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## Epilogue

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## *Editor's Epilogue*



**Who's Who:** Philo Calhoun, who in one way or another is responsible for almost everything written or written about in this issue, is no newcomer to the QUARTERLY. His articles on Dickens and Hardy have been bright spots in our calendar. Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun's summer address is now Laura Richards' beloved Roscahegan at Indian Point, Maine, where they spent many pleasant interludes in years past with L.E.R.

Howell J. Heaney, of the Free Library of Philadelphia, has collaborated with Calhoun on several bibliographical studies of Dickensiana.

**Rich Shards:** The variety and radiance of L.E.R.'s life confounds the poor editor with only so many pages at his disposal. *Stepping Westward* obviates his having to provide a long biographical sketch, of course, but there are numberless revelatory fragments he would like to offer. Constrained to a minimum, he chooses these:

1. Dear to Colby's heart is her early encouragement of Edwin Arlington Robinson. Evidences of their mutual respect abound in the Robinson Room of our library. Chief among them are the *Complete Poetic and Dramatic Works of Browning* which she signed and gave him in 1898, and E.A.R.'s inscribed gift of *Stepping Westward* to Lilla Cabot Perry.

2. This anecdote she loved to tell on herself: on the occasion that she presented some sixty-odd inscribed copies of her books to the Maine State Library, one of the men opening the huge box asked in amazement, "What *are* all these books, anyway?" Told that they were all the works of one woman, he exclaimed, "Gosh, see what a woman can do if she stops talking!"

3. Her civic consciousness was as active as her personal attentions were warm. She campaigned for a library, a high school, and a district nurse in Gardiner, and succeeded in getting all three.

4. Her nonsense verse for children inspired Louis Untermeyer to quip that "one of her hands turns a moonstruck hurdy-gurdy; the other fingers the pipes of Peter Pan."

5. On Wednesday, September 6, 1944, "The Unveiling of the Tablet to honor LAURA ELIZABETH RICHARDS" took place in the Public Library of Gardiner.