ailleurs orageuse: otherwise stormy
Quant aux…tout: Not as far as women are concerned, it’s very appropriate. That’s all there is to it!

317 Mais, puisque…sacrifier: But since I have a few more minutes to devote to you