

## LOUIS MARLOW

*Author of The Puppets Dallying ; The Buffoon ; A Chaste Man ; Brute Gods ; Mr. Amberthwaite ; Two made their Bed ; Love by Accident ; The Lion took Fright ; Swan's Milk ; Fool's Quarter Day ; Welsh Ambassadors.*

Here is a dish of caviare. Caviare à la Crowley. No one else could serve such a feast in such a manner. The qualities of this "Reportage"—humour, irony, vigour, vividness, raciness, and verve—all are Crowleianized, all are plentifully endowed with that Crowleian surprisingness so alluring always to some and so infuriating always to others. Under the Byronic surface of this verse there show clearly the living shapes of that singular identity glancing and flashing like fish, strangely-finned, strangely-hued, strangely-tailed.

In its impressions of the Russia of 1913 lies the special interest, at this time, of *The Fun of the Fair*. Those who read it can no longer make the error of blaming the Russian Revolution for certain features of Russian life which, long before Lenin, were uncongenial and inconvenient to the Western European. They will see how such "un-English" customs should be treated: lightly and wisely, with urbane and philosophic wit. This particular bar to sympathetic understanding of our Russian Ally will weaken and fall as they read.

But the most important thing about this picaresque poem is that only Crowley could have written it. To say that a man's work is unmistakably his own in every line is higher praise nowadays than it ever was: it is praise enough.