

PRACTICAL ESSAYS.

CONCERNING PHILANTHROPY AND EDUCATION.

THE GOSPEL OF WEALTH, AND OTHER TIMELY ESSAYS. By Andrew Carnegie. Octavo, pp. xxi, 35. The Century Company.

COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION. By Charles F. Thwing, LL. D., President of Western Reserve University, and Adelbert College, Octavo, pp. 32. The Century Company.

The most significant of Mr. Carnegie's essays is, of course, that which gives its title to his volume, "The Gospel of Wealth." The gospel which Mr. Carnegie preaches is well known and has been much discussed. It is, in effect, that the millionaire ought to regard his wealth as a fund to be administered for the public good, and also—the point upon which he especially insists—as a fund to be administered by himself and not by his executors. To leave great wealth to one's heirs, he says, is, at least as a rule, to injure them and to betray one's trust; while to postpone the execution of one's philanthropic schemes until one is dead is to lose all credit for genuine liberality, and to miss the opportunity and the duty of seeing that one's intentions are effectively carried out. As he views it, the question is, thus, wholly that of the moral responsibility involved in the disposal of wealth.

One is not disposed to add to the praise or the criticism which has been bestowed upon this exposition of the whole duty of the millionaire. Mr. Carnegie's principles seem hardly to admit of objection from the ethical point of view. Whenever they have been applied, as they have been by himself and by many others—a noble band of philanthropists—they have produced almost unalloyed good. As Cardinal Manning said: "If men so acted the world would be a good deal like the Garden of Eden. On the practical side, too, his views are for the most part obviously sound. A millionaire who really feels that his 'surplus' money is held by him in trust for the public and wants to do the most good with it himself must act as Mr. Carnegie advises. If one were to criticize this 'Gospel of Wealth' at all, it would be on the ground that it cannot be very widely effective. No one will accept it and act upon it unless his philanthropic instincts are highly developed, and such people, as experience proves, form a very small minority of those who possess 'surplus wealth.' The title of the essay on the 'Advantages of Poverty'—the second one in the volume—has provoked some rather ill-natured jeers. But they are unjust. Mr. Carnegie, though now literally 'rich beyond the dreams of avarice,' knows well what honorable poverty is, and what he says of it is said with all sincerity. One has only to read the very charming bit of autobiography which forms the opening chapter to see this. However, he does not laud poverty for its own sake, but only as a stimulus to effort and the development of character. This doctrine, though true enough, cannot, of course, be too often insisted upon. His dictum, that he would 'as soon leave to his son a curse as the almighty dollar,' must be interpreted in this sense.

As regards the particular way in which 'surplus wealth' can best be expended for the public good, Mr. Carnegie lays down this very sound principle: 'The individual administrator of surplus wealth has as his charge the industrious and ambitious; not those who need everything done for them, but those who, being most anxious and able to help themselves, deserve and will be benefited by help from others and by the extension of their opportunities by the aid of the philanthropic rich.' Money, in other words, whether given to an individual or to a community, should be given in such a way that it will stimulate rather than weaken the impulse to self-help. Fortunately, as Mr. Carnegie points out, and as he has, in practice, shown, there are many ways in which this can be done—enough to absorb the surplus wealth of many generations.

The aim of Dr. Thwing's volume is to give a systematic account of the administration of the American college. It is, we believe, as Dr. Thwing asserts, the first book in which this has been attempted. Much, of course, has been published on many of the topics with which it deals; but nowhere else can one find a general discussion of the whole subject. This is rather surprising in view of its importance and interest. It is fortunate that the idea of writing such a book occurred to a man like Dr. Thwing, who is practically familiar with administrative college work and has made American college life the subject of careful study for many years. No one is better qualified to direct to the subject the public attention which it merits and to stimulate others to further discussion of it. In his various chapters Dr. Thwing treats of the organization of American education, the constitution of the American college, the college president, certain special conditions and methods of administration, the government of students, financial relations, and the administrative and scholastic problems of the twentieth century. All of these topics he discusses in a broad and suggestive way, showing everywhere the practical insight and sound judgment which the readers of his other books on education affairs would expect. Nothing, for example, could be better than these remarks upon the much discussed problem of securing to the college student an earlier entrance into his career:

It is to be said that a year in one's life and in one's professional career is of great value, and a single year is not of value in comparison with the value of one's professional life. It is far better to enrich the value of that service than to lengthen out the time of that service by a few months. But in order to secure the purpose of an earlier entrance into his life's work for the college bred man a better method than that of duplication of a single year lies in the endeavor to save a year or two years in the earlier stages of education. A year is a year, whether it be the seventh or the seventeenth. The battle for an earlier entrance into life is to be fought on the floor of the grammar and primary school room. The question is how to get the student out of the grammar school earlier by a year or two years rather than how to get him sooner out of college. The simple fact is that the work of the eight years of the primary and grammar schools could still be done with ease in six years in the case of many students.

This, it seems to us, hits the nail on the head. It is the waste of time—particularly of the time of the brighter pupils—in the lower grades that must be corrected; and to attempt to correct this by cutting down the amount of higher university training is the height of folly. The remedies which Dr. Thwing suggests are better selection and arrangement of primary studies and the better training of teachers. One may add to them a more flexible system of classes which will enable those who can go fastest to outstrip their slower fellows. The passages in the book which will, perhaps, be read with the greatest interest are those which relate to the qualifications and powers of the president. In this matter remarkable changes have taken place in recent years, and certain tendencies have developed which seem to be inimical to the highest interests of our universities. The president, namely, is gradually being transformed from the representative of the intellectual interests of the college, which he has formerly supposed to be, into the representative of its material interests. He is becoming, in a word, its business head. Whatever may be said in defence of this state of things, its dangers are obvious. Dr. Thwing declares that it has led, for obvious reasons, to a notable deterioration in the scholarship of college presidents, and he looks for corresponding defects all along the line of a college's activity. He advocates, as one contribution to the solution of the difficulty, a strengthening of the authority of the professors in all that relates to the intellectual interests of the university and the limitation of the power of the

president, as far as may be possible, to the matters which are of a strictly executive kind.

A LOVER OF BIRDS.

OBSERVATIONS OF NATURE IN THE SOUTH.

MY WINTER GARDEN. By Maurice Thompson. 12mo, pp. 32. The Century Company.

Mr. Thompson is a sympathetic, appreciative observer. The interest we feel in his book rises not from a glitter of words, but from the simplicity of expression and from the earnestness with which he attempts to paint what is to him a garden spot of the earth, the surroundings of his home on the shores of the Gulf. His own eloquence falling to do justice to his theme, he calls on some predecessor or contemporary for a fitting simile; then grows intolerant and longs for greater still than those to transcribe the sensations inspired by color, song or atmosphere. As a descriptive ornithologist Mr. Thompson is at his best, though he himself does not think so. Admitting the abilities of Gilbert White, Audubon, Thoreau, Burroughs and Bradford Torrey, he sounds a note of pessimism in an otherwise

"THE WILL-O'-THE-WISP," by Hans Tegner.

joyful study. For him the one great bird book has never been written, and possibly never will be: "the days of un hindered and unstinted luxury by field and flood are gone forever, the book of birds should have been the work of a pioneer." From his own chapter, "Where the Mocking Bird Sings," however, may be quoted a happy bit of description:

After the first long trill the bird extended its wings to almost their full length, lifting them somewhat above the level of its back, where they quivered with a delicate rapidity that made them shimmer in the sunlight. It now began to give forth phrase after phrase of quavering melody, which deepened in power momentarily until, with a marvellous staccato cry, the singer vaulted into the air and whirled over backward, to flutter down through the foliage to a point in the treetop some three feet below where he had begun. There it fell rather than lighted, and lolled half helplessly among the leaves, but pouring out meantime strains so sweet and so flooded with ecstatic feeling that they sounded to me at times almost human. Slowly the bird tumbled, with a peculiar throbbing motion of its wings, down from limb to limb, singing all the while, and finally dropped to the ground, where it stood swaying to and fro with its wings spread and quivering as if exhausted. Just then a female bird, doubtless its mate, took to wing from the spot where she had been chief witness of the exhibition. My point was made. I had discovered beyond question that the dropping-song was a love lyric.

A wide knowledge of literature and abundant discrimination lend charm to other chapters in "My Winter Garden." By a "Woodland Spring" is a delightful analysis of Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale," and "Under a Dogwood with Montaigne" is a careful appreciation of the old essayist.

As Spedding found, Lord Bacon is a difficult subject for biographical treatment. If at one moment he inspires the keenest intellectual curiosity and respect, in another he wakes personal repugnance, and our respect for the man falls far below the level of our respect for the author. Mr. Worrall, in his introduction to the new edition of the "Essays" at present under consideration, does not attempt to blink the facts, but he writes, nevertheless, with a certain kindness about a man who can easily be discussed in terms of acerbity. "Francis Bacon," he says, "if he had slanted greatly, had suffered greatly," an indubitable fact, which should incline us to patience, if not to complaisance. Of the "Essays" Mr. Worrall is certainly just in saying that they are "the work of a man who, in precept at least, had a deep reverence for moral principle." But it is not with the utterance of trite sayings about Bacon's wisdom that we are at present concerned. What chiefly occupies us is the beauty of the new edition edited by Mr. Worrall. It is a shapely octavo. The printing has been exquisitely done, with chapter headings and initials in red. The illustrations are well chosen and well reproduced, and the white line, binding, with gold decorations, is wholly captivating.

but this, without doing any violence to the Emperor's thought, gave an individual and very attractive flavor to the Englishman's version. Mr. Rouse has secured for much the same treatment for his book as that which Mr. Worrall secured for the Bacon. He rejoices in fine presswork, artistic illustrations and a fastidiously designed binding. These volumes make, indeed, a striking pair of holiday classics.

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"THE WILL-O'-THE-WISP," by Hans Tegner.

table work in the form of introductions. The "Pilgrim's Progress" is accompanied by some prefatory matter by Bishop Potter. Sir Walter Besant writes the introduction to Defoe's "Journal of the Plague Year." Professor Woodberry introduces the "Essays" of Bacon. Mr. Aldrich renders the same service to the "Poems" of Herrick. Mr. Bryce takes Kinglake's "Eothen" under his charge, and Mr. Henry James discusses on "The Vicar of Wakefield." All these essays are worth reading, but the collection of Henry James and Oliver Goldsmith is especially piquant. It is natural to wonder, the moment one sees the title page, what the author of "Daisy Miller" may be doing in that gallery. It is amusing to see him struggling between approval and dissent. We cite a characteristic passage:

What we most seem to gather . . . is that if a book have amenity it may . . . stretch, have scarcely anything else. It would not be difficult, on some such ground, I think, to go into the question of how little else, really, "The Vicar" has. I have felt its natural note, on this renewal, as much as ever, but, one by one, page by page, I have missed other matters, interesting, perhaps, could be, critically, more instructive than to see the successively go and the soft residue that keeps the work green. It brings us back, of course, to the old, miracle of style, and throws us in danger of repeating again into the new, new heresy that style is everything; only to wince up, however, with the shock of the sense that that way madness lies, that a priori such a doctrine is fatal. And yet, as our masterpiece stands, we feel that on its contents, it is really the infancy of art. A mature reader may well be stupefied at some of the claims that have been made for it in respect of skill of portraiture and liveliness of presentation. The first hundred pages—the first half of the first volume of the original edition—contain nearly all the happiest strokes. These, therefore, are complete, moreover, that of the whole, and I suspect, moreover, that if we should reckon them up—I mean the felicities that have become familiar and famous—they would be found to consist of no great numbers; of the blue bed and the brown, of Moses and his spectacles, of the Flamboyants and their oranges, of the little piece by the "limer" —the prettiest page of all, little above the few comparatively sharp words that we are left to fall back upon in mere loquacity. As a story, as we say nowadays, I am unconscious of anything vivid in the several figures that I can only be astonished at the claim for difference and contrast in Olivia and Sophia.

JOHN MORLEY.

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