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| AUTHOR   | LAXNESS, Halldon                             | r           | bi       | k pu | S (paper bound)                                 | oalch)          | No. Pages     |  |  |
| Stefan Einarsson Icelandic Vice Consulate Baltimore, Md.   |  |             |          |      | NO. OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND ILLUSTRATOR  none      |                 |               |  |  |
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To be said first: I was not one of the intense admirers of INDEPENDENT PEOPLE.

I find the present chapters of another Laxness book very like the caricature of the Morse-saga-family kind of novel. It is all about a family in which a misunderstood boy is badly treated and kept from the reading he loves. The translation may be inept (and, in any case, Mr. Thompson will not go on with it), or—and this is likely—I am simply indifferent to this sort of subject. In any case, I think that on the basis of the present material we should do well to stall for time, saying that (which is true) there is not enough material here for the formation of so important a judgment. Then, when the answer is that we <u>must</u> decide on this basis, I'd favor declining. What would be best would be an answer that we could see the entire translation. Then another reader should have a go at the book. There's no point that I can see to another reading of these 15,000 words of a novel of 90,000 or so words.

I cannot resist adding that I think we ought not to waste time over this. H. W.