March 1975

Epilogue

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Recommended Citation
Colby Library Quarterly, series 11, no.1, March 1975
Editor's Epilogue

Who's Who: Catherine Barnes Stevenson has written on Sidney in PMLA and Tennyson in Victorian Newsletter before turning to Jewett. She took the B.A. with honors at Manhattanville College, the M.A. and Ph.D. at New York University. Recipient of both the Woodrow Wilson and Danforth fellowships, she has been on the faculties of Wellesley College and Northeastern University, and is now conducting courses at Boston State and Newton colleges.

Sara S. Chapman, associate professor of English at Marshall University, received her B.A. at Morris Harvey College, M.A. at Marshall, and Ph.D. in American literature at Ohio University. She has published before on Henry James in the Arizona Quarterly, and on Melville and Bellow in Philological Papers. Her secondary interest, historical linguistics, led to a chapter on negative responses to the word “informant” in Linguistic Studies in Honor of Raven L. McDavid, Jr.

Dr. Dennis Taylor is a product of Holy Cross College and Yale University. He has taught at Bowdoin College, University of California at Santa Barbara, and is currently assistant professor of English at Boston College. His publications range from Chaucer to Hardy in Victorian Poetry, English Literary History, and the Arizona Quarterly, with a study in some strategies of religious autobiography in Renascence.

To Breed or Not to Breed: Sarah Orne Jewett will never be listed on the same line as such female liberationists as Margaret Sanger or Kate Millett. Nevertheless, as long ago as 1884 Miss Jewett did publish her novel A Country Doctor, wherein the heroine opts for a career instead of marriage. This young protagonist is informed by an anile symbol of status quo that a “man’s position is very different from a girl’s . . . The mothers of the nation have rights enough and duties enough already, and need not look farther than their own firesides, or wish for the plaudits of an ignorant public.” Part of her polite but spunky retort: “Would you have me bury the talent God has given me? . . . It certainly cannot be the proper vocation of all women to bring up children, so many of them are dead failures at it; and I don’t see why all girls should be thought failures who do not marry.” Undented, the Senior Citizen gets in her Parthian shot: “Wait until Mr. Right comes along.”