

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A FOREWORD	3
PRIMITIVISM AND DECADENCE: A Study of American Experimental Poetry	15
The Morality of Poetry	17
The Experimental School in American Thought	30
Poetic Convention	75
Primitivism and Decadence	90
The Influence of Meter on Poetic Convention	103
MAULE'S CURSE: Seven Studies in the History of American Obscurantism	151
A Foreword	153
Maule's Curse, or Hawthorne and the Problem of Allegory	157
Fenimore Cooper, or the Ruins of Time	176
Herman Melville, and the Problems of Moral Navigation	200
Edgar Allan Poe: A Crisis in the History of American Obscurantism	234
Jones Very and R. W. Emerson: Aspects of New England Mysticism	262
Emily Dickinson and the Limits of Judgment	283
Maule's Well, or Henry James and the Relation of Morals to Manners	300
A Brief Selection of the Poems of Jones Very	344
THE ANATOMY OF NONSENSE	359
Preliminary Problems	361
Henry Adams, or the Creation of Confusion	374
Wallace Stevens, or the Hedonist's Progress	431
T. S. Eliot, or the Illusion of Reaction	460

	PAGE
John Crowe Ransom, or Thunder Without God	502
Post Scripta	556
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF <i>THE BRIDGE</i> by Hart Crane, or What Are We to Think of Professor X?	575
INDEX OF AUTHORS MENTIONED	605