WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

THE BOOK OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE. A Record of the Commemoration, October 8 to 10, 1893, on the Centennial Anniversary of the Founding of Williams College. Pp. vii., 330. John Wilson & Son (Cambridge, Mass.).

"Madame, far be it from me to do aught against the laws of your realm; but I have planted an acorn which, when it becomes an oak, God only knoweth what it will amount to." Thus did that sturdy old Puritan, Sir John Mildmay, make declaration to Queen Elizabeth of the founding of Emmanuel College; and not even he, strong in the rugged faith which emancipated the world, could foresee the part that Emmanuel College was to play in the educational system of a new people over the sea. It would have required a gift of more than second sight in Elizabeth's time to anticipate the series of arbitrary acts that was to mark the reign of "the wisest fool in Christendom," and the tyranny of his son. Yet there was a premonition of what was to be in the acts of that ecclesiastical commission which drove John Robinson and his congregation to Holland. Among these exiles were those who would soon risk all in the Mayflower. During all the intervening years prior to the time when Charles I. fell, the emigration to New-England comprised many men of the schools and the professions. Bishop Laud, in spite of himself, hastened the beginnings of higher education in the colonies which he despised. He was the wielder of influences that drove to New-England John Harvard and others by whose hands were laid the foundations not only of great seats of learning, but of the whole system of free education. But John Harvard was from that very Emmanuel College which Sir John Mildmay called his acorn. He had unwittingly planted a forest instead of a single tree.

It was left for America to show that enthusiasm for the higher education was not the attribute solely of university men. The handsome book in hand is a tribute in fact, if not in name, to the memory of a man whose training was that of the common schools. Ephraim Williams doubtless realized in his own experience the benefit of that fruitful law of Massachusetts: "In every township there must be a public school, and where any township shall increase to a hundred families of householders, they shall set up grammar schools, the masters thereof being able to instruct the youth so that they may be fitted for the university." Indeed, in his will the founder of Williams College did not use the word college. He simply made provision for the "support and maintenance of a free school" in West Township, on condition that it "fall within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Bay," and "that the Governor and General Court give the said township the name of Williamstown." In transmitting the will to one of the executors named in it, he accompanied it with a letter asking for a consultation as to the legality of its form. "You will perceive," he wrote anxiously, "that I have given something for the benefit of those unborn—and for the sake of those poor creatures I am mostly concerned, for fear my will should be broke." John Fiske has furnished the key to the beneficence of Williams by the remark, "It was the Puritan theory of life that lay at the bottom of the whole system of public education in New-England." And Chancellor Canfield, of the University of Nebraska, in his oration published in this volume enlarged upon that thought. "They planted the church and the schoolhouse side by side," he says, "to strengthen and quicken each other; and though they were narrow and short-sighted enough, God willed that their intolerance and their bigotry should be in their left hand, while in their right they held the torch which should finally light the way for the weakest and humblest child in the State to find the truth that alone can make him free. That beacon-light was the public school. Knowledge and faith were the banner words of our ancestors in the then new world."

In view of the historic position of Williams College and its Puritan genesis, and of the share it has had in the formative labor attending the growth of the National system of education, it may well be hoped that this volume, comprising the utterances of so many distinguished scholars, will reach a wider circle even than that of the college's friends, alumni and patrons. The illustrations comprise pictures of all the college buildings and a fac-simile of Ephraim Williams's will. The minute handwriting of this document is a beautiful testimony to the fact that American script already had marked peculiarities in the times of George II.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Stopford Brooke is coming to Boston this autumn as Lowell lecturer. His series of discourses will deal with modern English literature. It is possible that he may give elsewhere a shorter series on American poets.

Ouida is about to publish a new tale, to be called "The Silver Christ"—presumably the story of a crucifix.

What promises to be a volume specially interesting to book-lovers is in course of preparation by Mr. Roberts, the Editor of "The Bookworm." It is to be called "A Book-Hunter in London. Historical and Personal Studies of Book-Collectors and Book-Collecting." It will tell the story of the author's many years of inveterate book-hunting, and will be rich in historical notes on book-hunters and thieves, collectors, catalogues and prices. It is to have many illustrations.

William Morris has three books of his own on the Kelmscott Press, "The Life and Death of Jason," "The Wood Beyond the World," and "The Well at the World's End."

The new series of Austin Dobson's "Eighteenth Century Vignettes" is to be illustrated by various old prints and other pictures of the last century.

The exclusion of "The Heavenly Twins" from the colony has been contemplated at Melbourne; but at a meeting of the authorities called to consider that and similar questions, it was concluded that the book might be admitted to Australia.

There is a movement in Great Britain for rescuing ancient Welsh manuscripts from oblivion. Some of the private libraries of North Wales have magnificent MS. collections. It is estimated that there exist about a hundred MSS. of one Welsh classic alone—the work of Dafydd ab Gwilym, the famous mediaeval Welsh bard.

Mr. Kipling in a humorous letter to a friend describing the recent Authors' Club dinner in London, says: "The feature of the Authors' dinner was my hour and a half's speech. I delivered it the next day all to myself, and it was splendid."

Rolf Boldrewood, the Australian novelist, is in real life a police magistrate, T. A. Browne by name. He is a slight, scholarly-looking man, and is simple, unpretentious and good-natured in manner. He is sixty-eight years old. Of his literary career he said to a correspondent of "The Westminster Budget" the other day that he was thirty-seven before he first thought of the possibility of success in literature. "The Cornhill" then accepted two of his sketches.

"Soon after," he said, "I went to Sydney, and commenced to write sketches for the 'Town and Country Journal.' I found that I could add £150 a year to my income, and as I neither play cards nor billiards, I could write in my leisure hours. Then I began a serial tale called 'The Fencing of Wanderoona.' I wrote one or two novels for that paper, and one or two for the 'Sydney Mail.' When embarked in a story I sent a couple of chapters to the editor, with a promise that it would last for a year. I always endeavored to keep a chapter ahead, and in all the twenty years that I have been writing, I was only once a chapter behind. I was then on the way from Sydney to Melbourne, and the steamer did not get in until the day after publication. Like Goldsmith, I could not control the elements. I was always well treated by the Australian newspapers. I had confidence in my work from the start. I felt that I should make a hit some day, and so I retained my copyrights. I once undertook to write three stories at the same time, and I accomplished the task."

"Where did you generally write?" I asked.

"Everywhere—in private houses, tents and hotels. After riding fifty miles, I could sit down in a public house and write until 12 o'clock, with bushmen talking, drinking, and swearing around me. It is curious that in relating the mishaps of my characters I often found tears rolling down my cheeks. My plan is," he added after a pause, "to write one book a year and some short stories and sketches."

Mr. Wills, the dramatic writer and author of the version of "Faust" played by Irving, is mentioned as one of the most unconventional literary men of his generation. He was simple and almost childlike in his tastes, and had the most complete and poetic indifference to "fashion." He appeared at a formal dinner-party on one occasion, wearing two collars—one of which stood upright while the other turned down. Flowers were Mr. Wills's special hobby, and some of his best work was done while wandering in his garden.

An English translation of Count Goblet d'Alviella's book on "Migration of Symbols" is announced. The author is a high authority, and the volume in the original has had much success. It has nearly two hundred quaint illustrations.

New Publications.

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SOME WELL-KNOWN NEW-YORK DIVINES.
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