

POLITICAL FICTION.

Civic Reformers as Heroes of Recent Novels.

THE ROMANCE OF JOHN BAINBRIDGE. By Henry George, jr. 12mo, pp. viii, 468. The Macmillan Company.

BOB HAMPTON OF PLACER. By Randall Parrish. With four illustrations in color by Arthur I. Keller. 12mo, pp. 383. A. C. McClurg & Co.

JEWEL WEED. By Alice Ames Winter. With six illustrations by Harrison Fisher. 12mo, pp. x, 464. The Bobbs-Merrill Company.

SHIBUSAWA, OR, THE PASSING OF OLD JAPAN. By I. William Adams. With four illustrations by E. Dalton Stevens. 12mo, pp. xii, 284. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Mr. Henry George, jr., is less happy as an advocate of municipal ownership when he turns his pen to fiction than when he wrote of "The Menace of Privilege." The hero of his story is a young lawyer, who, after a short but brilliant professional career in the extreme West, comes to New York to seek a wider field for his efforts against the domination of corporate interests. He becomes an unpledged Tammany candidate for alderman, and falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy franchise grabber—a young lady who is masquerading as an artist under an assumed name. There are some vivid and exciting descriptions of a contest in the Board of Aldermen, over the granting of a sort of blanket street railway franchise to the father of the heroine, in which bribery is carried on with an open hand. This, with other pictures of the

electric) lights shows as little acquaintance with American history as does his allusion to ten story tenements in New York in the fifties.

FIRST HAND HISTORY.

A New Source Publication of Rare American Annals.

ORIGINAL NARRATIVES OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY. VOL. I. THE NORTHMEN, COLUMBUS AND CABOT. 985-1500. The Voyages of the Northmen, Edited by Julius E. Olson; The Voyages of Columbus and of John Cabot, Edited by Edward Gaylord Bourne. 17th. D. With two maps and a fac-simile reproduction. 8vo, pp. xvi, 483. Charles Scribner's Sons.

The present volume is the first in a series projected four years ago by the American Historical Association, for the purpose of providing "a comprehensive and well rounded collection of those classical narratives on which the early history of the United States is founded, or of those narratives which, if not precisely classical, hold the most important place as sources of American history anterior to 1700." The execution of the work has been put into the hands of Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, of the Carnegie Institution, and it is intended that the volumes shall contain not a mere body of extracts, but whole works, or distinct parts of works. Where the original documents were written in foreign languages, new translations will be made, whenever satisfactory English versions do not now exist. In the main, the series will include only narratives which have already been printed, but

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Shorty McCabe

By Sewell Ford Mitchell Kennerley, Publisher

ALL BOOK SELLERS

to sail to Greenland in the summer?" "It is my purpose," said Leif, "if it be your will." "I believe it will be well," answered the king, "and thither thou shalt go upon my errand, to proclaim Christianity there." Leif replied that the king should decide, but gave it as his belief that it would be difficult to carry this mission to a successful issue in Greenland. The king replied that he knew of no man who would be better fitted for this undertaking. "And in thy hands the cause will surely prosper." "This can only be," said Leif, "if I see when his ship was ready for the voyage. For a long time he was tossed about upon the ocean, and came upon lands of which he had previously had no knowledge. There were self-sown wheat fields and vines growing there. There were also those trees there which are called "mausur" [maple?] and of all these they took specimens. Some of the timbers were so large that they were used in building. Leif found men upon a wreck, and took them home with him, and procured quarters for them all during the winter. In this wise he showed his nobleness and goodness, since he introduced Christianity into the country, and saved the men from the wreck; and he was called Leif the Lucky ever after.

Not, it will be observed, because he had discovered a new continent.

LITERARY NOTES.

"An Index to the Collected Works of William Hazlitt, edited by A. R. Waller and Arnold Glover," has been published in London at a price considerably below cost, "in order to place it within the reach of all lovers of Hazlitt and in memory of Mr. Arnold Glover."

It is said that Lord Rosebery intends to write a monograph on the Earl of Beaconsfield. A book by him on that singularly interesting subject could hardly fail to be fascinating.

Mr. John Masefield, who appears to be specially interested in the sea, has prepared a new two-volume edition of Dampier's "Voyages." No complete edition has been brought out since 1727.

In one of the recently published letters of Lord Lytton (Owen Meredith) there is an amusing glimpse of Lamartine, who rose at 4 and went to bed at 10:

"Many authors," said he, "require the excitement of the day—dinner—and conversation, etc., before writing. Byron did; but I, unfortunately for myself, have so much excitement in myself, that what I require is only to calm and moderate it. Sleep is the best calmant. This is why I write in the morning." He appears to have vanity, but no ambition. He exacts homage, but receives it like a great gentleman. Mme. Kalerki tells me that when she went to see him, she asked him what he thought of a young French poet who had just been calling on him. "Il n'est pas sans talent," said Lamartine, "mais il ne sera jamais grand homme, car il n'a pas de sympathie. Imaginez-vous, madame, qu'il n'a pas été troublé en me voyant!"

The new book on "The First Gentleman of Europe" is to be matched by a volume dealing with his wife, Queen Caroline. It has been translated from the Italian of G. P. Clerici, and is to be illustrated by contemporary portraits

and prints. The years which the unhappy Caroline spent upon the Continent have not been treated at any careful length by former biographers; Signor Clerici's full record has no competitors.

The letters which Edward Lear, author of the inimitable "Books of Nonsense," wrote to Countess Waldegrave and Lord Carlingford are to be brought out in a volume edited by their niece, Lady Strachey. The correspondence, it is stated, covers a friendship of over forty years.

Dr. J. G. Fraser's valuable anthropological study, "The Golden Bough," does not yet satisfy its author. He is busily engaged in revising and expanding the work, which first appeared about sixteen years ago.

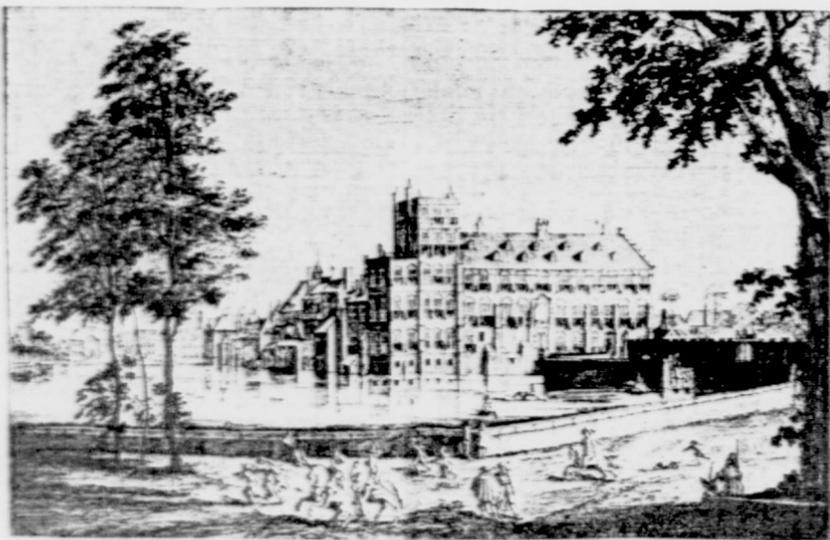
It is said that among all Lady Dorothy Neville's recollections of her earlier acquaintance in London society none is more curious than the little picture of Louis Napoleon in the days when he was nothing more than a poverty stricken young man of commonplace appearance, who "could when he chose be exceedingly amusing." "My sister and I saw a good deal of him, enjoying his society—so much so, indeed, that we were often told to see less of him; for society did not view this prince with any too favorable an eye, nor consider him an ideal companion for young ladies."

The so-called portrait of Charlotte Brontë, which was reproduced in these pages the other day, is not a treasure on which the directors of the National Portrait Gallery can congratulate themselves. Various excellent reasons for believing it to be a forgery have been advanced, and chief among them is proof positive that the hand said to have painted it never touched it. It is ostensibly signed by Paul Heger, Charlotte's schoolmaster in Brussels, and the hero of "Villette." As M. Heger's son, a distinguished Brussels physician, declares that his father never painted in water colors at all, and that he never saw Miss Brontë after 1844, it may be taken for granted that he did not produce a water color portrait of her "from life" in 1850—which is the date of the picture rashly purchased by the officials of the National Portrait Gallery. The only portrait of the novelist known to be genuine is that by Richmond. It is in the possession of her husband, the Rev. Arthur Bell Nicholls, and it is stated that in his will he has left it to the institution which has just been fooled by the "Heger" water color.

The author of that exciting novel "The Cardinal's Pawn" has written a story of the Pyrenees in the period of Philip II of Spain. It is entitled "The Ark of the Curse."

A translation into English of the memoirs of the Provençal poet, Mistral, is to be published next spring.

A very rare book was sold the other day in London. This was Tennyson's "Poems" (1830-1832), privately printed in Canada in 1862. The volume consists of three poems in the volumes of 1830 and 1832 which were not reprinted in subsequent editions.



THE "BUI TENHOF" AT THE HAGUE ABOUT 1648. (From an old print.)

undercurrents of political life, furnishes all that is approximately truthful in the narrative. The author's conceptions of social life and character are false and exaggerated. No such multimillionaire as he depicts ever existed, or, if he did, his reformation, in which he gives up his ill-gotten privileges to the city, after first cautiously trying the experiment on a small country town, is inconceivable.

When Mr. Randall Parrish comes to apply the methods of eighteenth century romance to a story of modern times, his style appears less plausible than when he wrote of the days "When Wilderness Was King," or of "My Lady of the North." There is no lack of complications in his plot or of exciting adventure and mystery in its working out. There are fights with Indians, miners' lynching "bees," gambling house "scraps," starvation in the desert and romance in the settlement, in which fervid passion and amiable dalliance are alike expressed in terms transplanted from the pages of the "Ready Letter Writer."

In "Jewel Weed" we are treated to another of the current views of Western social life variegated with civic politics, so popular among writers of fiction. The story takes its title from the secondary heroine, who is at least original in that, though poor, proud and beautiful, she is vain, ambitious and shallow. Succeeding in her efforts to marry a valiant young reformer, fresh from college, she so compromises herself that to save her good name he is compelled to repudiate his political principles. The incidents upon which the plot turns are absurdly far fetched, although many of the characters are naturally described, and the general picture, apart from the highly artificial "action," bears, in the main, the stamp of truth.

The difficulty of translating Oriental development and civilization into Occidental terms is plainly demonstrated in Mr. Adams's novel of Japanese life, "Shibusawa." In a long, intricate and indeterminate plot, which seeks to follow the involved workings of Japanese history from the time of Commodore Perry's first visit to the overthrow of the Shogunate, the author shows his Japanese characters engaged in a purely Western romance, which must prove confusing indeed to those who hope to understand the Far East through this particular medium. In fact, if Mr. Adams's conception of Nippon at the time covered by the tale is no more correct than are his notions of things American at the same period, it is to be feared that he will prove but a false guide. His characterization of Commodore Perry's black hulled, wooden ships as "a white squadron," with rows of brilliant (and presumably

now and then accounts, the importance of which appears to have been underrated or that have only recently been discovered, will be inserted. If the value of the enterprise may be predicated from the volume just published it is likely to take a high place in the ranks of source publications.

The first seventy pages of the book now issued are taken up with the early Norse accounts of the discovery of Vinland by Leif the Lucky, and of the voyages of Karlsefni, Thorvald and Freydis, as contained in "The Saga of Eric the Red" and in "The Vinland History of the Flat Island Book." Extracts are also given from the few other references to a New World previous to the voyages of Columbus, as contained in Adam of Bremen's "Descriptio Insularum Aquilonis," in the Icelandic Annals and in the Papal Letters concerning the bishopric of Gardar in Greenland during the fifteenth century. The bulk of the book is given over to Columbus's Journals of his four voyages, as contained in the epitome discovered by the Spanish archivist, Martin Fernandez de Navarrete, in the archives of the Duke del Infantado. According to Navarrete, the handwriting is that of Las Casas, and it is by far the most detailed of all the existing versions of Columbus's journals. The translation used is that made by Sir Clements R. Markham for the Hakluyt Society, with some slight revisions by Dr. Bourne. The original material in regard to the voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot is scanty, and all that is here presented consists of the private letters of two Italians who were living in London in 1497 and 1498, and the official dispatch of the junior Spanish Ambassador at the English court.

Professor Olson, in his introductory comments on the Norse records, gives as his opinion that "the incontrovertible facts of the various Norse expeditions are that Leif Ericson and Thorfinn Karlsefni are as surely historical characters as Christopher Columbus, that they visited, in the early part of the eleventh century, some part of North America where the grape grew, and that in that region the colonists found savages, whose hostility upset their plans of permanent settlement." He does not believe, however, that they sailed further south than Nova Scotia, thereby rejecting the legend that associates the Northmen with Narragansett Bay. How little the early chronicler understood the importance of Leif's discovery is shown in the casual way in which he alludes to it in his narrative:

Leif went to the court of King Olaf "ryggvason. He was well received by the king, who felt that he could see that Leif was a man of great accomplishments. Upon one occasion the king came to speech with Leif, and asks him, "Is it thy purpose