

Literary News and Criticism.

Attempts to Found Independent Empires in the Southwest.

THE GLORY SEEKERS. The Romance of Would-be Founders of Empire in the Early Days of the Great Southwest. By William Horace Brown. With sixteen portraits and sixteen illustrative initials. Crown 8vo, pp. 317. A. C. McClurg & Co.

Mr. Brown has sought to catch and to preserve for future generations of American readers something of the romance of the reckless pioneer adventurers who invaded the Southwest after the Revolutionary War, inspired by dreams of gain and conquest, he has, at best, not allowed himself to be carried away by the glamour of their pretensions, of their daring or of their achievements. His effort has been rather to scrape off the successive coats of whitewash which local historians have liberally applied to the darker side of their deeds, and, while giving the would-be empire builders full credit for their personal bravery and physical prowess, to show forth their ambitions and exploits in their true colors. So convinced is the author of the wholly unwarranted nature of these invasions of Spanish and Mexican territory, and of the self-seeking character of the land buccaners who led them, and so eagerly industrious is he in removing every vestige of the overlying whitewash that it is impossible to resist the feeling that his laudable essays at "restoration" have at times led him to scrape so deep as to damage the original fresco.

There is more than a suggestion of "The Man with the Muck-Rake" in the manner in which Mr. Brown "shows up" the disloyalty, the treachery, the brutality and the sordidness of the soldiers of fortune who sought to carve careers and kingdoms for themselves out of the wide lands west of the Mississippi. It is well, of course, to know the truth of even the unimportant incidents of our early history; and some, indeed, of the enterprises described in the volume were fraught with weighty and far-reaching consequences. But even truth is relative, and doubtless events take on quite a different aspect when seen in the glare of the twentieth century searchlight than when they were viewed close at hand a century or more ago. If the peculiar forms of personal endeavor of which we read that ultimately led to national expansion are not in vogue to-day, it is not because men's natures have changed but because opportunity is lacking. Wealth, leadership, dominion, power, are dreamed of and fought for now as much as—and more than—then, and gained by means no more scrupulous of other people's rights. What we appreciate in Mr. Brown is not his wish to lay bare the truth, but the lack of balance which he displays in his apparent desire to make the truth take on as black a hue as possible. He does not, however, permit the brief he carries to blind him to the picturesque element in the ambitious freebooters of whom he writes, and now and again he lapses into a free and easy narrative style that is as undignified, if not so reprehensible, as some of the proceedings which he recounts, and that scarcely comports with the more serious purpose of his undertaking. Whether we regard these as major or minor faults, there can be no question that the author has given us a very readable story of a group of highly entertaining adventures.

Aaron Burr and James Wilkinson stand out most prominently among the group of filibusters, but more on account of their official eminence than for their actual accomplishments. Burr proved but a futile organizer and leader when he sought to translate his intriguing into action. Wilkinson was never anything but a schemer, making his reasonable dalliance with Spain a source of revenue, but abstaining from personal participation in any of the expeditions into foreign territory. Yet his influence was too great to be disregarded, and it is significant that almost every one of the raid leaders whose deeds are celebrated by Mr. Brown had at one time or another been associated with Wilkinson or had come directly under his baneful sway. Still, even without the instigation of this archconspirator, the weakness of Spain and Mexico, the fertility of Texas, dissatisfaction with the attention given by the newly organized United States Government to the claims and interests of the transappalachian settlers, and the vague uncertainty of national boundaries, would have offered inviting opportunities enough to its restless and reckless border spirits, the "bad men" of those days. That European diplomacy took into consideration the advantage to be gained from leaving the questions of sovereignty and delimitation as open as possible to contradictory constructions is shown by the remark made by Napoleon to Marbois at the time of the cession of Louisiana to President Jefferson's commissioners:

Marbois, who had really conducted the negotiations for France, or her ruler, asked the latter if he had observed in the document a lack of definite boundary descriptions of the territory conveyed to the United States.

"You replied Napoleon, 'but if there is no ambiguity about them there you had better put one in.'"

Philip Nolan was the first of the adventurers who rises to the rank of an actual invader leading an armed expedition of conquest into Texas. All the previous attempts had been nipped in the bud before they had a chance to bloom into overt accomplishment. Probably the insignificance of the movement—he at no time had two dozen followers in his "army"—accounts for the successful inception of the enterprise, as well as for its sudden disaster. The invasion derives its chief interest in the volume from the narration of the lively adventures of Ellis Bean, who succeeded to the command after Nolan's death, only to suffer immediate capture and to spend several years in confinement, punctuated by frequent hairbreadth escapes and recaptures, and who finally rose to high rank as revolutionary leader in Mexico, achieving wealth and wives in two countries.

Reuben Kemper's seizure of the Baton Rouge district Mr. Brown denounces in unmeasured terms as provoked by personal animosity and revenge and characterized by unbridled cruelty and barbarity. Yet Kemper rose to high honors, and his conduct was condoned if not commended by the community in which he dwelt. These circumstances, of course, have no bearing on his actions as a matter of pure ethics, but scarcely seem to be given their full weight by the author in considering them as historical events. The expedition led by Augustus Magee, a former lieutenant in the United States Army, was one of the most noteworthy of the attempts to establish an independent government in the Southwest, and stood the best chance of all of attaining its object, had it not been for the change of heart of its leader, culminating in his abandonment of his chieftainship, followed by his suicide. For him Mr. Brown exhibits an unwonted sympathy.

Magee's associates found it convenient for their purposes to join forces with an insurrectionary movement in the country into which they had invited themselves, but were ultimately deserted by their allies and put to rout. "It is one of the whimsicalities of our histories—excepting a few of the most critical ones," writes Mr. Brown, "that the leaders who survived this predatory expedition have been honored as heroes in the cause of liberty, rather than censured as plain buccaners, which they really were." Here, "one of those who quit when there was no more booty in sight," is on record as having demanded, years later, a pension from the Mexican Republic for his "alleged services in their revolutionary cause." The author's tendency to decry the ruthless character of the American expeditionaries and to cite instances of the mild and even friendly attitude of the

Spanish and Mexican people is somewhat discounted by his narration of the final outcome of the Magee invasion.

The tale of this most successful, as it was also the latest and most disastrous, buccaneering expedition would not be as told if omitted were not highly increased the number of the Spaniards were for their complicity in the attempted revolution, as dondo marched into San Antonio from the victorious field, and immediately seized some seven hundred peaceful citizens who had, according to information given by a resident of Manchaca, their confederates, welcomed the "liberators." He was tightly closed, one hot August night, and eight of them died from suffocation. "From day to day they were shot without form of trial." During a large company of women and children, widows and orphans of women and children, widows and orphans of the victims, were driven into San Antonio long distances on foot. But this did not bar back the invader. He had a prison built at San Antonio for women—mostly widows of his vengeance. In this he penned up young and old, the refined and the vile, and worked them together. He joyously called it "the Quinta." Their sentence was to convert twenty-four bushels of corn into tortillas (each day) for the property of all his victims was confiscated. San Antonio, indeed, mightily stricken. The Americans had despoiled and corrupted her, but now was the climax of her misery.

WIDE IS THE SHANNON.

Emily Lawless, in The London Outlook. Wide is the Shannon, very wide and spacious, Wild is the Shannon, home of every gale, Dull is the Shannon, leagues of open water, Leagues of open water, scarce a single sail, Tawny brown wavelets, sea-salt and white-tipped, Rolling in for ever, streaming from the west, Meeting with the current, beaten back, embracing, Salt and fresh commingling in one gray and troubled breast. Riverway or seaway, by what name we call you, Little rocks the trader of your wealth of idle waves, Tiny rivers mock you, reckoning up their navies, Skiff and barge, and wherry, busy plying slaves, East and west view you, ever gratingly speeding, Home and vacant playground of the idle, wind-torn clouds, Wastes of roving darkness, streaks of glowing brightness, Dusky depths of shadowland, hid in scrolling shrouds. Ho! the living West, with its moving, moving waters! Ho! the golden West, where the sunsets dance and play! Limits hath it never, rolling on for ever To the never fading sunfields, the Motherlands of day. Out of it comes freshness, out of it comes gladness, In it the breezes that set the soul awhirl, Hope and all enchantments, Love the wily wizard, Memory with her deep caves, and open gates of pearl. Therefore idle Shannon, spendthrift amongst rivers, Pourer forth of treasure to the waste indifferent night, Love me you, and cherish, bringer to our thresholds, Harsh and bitter weather, but melody and light, High road to bewitchment, open gate of sunset, Strewn with restless fires, with islands of the blest, From whose steel-gray bosom spreads as from a mirror, Light and lovely color, the Wild Wealth of the West.

KER'S DAUGHTER.

BY ERNEST BHTA. Now on the windy hill-top, her hair life wafted smoke, Draws all the darkness after her, to be her beauty's cloak. I feel it brush upon my cheek, I grasp at my delight, The mounting star looks cold on me, across the tops of night. If she should see us ride behind, or the sun sit on his height, Knows she would range no longer in her mysterious night. Then I should keep the white-limb'd girl within my ordered house, And let her hunt no longer, with her black cloak flying loose.

Oh, it is well to follow, but not to overtake, The maiden in her mystery, for the white spirit's sake.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Current Talk About Things Present and to Come.

Some embarrassment has been caused Rex E. Beach, the author of "The Spoilers" (Harper & Brothers) by the persistence of some Chicago newspapers in alluding to him as Rev. E. Beach. The book is regarded as a strange one to have been written by a clergyman.

The first novel that Frederic Palmer has written since his story, "The Vagabond," is issued to-day by the Scribners. It is called "Lucy of the Stars," but the scene is laid upon the earth, and is the story of two men and two women in our own life to-day, in which the characters of the American hero and heroine and the exciting picture of politics and business life in this country contrast with the more calm picture of the Continental man and woman.

There has just been another "shake-up" among magazine editors. Trumbull White goes from "The Red Book" to "Appleton's Magazine," and Karl Edward Harriman, Editor of "The Pilgrim," is going to "The Red Book."

William B. Weeden, the author of "The Economic and Social History of New England," has written a substantial volume, entitled "War Government: Federal and State," scheduled for publication to-day by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The object of the work is to show that war government accomplished potent and far-reaching results between the states and the nation and during the Civil War period. He selects four representative states—New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Indiana—as successively illustrating his purpose.

Another historical work announced for early publication by Macmillan is "The Government of the United States," by Dr. James T. Young, of the University of Pennsylvania. The distinctive feature of the book is said to be the emphasis which the author lays on the practical operation of the government at the present time.

The first of the new series of Kipling stories appears in the May number of "McClure's Magazine." "Robin Goodfellow—His Friends" is the general title, which falls to convey the fact that these are tales of England in the times of the Romans, told, by a species of Kipling magic, by their hero, Parnesius, to children of to-day under the shadow of the Great Wall of Hadrian. The first of the stories is called "A Centurion of the Thirtieth." Parnesius himself, a British born Roman, is the Centurion, raised to that rank by Maximus, who has imperial ambitions, and sent to the wall to keep out the Picts, or "painted people," and the Danes, or "winged hats," while Maximus is promoting his plots and incidentally his destruction.

Parnesius, it appears, is to have a rival on his own ground in a book now being brought out by A. C. McClurg & Co., "Nicanor, Teller of Tales," by C. Bryson Taylor. It is described as a story of Roman Britain, and the book relates the adventures of Nicanor, the story teller, of the Roman legion's daughter, who forgot he was a slave, and of Eldris, a maiden of Greece. The illustrations and decorations of the volume are by the Kinneys.

"As good as mother used to make" has al-

ways been considered the acme of perfection in culinary matters; but Elizabeth Luther Cary now invites us to go further back into ancient history for our comparisons. Miss Cary has discovered an antique English cookbook, from which she has taken and adapted to modern uses recipes for a number of appetizing but unusual dishes, such as our many-great-grandmothers used to make. These receipts she now presents in a volume, "Books and My Food," accompanying each formula with appropriate extracts from writings of the period. Moffat, Yard & Co. are the publishers.

Those who delight in tales of mysterious crimes in which circumstantial evidence always points to some particularly sympathetic and innocent person as the criminal, thus keeping the reader in a state of harrowing suspense until the last chapter, will be glad to learn that Anna Katharine Green has written a new novel. There is abundance of suggestion in the very title—"The Woman in the Alcove." The Bobbs-Merrill Company are the publishers, and the book is on sale to-day.

Burton E. Stevenson, who, besides being a writer of exciting fiction, is librarian of the Public Library of Chillicothe, Ohio, has prepared a compilation of verse bearing on the important days and events of American history. "Days and Deeds," as he calls it, has been designed to meet the needs of boys and girls who find difficulty in choosing appropriate selections of poetry for patriotic occasions.

That genius philosopher, Edward S. Martin, discusses the divorce question in his department in the May issue of Appleton's "Booklovers Magazine." After handling the subject very thoroughly from different points of view, Mr. Martin reaches this eminently sane conclusion:

We shall never all be satisfied with any conclusion about divorce. Divorce is failure, and failure is never pleasing. Our ideal of marriage is right as it stands, and marriage that conforms with it is so immeasurably better than any sort of divorce that it would seem almost to be a waste of time to consider it. It will not become corrupt because divorce is too easy, though divorce may become too common because of the corruption of public morals. Divorce is a symptom, far more than a cause, of corruption.

Readers who are looking for a change from the studies of modern social life and problems, which form so large a part of current fiction, will find it in a novel just published by Brentano's, and written by L. P. Gratacap. "A Woman of the Ice Age" is this new old heroine in the field of romance. The story carries us back to the Ice Age, the mastodon, its predatory enemy, the sabre-toothed tiger, and to a still lingering remembrance of the primitive life of the Pleistocene Age of North America. The scene is laid in the Far West of our continent, on the edges of the Pacific Ocean, in a region "whose contrasted and interblending features include the ice cap to the north, a sub-tropical beauty still further south, and the developed canyon areas to the east."

In his forthcoming volume on "The French Blood in America," to be issued in a few days by the Fleming H. Revell Company, the author, Lucian J. Fosdick, aims to trace the presence and influence of the French Protestant blood in this country, and to indicate the important part it has had in the forming and upbuilding of the Republic. In order to interpret understandingly the French Protestant spirit, Mr. Fosdick first considers the rise of Protestantism in France before showing the influence that the representatives of that spirit exerted in America. Writing of the American Huguenots, Henry Cabot Lodge has said: "I believe that, in proportion to their numbers, the Huguenots produced and gave to the American Republic more men of ability than any other race."

"This statement," Mr. Fosdick admits in the introduction of his book, "may at first be met with incredulity, but a little investigation of the facts," he declares, "will soon convince one of its correctness."

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

ART.

THE ART OF GARDEN DESIGN IN ITALY. By H. De la Torre. Garden City, N. Y. 12mo. pp. 134. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

DRAMA.

THE TRAGEDIES OF ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE. In Five Volumes. 8vo, pp. 290, 437, 210, 248, 451. (Harper & Bros.)

EDUCATIONAL.

READINGS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY. By James Harvey Robinson. 12mo, pp. xxxiv, 573. (Ginn & Co.)

FICTION.

THE WOMAN IN THE ALCOVE. By Anna Katharine Green. Illustrated by I. Kiefer. 12mo, pp. 321. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company.)

HISTORY.

THE CAMBRIDGE MODERN HISTORY. Planned by the late Lord Acton. Edited by J. E. Edmonds, W. S. Pater, G. W. Prothero, Litt. D., and Stanley Leathes, M. A. Vol. IX. Napoleon. 8vo, pp. xxvii, 945. (The Macmillan Company.)

LITERATURE.

THE WILD FLOWERS OF SELBOURNE, AND OTHER PAPERS. By John Vaughan, M. A. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xi, 347. (The John Lane Company.)

THE READING OF SHAKESPEARE. By James

Books and Publications.

MOFFAT, YARD & COMPANY. NEW BOOKS NOW READY. MOFFAT, YARD & COMPANY. The INVISIBLE BOND. By ELEANOR TALBOT KINKEAD. A forceful novel of life and character in the Kentucky of to-day, by an author with a future. Abounds in strong situations, dramatic occurrences and vivid characterization. With Double Frontispiece in Colors, by C. ALLAN GILBERT. 12mo. \$1.50. MOFFAT, YARD & COMPANY, NEW YORK.

Noteworthy Recent Books

Sociology, History, &c. HALL'S IMMIGRATION. \$1.50. MERRIAM'S NEGRO AND THE NATION. \$1.75. STUDIES IN AMERICAN TRADES-UNIONISM. Ed. by J. H. Hollander and G. E. Barnett. \$2.75. WOODS' HEREDITY IN ROYALTY. With over 100 portraits. \$3.00. Nature and Health. DR. CURTIS'S NATURE AND HEALTH. \$1.15. DR. AND MRS. FITZ'S PROBLEMS OF BABYHOOD. With some 20 illustrations by E. A. Hall. \$1.25. Drama. RICHARD BURTON'S RAHAR. A drama of the fall of Jericho. \$1.25. Fiction. PRESTON'S COMMON GROUND. By the author of "The Abandoned Farmer." \$1.50. OLIMSTED'S THE NONCHALANTE. \$1.25. MACDONALD'S THE SEA MAID. \$1.50. MRS. ALFRED SIDGWICK'S THE PROFESSOR'S LEGACY. \$1.50. MRS. SINCLAIR'S THE DIVINE FIRE. (12th printing.) \$1.50. For the Young Folks. MISS BROOKS'S THE LARKY FURNACE. Ill. by Newell. \$1.25. MRS. RANKIN'S THE GIRLS OF GARDENVILLE. By the author of "Dandelion Cottage." Ill. \$1.50. MRS. LIPSETT'S A SUMMER IN APPLE TREE INN. Ill. \$1.50. HENRY HOLT & CO.

GLASS MOSAIC. W. H. THOMAS writes of "An Old Art with a New Distinction, showing new work in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, N. Y., Baltimore, Cleveland, Columbus." THE RIVETERS. Tinted edition of a study by FRED DANA MARSH, among illustrations of articles on his work in depicting building of our skyscrapers, etc. Written by ARTHUR HOEBER. FLOWER PAINTING. The character of modern work estimated by T. MARTIN WOOD, with illustrations. Three in color. GAINSBOROUGH. Technical Hints from his Drawings, with lithographic insert of a Pen and Wash Sketch.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIO. May. Nine Color Inserts. Suitable for Framing. Sold Everywhere. Mason Hoppin. 12mo, pp. 210. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) Brief comments on all of the plays by a former professor of Yale University. MISCELLANEOUS. ROMAN PRIVATE LAW. FOUNDED ON THE INSTITUTES OF GAIUS AND JUSTINIAN. By B. W. Loomis, M. A., B. C. L. 8vo, pp. xlii, 429. (The Macmillan Company.) MORAL OVERSTRAIN. By George W. Alger. 12mo, pp. 214. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) Eight essays dealing with modern business and legal methods. RHAPSODY. By Alfred Hitch. 16mo, pp. v, 74. (New York Book Supply Company.) A LIVING WAGE. Its Ethical and Economic Aspects. By John A. Ryan, S. T. With an introduction by Richard T. Ely, Ph. D., LL. D. 12mo, pp. xvi, 346. (The Macmillan Company.)

PUBLISHED TODAY. The Mayor of Warwick. By HERBERT M. HOPKINS. Mr. Hopkins, the author of "The Fighting Bishop," has written a brilliant novel of contemporary American life, in which the political, educational and social centers belonging to a modern and well-organized community are forcefully portrayed. With frontispiece in color by Henry Hutt. Crown 8vo, \$1.50. (2d Edition before Publication.) Moral Overstrain. By GEORGE W. ALGER. Direct and earnest essays, by a member of the New York bar, dealing with the existence and treatment of "graft" in modern business and politics. 16mo, \$1.00 net. Postpaid \$1.00. War Government. Federal and State. By WILLIAM B. WEEDEN. A critical study of the Civil War period, taking up the genesis of the Union, the executive crisis when the war broke out, the administration, State support, Federal and State interference, party estrangement, and finally the Union vindicated and developed. Large crown 8vo, \$2.50 net. Postpaid \$2.66. The Reading of Shakespeare. By JAMES M. HOPKIN. Studies of Shakespeare's Life and Learning, Nature and Art, Morality and Style. Professor Hoppin's helpful suggestions will assist the reader in his enjoyment of Shakespeare. Crown 8vo, \$1.25 net. Postpaid \$1.36. Special Notice. The Evasion. By EUGENIA BROOKS FROTHINGHAM. "Has much the same sort of artistic realism that Mrs. Humphry Ward uses in her chosen field."—Boston Globe. "It reflects Boston as accurately as New York was mirrored in 'The House of Mirth.'"—Chicago Evening Post. "Every page is absorbing."—Chicago Record Herald. "A work of much power and originality."—Portland Press. 12mo, \$1.50. At all booksellers and at the Book Room, 85 Fifth Ave.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & COMPANY, Publishers.

BROKE OF COVENDEN. A NOVEL OF ENGLISH SOCIAL LIFE OF THE UPPER CLASS. By JOHN COLLIS SNAITH. Cloth, \$1.50. "From the first moment Mr. Snaith makes your attention his willing slave, you read with that rare valediction which urges you to hurry forward for the story and to linger for the detail."—Atlantic Monthly. "Almost alone of recent English fiction, it plays with equal mastery on all the stops of human emotion."—New York Times. "The lover of real literature, of passages full of meat, will find delight in every chapter, in nearly every page. Chapter after chapter of clear-cut characterization, keen insight, the analysis, and rich and subtle humor."—San Francisco Argonaut. HERBERT B. TURNER & CO., Publishers, Boston, Mass.