

"soft society" in which many hope to gain heaven without the consequence of testimony. Such hopes are vain in a Bunyan world. Written in two parts, the second takes account of how the author's wife and children made the journey...they were unwilling to go with him when he went. It is less known...somehow is anticlimactic after the end of the first trip. The appeal of Bunyan was to the person who hoped for bliss to make that hope count in a staunch form of living Christianity. Much of the power of the book is in rugged characterization and in the personification of forces well known in general thought.

3. The Influence of the work

That it has been through hundreds of editions, was the best selling book in English besides the Bible for many years, and continues to hold a high spot in literature should tell us something of the reception of the book. We can only assume (logically, I think) that if the book were not of considerable influence it would not have been given such treatment. I know of no list of "conversions" from reading the "Progress" but I know of hundreds of sermons that have been dramatically rooted in it. Whyte produced a book of sermons about the characters in it and its illustrative powers have been many. I suppose I will have to say that its influence is seen in its staying power and in the insights it has given in many areas of the literary world. Begun with a not-very-good poem as an introduction, it has continued to catch the world of imagery and interest in the years since. While REX LEX is a political innovation, Pilgrim's Progress is a spiritual odyssey designed to show the faithful Christian that there is no substitute for commitment and devotion to Christ. It tended to remind the "spiritual world" of the harsh realities that those who live for Christ Jesus must suffer for it and only in endurance is blessing to be found.

4. Some observations:

Vividness of language, familiarity of image, simplicity of theme and development are the items that have marked Pilgrim's Progress. The best testimony to these may be the number of similar books that have been written...there have been dozens, maybe hundreds, including Hawthorne's CELESTIAL RAILROAD. And the modernizations that have been given have been many indeed. For our work the concept is apparent: put the ideas and character definitions into a world where they are readily identifiable and meaningful...then tie the lessons to observable principles, and on has the makings of a great book. It is not, however, an easy formula.

C. IN DARKEST ENGLAND AND THE WAY OUT

1. The work of William Booth (1829-1912) it is virtually unknown today and actually finding a copy is not easy. It has had an opposing career to that of Pilgrim's Progress but for its time was probably much more societal molding material. Booth, after a term with the New Connection Methodists, became an "independent" evangelist in London in 1865...working mostly in the poor East End. There he founded "The Christian Mission", a place for relief and help and