

managed to attract attention to herself, get herself discussed in the newspapers, become for a time a figure in our hurried, hurried lives.

My brother, as it turned out, had not been satisfied with the explanation of Miss Stein's work then current in America and so he bought "Tender Buttons" and brought it to me and we sat for a time reading the strange sentences. "It gives words an oddly new intimate flavor and at the same time makes familiar words seem almost like strangers, doesn't it," he said. What my brother did, you see, was to set my mind going on the book and then, leaving it on my table, he went away.

And now, after these years, and after having sat with Miss Stein by her own fire in the rue de Fleurus in Paris, I am asked to write something by way of introduction to a new book she is about to issue.

As there is in America an impression of Miss Stein's personality, not at all true and rather foolishly romantic, I would like first of all to brush that aside. I had myself heard stories of a long dark room with a languid woman lying on a couch, smoking cigarettes, sipping absinthe perhaps and looking out upon the world with tired disdainful eyes. Now and then she rolled her head slowly to one side and uttered a few words, taken down by a secretary who approached the couch with trembling eagerness to catch the falling pearls.

You will perhaps understand something of my own surprise and delight when, after having been fed up on such tales and rather Tom Sawyerishly hoping they might be true, I was taken to her to find instead of this languid impossibility a woman of striking vigour, a subtle and powerful mind, a discrimination in the arts such as I have found in no other American born man or woman and a charmingly brilliant conversationalist.

'Surprise and delight,' did I say. Well, you see, my feeling is something like this. Since Miss Stein's work was first brought to my attention I have been thinking of it as the most important pioneer work done in the field of letters in my time. The loud guffaws of the general that must inevitably follow the bringing forward of more of her work do not irritate me but I would like it if writers, and particularly younger writers, would come