

perfection of phrase? What else but this constant search for unity and its correlatives caused the passionate style of Carlyle, the smoothness of Stevenson, the simplicity of Arnold and beauty of Newman? What else caused the difficult, cramped work of Walter Pater, and inspired him to say that perfect style was saying just what had to be said as briefly as possible and with no superfluity? Always with the trinity before them as a guiding light, the great writers of the ages have pushed the Finger down the centuries until now it stands well within the doorway of the twentieth century and beckons hopefully to the college man of today.

The college man is a strange animal. His instructors pound the importance of the trinity into him with all the persistence of faith and the heroic patience of Chaucer's Griselda; he listens earnestly, agrees with the principle, and in criticizing an author, appeals to the trinity

as Aeneas appealed to the Sybil; in his own writing what happens? Does he follow the guide posts of style? He does not; he discards the triad with as little concern as Lear dismissed his kingdom. Where does the author of such a composition find himself? In a howling wilderness! Where has style gone? It may be in the heavens with Scipio listening to the music of the spheres, but I defy anyone to find it on this earth. Neglect of this trinity of literature is disastrous, but the college man looks on it as "a mote to trouble the mind's eye," annoying, but not dangerous.

Well, if, as it seems, the old tent-maker's moving Finger is finally coming to a hesitating halt, it is pointing accusingly at the college men of today who have so blandly discarded what alone can keep the Finger moving.

Why won't the college man write with unity, coherence, and emphasis, and let Omar rest in his dust? You tell me—I'm a college man myself.

## • *Afternoon*

WALTER J. ONG

Swing, sun, hung in a basket.  
 The day is become so still:  
 The hours of one . . . two . . . three  
 Dissolve unwillingly  
 Into eternity,  
 And darkness only dons its mask at will.

And so it was the age on Calvary.