

Literary News and Criticism

The Spanish-American War by Sea and Land.

THE REBELLIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. By French Emor Chadwick, Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy. With illustrations. \$vo, pp. 2x. \$1.00.

Having dealt in an earlier work with the diplomatic side of our relations with Spain, Admiral Chadwick continues his account in these two volumes with an account of the naval and military operations of the war, starting with the preliminary measures taken by our government in January, 1898, which were begun with the order to all naval commanders in chief abroad to retain in the hands of the men whose terms of enlistment had expired. At the same time the small Atlantic squadron, under Captain C. M. Chester, was ordered to proceed to Para. Brazil, the Wilmington, on her way to join Captain Chester's command, being sent to La Guayra instead. The small naval force in the Mediterranean was concentrated at Lisbon and joined by the Helena, on her way to China. The North Atlantic squadron was sent from Hampton Roads to Key West.

No definite army plan of campaign seems to have been developed in anticipation of war, a fact which marks as strongly as possible the haphazard system of our present excellent General Staff. The very general idea of sending a large army to Cuba during the rainy season. Says the Secretary of War: "The rainy season was likely to last until September, it was determined that the wisest course would be to move the army to Cuba in the latter part of the summer to organize, equip and drill the volunteers and to make such harassing incursions into Cuba as were deemed to be practicable. It was no foreseen that our home camps were to prove so deadly to Cuba and the Philippines in July.

Admiral Chadwick's work is in the main a documentary history, abundantly provided with reprints of important orders, telegrams and reports. It covers of necessity much ground gone over by earlier historians of the war and by writers on certain of its phases, but it co-ordinates the mass of official evidence, Spanish as well as American, now at our disposal, aiming throughout at absolute fairness and accuracy. Lest the word "documentary" might suggest dryness or heaviness of treatment, the author does his best to make it most stimulating reading throughout and that the human touch is not lacking. Much has been forgotten of the incidents of the war during the fourteen years that have elapsed since its conclusion; much has remained in the memory, distorted as it was at the time by sensationalism and partisanship. Our initial unpreparedness, the blunders made in getting ready, such incidents as Schley's loop at the sea battle of Santiago and the famous "round robin," here fall into their proper perspective, their real relative importance on the page of history. Admiral Chadwick delights in honoring Admiral Cervera, who, foreseeing his unavoidable fate, set forth manfully on his voyage across the Atlantic, a hero of defeat who readily takes his place beside that other leader of foredoomed disaster, the Russian Rojstevsky.

It is curious to recall at this late day the confident predictions of American defeat made on the eve of the war, not only in Spain itself, but elsewhere in Europe as well. No less curious is it to be reminded of our apprehensions of a Spanish naval raid on the Atlantic Coast, of the breathless interest of the search for Cervera's fleet somewhere on the Atlantic, and, later, of the uncertainty between Cienfuegos and Santiago as his refuge. Then there were the serious differences of opinion between Sampson and Shafter as to naval or military jurisdiction over captured Spanish vessels—a somewhat disagreeable incident, which would not be mentioned but that it is part of the history of the period and points the moral of the necessity of co-ordination in military action, and our almost absolute want of machinery at that time to effect this; a want that was shown also in the Quartermaster Department's not altogether seamanlike way of landing troops and supplies from the transports. Sampson tersely reported to the Secretary of the Navy on one occasion:

Lighters were received and turned over to the quartermaster at Siboney and anchored there. On the morning of the 20th the shore and destroyed. Until the embarkation, transport and disembarkation of the troops and supplies was under the control of the Navy, as in England, this matter will continue. We have done all we could for them, ruined many boats and wrecked many of our men beyond proper limit.

There is serious historic purpose in all this detail, which at the same time lends a certain minor picturesqueness to the narrative, so admirably clear and strong in its story of the great events of the war, chief among them the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago. The sensational incident of that battle, Admiral Schley's loop, is dealt with only in its tactical aspect, the use by the author of the evidence before the subsequent court of inquiry being also confined to the immediate effect upon the fight of the Brooklyn's manœuvre. To Sampson he gives all the credit for "the hour in which died Spanish sovereignty in America." Cervera's neglect to attempt escape by night he ascribes to the Spanish temperament, whose passive heroism in defence, as he sees it, he repeatedly compares with American initiative in battle. Thus, in writing of the victory in Manila Bay, he says:

The battle must, despite the disparity of force and the unprepared state of the army, rank as a brilliant action on the part of the American forces. "Commodore Dewey and every reason to believe in the existence of the mines which the Spaniards were supposed to be supplied with. . . . The success of the Manila guns and the value of the Sangley Point and Catanduan batteries were unknown quantities with which to deal, and he had no information as to the locale of the Spanish fleet. . . . He did his work without trace of doubt or hesitation. . . . An intricate and thoroughly vulnerable, the action was at short range, and had the scores of marksmen been reversed the victory, despite their inferiority of force, would have been with the Spanish. The gist of the matter is thus in the masterful quality in human affairs, racial temperament, and in the superior training of the American gunners. Coolness of action and the accuracy of aim were the deciding factors.

The success of the two naval commanders of the war fully justified their appointment by President McKinley over the heads of their seniors in the service. Dewey was ranked by seven officers, Sampson by seventeen, and at the time of their selection considerable criticism was heard. It is for this reason that Admiral Chadwick explains at considerable length the law which authorizes the President to appoint any one above a certain rank to the command in time of war. It was not a new law, even as the responsibility of the head of the state in such a case was not a new one. The appointment of Admiral Porter in the Civil War may be recalled in this connection, and Lord St. Vincent's choice

of Nelson, the youngest flag officer of his command, as admiral of the fleet sent in pursuit of Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt. "Those who are responsible for measures," said St. Vincent, "must have the choice of the men to execute them." General Shafter, on the other hand, for whose courage, strong will and strength of character Admiral Chadwick expresses profound respect, "was unfortunately handicapped for tropical service by his great weight, a difficulty he fully appreciated." It is to this, to his age and to the mental depression of malarial fever that the author ascribes his despondent plan to withdraw his line from San Juan heights to a point near his base of supplies at Siboney.

The co-ordination of the naval and military events of the war and the introduction of its far-Pacific phase are excellent. The narrative is consecutive without perceptible breaks. And if the exploits of the Navy occupy the larger amount of space, that is only in accordance with historic facts. Rarely, indeed, has a serious documentary history been written that is so thoroughly well adapted to both the needs and the demands of the "general reader."

REMINISCENCES

Mr. Conrad in Literature and on the Sea.

A PERSONAL RECORD. By Joseph Conrad. \$vo, pp. 300. Harper & Bros. This is not an autobiography, not even an attempt at one. It scorns chronology, it does not begin at the beginning, which is not reached till later on, and it skips backward and forward in a discursive, irresponsible manner that yet is not without its firm purpose of self-revelation. For that is Mr. Conrad's confessed aim, to let his readers see and understand, if possible, "the man behind the books so fundamentally dissimilar as, for instance, 'Almayer's Folly' and 'The Secret Agent.'" The man behind the first of these two stories is the more readily perceptible one. He of "The Secret Agent," and, far more, the man behind "Under Western Eyes," remains very much of an enigma. For the Pole, as well as the Russian, is an Oriental of the Occidental world. But for that, "Under Western Eyes" could never have been written in the form that makes it a psychological puzzle, not a revelation, to us.

Mr. Conrad, then, starts with the writing of his first book, "Almayer's Folly," as the thread upon which to string his objective story with its subjective connotation. He starts with the tenth chapter on board an English cargo steamer at sea. The book was written at intervals in many places, in a London lodging house, in the region of Stanley Falls, in the Ukraine; the manuscript was lost in a Berlin railroad station—in short, the story of its writing is itself an adventure of many chapters. And only later on do we reach its inspiration, Almayer himself, on a rickety pier on the coast of Borneo, receiving the pony sent out to him, whence the author does not say.

Elsewhere in his pages he expresses the conviction that

In this matter of life and art it is not the why that matters so much to our happiness as the how. As the Frenchman said, "Il y a toujours un manière." Very true. Yes, the manner.

As to Mr. Conrad's manner in literature, little need be said at this late day; as to the how of his life, his "Weltanschauung," that, one apprehends from these curiously interesting pages, has been shaped far more by the quarter-deck than by adventures at the writer's desk and in the world of books. The sea took Mr. Conrad in his youth, and set its stamp upon him, but that may be only a momentary impression of his and of ours. Certain it is that in these memories he is chiefly concerned with the sea and the tales it brought to him, with "Jim," "The Mirror of the Sea," "Youth," "Typhoon," and, first of all and most of all, with "Almayer's Folly."

There certainly is a place in contemporary literature for another volume of his reminiscences, and—he is a Slav, "Westerners see that a thing is, or is not," explained one of them not long ago; "we see that a thing both is and is not."

The Polish reminiscences of the first half of the last century impress us deeply with this psychological mystery. Here are figures, drawn merely in outline, that hark back to Senkiewicz's seventeenth-century heroes—men of the Napoleonic campaigns and the insurrections of 1830 and 1863, the shadow of Russia over them ever, lying deepest and darkest on the author's memory of his mother, ordered back into exile when dying, escorted by a tender-hearted official, himself driven by the whip of the system:

I regret not being able to give up his name to the score of all believers in the right of conquest, as a reprehensibly sensitive guardian of imperial greatness. On the other hand, I am in a position to state the name of the Governor General who signed the order with the marginal note "To be carried out to the letter" in his own handwriting. The gentleman's name was Bezak. A high dignitary, an energetic official, the idol for a time of the Russian public press. Each generation has its memories.

The passion for literature antedated that for the sea in the child of a region remote from its waters. He began to read at five; when he was ten he made the acquaintance of Hugo, Gil Bias and Don Quixote in French and of Dickens, Scott and Thackeray in Polish. Shakespeare he first knew in exile in Russia, with his father through a translation by that father of "Two Gentlemen of Verona." Reminiscences, adventures, revelations, but—no confessions. Rousseau's example warned Mr. Conrad against them. From Rousseau to literature, from literature to criticism and its definition by Anatole France—"the adventures of a soul among masterpieces." Follows Mr. Conrad's definition of authorship: "The good author is he who contemplates without marked joy or excessive sorrow the adventures of his soul among criticisms." He, too, has contemplated the work of the literary critic and found it wanting. At sea, too, there is criticism—everything can be found at sea, "including the opportunity of making a fool of yourself, exactly as in the pursuit of literature," but at sea criticism is generally impromptu, and always ruder, which is the outward, obvious difference from the literary operation, with consequent freshness and vigor that may be lacking in the printed word. "This much they have in common, that before the one and the other the answering back, as a general rule, does not pay." Lovality is the virtue which the sea teaches above all others. Add as for life:

It is sufficient for me to say: "J'ai vécu." I have existed, obscure among the venders

and terrors of my time, as the Abbé Siéyès, in the original utterance of the quoted words, had managed to exist through the violence, the crimes and the enthusiasms of the French Revolution. . . . I supplied most of my baggage to exist, missing all along the varied forms of destruction, that clear, and perhaps my soul also, but not without some damage here and there to the fine edge of my conscience, that belittling of the ages, of the race, of the group, of the family, colorable and plastic, fashioned by the words, the looks, the acts, and even by the abstractions surrounding one's child; tinged in a complete scheme of delusions, shades and crude colors by the inherited traditions, beliefs, or prejudices—unaccountable, despotic, persuasive, and often, in its texture, romantic. And often romantic! . . .

Decidedly worth reading, this "Personal Record," with its strikingly individual note. It certainly contains, furthermore, suggestions of many strange tales. No wonder Mr. Conrad's friends told him that he was recklessly wasting a mass of good literary material.

PRAGMATISM

Studies of the New Philosophic Method.

The approach brought against philosophy for speaking of "things that everybody knows in language that nobody can understand" is conscientiously headed by Mr. H. Heath Bawden in his philosophical interpretation of experience entitled "The Principles of Pragmatism" (The Houghton Mifflin Company). As a vehicle of thought, language may never be a perfect instrument, but granting that language foreshortens experience, and that it is a perpetual mythology, we should not therefore be deterred from seeking to state a theory of experience in as rational a form as possible. The coming in of the new philosophy called pragmatism is to be hailed as a sign that the democratic ideal is destined to transform our thinking as well as our conduct, and that the utility of truth in the service of the metaphysical. Of the three leading exponents of pragmatism, Professor Bawden suggests that Professor William James was able to meet the objections urged by the man of affairs; that Dr. F. C. S. Schiller, of Oxford, meets the objections of the mystical religious man, and that Professor John Dewey has a word for the man of science.

What, when compared with absolute idealism and with the critical philosophy, pragmatism can offer in aid of religion is the inquiry to which Dr. Eugene W. Lyman devotes himself in "Theology and Human Problems" (Charles Scribner's Sons). Between the suspicious influence of the absolute idealism of, say, Professor Josiah Royce and the austere nigardness of the Kantian system, the author finds in pragmatism a more trustworthy friend of the faith. A less appreciative view of the new fashion in philosophy is taken by President Francis J. McConnell in "Religious Certainty" (Eaton & Mains). While grateful to the pragmatists and humanists for their emphasis on personal needs and the trivialities of the human will as the compelling force in the creation of belief, Dr. McConnell has his doubts about letting any man with a whimsey call an idea true because satisfying to the individual. The massive convictions of the Church have their standing in the great catholic experiences of man.

Mr. Arthur Stone Dewing's "Life as Reality" (Longmans, Green & Co.) also pays respect to the old idea, now freshly named, that one's individual actions in the presence of any situation determine the truth of what is involved there. Long ago, says Mr. Dewing, that theory had its literary apostles, for Novalis and Schlegel, Shelley and Byron were pragmatist in their philosophy of life. Yet the freedom of romanticism is the freedom of caprice, and to say that truth is different for each person is to say that there is no truth, but only opinion. "The pragmatist has murdered truth, and the weird sisters have played him false."

VICTORIAN SIDELIGHTS

Glimpses of the Lions Among Themselves.

LETTERS TO WILLIAM ALLINGHAM, edited by H. Allingham. With illustrations. \$vo, pp. vii, 211. Longmans, Green & Co.

Dear Mr. Allingham, wrote Jane Welsh Carlyle in 1856, "be a Poet by all means, for you have a real gift that way; but for God's sake beware of becoming too caring about whether your gift is appreciated by the million—or of jackasses. The nightingale don't trouble itself about appreciation, and sings none the worse for that."

Allingham's plaint, to which this passage from one of Mrs. Carlyle's letters in this volume is the reply, has not been preserved, but certain it is that, as a poet, he never won the appreciation of the "million," however great that of his famous contemporaries, the Brownings and Tennyson among them. He remained an unknown singer until the publication, some five years ago, of his "Diary," which itself revealed the man rather than the poet—a man of admirable and lovable traits, with apparently a veritable genius for friendships.

This collection of the letters he received from these friends, from Tennyson, Thackeray, the Carlyles, Leigh Hunt, Burne-Jones, George Eliot, Holman Hunt, Richard Jefferies, Kingsley, Lecky, Landor, Lord Houghton, Emerson, Hawthorne, Moncreuf D. Conway, Rossetti, Ruskin, Morris and many others, bears sincere and hearty evidence to their friendship for him and to the quality of their opinion of his poetic gifts. They are more interesting to us, however, for the opinions expressed in them by their writers—opinions not only on matters of literature and art, but also on personalities.

Jane Carlyle is to the fore with her caustic best: "What you say of Ruskin's book is excellent. 'Claret and butter-milk' till one could not expect from a man who goes to sleep with every different picture in a chair opposite his bed, that 'he may have something beautiful to look at, or first opening his eyes in a morning' (his mother's old fool) and he is amiable and gay, and full of hope and faith in one doesn't know exactly what, but of course he does."

Mrs. Browning confides to Allingham that she would rather have written "Maud" than six volumes of "Idylls of the King," and Thackeray writes him that "Tennyson has just been here, much excited about his court dress and sword (he says his legs are very good, but we know what the Poems say on that subject), and as much pleased and innocent about it as a girl or a page." George Eliot expresses the opinion that "perhaps, unless a poet has a dialect ringing in his ears, so as to shape his metre and rhymes according to it at one jet, it is better to be content with a few suggestive touches, and I fear that the stupid public is not half grateful for studies in dialect beyond such suggestions." The letters from William Morris

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wealth of their herds. The leading motif of the plot is the tyrannical coercion of a daughter of the Church, rich in lands and cattle, who employs a Gentile cowboy, and, worse offending, who has remained unwed. She is not of the pliable women created by the followers of Young. The shadow of the iron discipline of the leaders lies upon others in this story; there is a dark crime to be avenged, whose surviving victim, a child, is another cause of contention, and—the avenger comes riding out of the wilderness. The story is one long, desperate battle, one protracted struggle of the woman and two men against persecution by the powers that be, against craft and guile, arbitrary authority and violence. The end is victory that yet is a defeat, in a mighty climax, carefully, but almost imperceptibly, prepared. A special word of appreciation should be given to the author's descriptions of the scene, the purple upland desert, with in the background, the cliff-dwelling that is to be both refuge and trap in the end.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.
The late John La Farge's "One Hundred Masterpieces," parts of which have appeared in abbreviated form in "McClure's Magazine," will be issued in book form next month by Doubleday, Page & Co. The work, which will be abundantly illustrated, will consist of essays on Michelangelo, Raphael, Rembrandt, Rubens, Velasquez, Dürer and Hokusai.

The British Board of Trade.
A history of "American Colonial Government, 1636-1785: A Study of the British Board of Trade in its Relation to the American Colonies. Political, Industrial, Administrative," by Oliver Morton Dickerson, Ph. D., professor of history at the Western Illinois State Normal School, will be issued shortly by the Arthur H. Clark Company, of Cleveland. It describes the origin and development of the British Board of Trade, its control of colonial affairs, the rise of the General Assemblies and the transfer of the seat of government for colonial administration from England to America.

The President's Cabinet.
A fact often overlooked by political writers and speakers is pointed out in H. B. Learned's volume of "The President's Cabinet" (Yale University Press). The President's Cabinet is a customary, not a statutory, body. The law created the principal officers or members of the Cabinet. The Cabinet itself was the creation of Washington. He began the practice of assembling his principal officers in council, and this practice became in the course of time a settled custom. Therefore, it is erroneous to say that either the Constitution or the law brought the principal officers into a council. The term "cabinet" did not gain a place in the language of the federal statute law until President Roosevelt, on February 23, 1907, approved and signed an act which made provision for increasing the salaries of the Secretaries, Attorney General and Postmaster General.

Astronomy and Astrology.
In his work on "Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks and Romans," which the Putnam will publish in the beginning of February, M. Franz Cumont traces the influence which Oriental star-worship exercised on the beliefs of the Greco-Roman world, and how it led to a transformation of the old paganism and prepared the coming of Christianity. He goes back to the origins of astral religion among the Chaldeans, shows how this scientific religion affected Greek thought and was combined with the Stoic philosophy, and how it spread to the whole Roman Empire. He thereupon examines more closely the theology of this religion, its mysticism and ethics and its doctrine of astral immortality, which became prevalent at the end of paganism and partly survived through the Middle Ages.

Biography.
A PERSONAL RECORD. By Joseph Conrad. Pp. 219. (Harper & Bros.)
Reviewed in another column.
AN IMPERIAL VICTIM. Marie Louise, Archduchess of Austria, Empress of the French, Duchess of Parma, by Mrs. Hugh E. Gibson. With twelve color illustrations, including two photographic frontispieces. Pp. 400. \$2.50. (Brentano.)
The story of her childhood, her marriage to Napoleon and her career as Empress of the French.

Fiction.
DANNY'S OWN STORY. By Don Marquis. Illustrated by W. W. Embury. Pp. 120. \$1.33. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)
The autobiography of a founding.
RIFTERS OF THE PUPPLE SAGE. A Novel. By Mrs. J. G. Deane. Pp. 244. (Harper & Bros.)
Reviewed in another column.
SECRET SERVICE. Being the Happenings of a Night in Richmond in the Spring of 1865. Reviewed in another column.
PETER RUFF AND THE DOUBLE FOUR. By Peter Ruff. With illustrations by Dalton Stevens. 12mo, pp. vi, 424. (Holt, Rinehart & Co.)
Reviewed in another column.

MORE LETTERS TO MY SON. By Winifred James. 12mo, pp. 134. (Moffat, Yard & Co.)
A further collection of letters by the author of "Letters to My Son" and written like their forerunners, before the birth of the child to whom they are addressed.
THE MYSTERY OF NUMBER 47. By J. Storer Clouston. 12mo, pp. 241. (Moffat, Yard & Co.)
As the name implies, this is a detective story.

HISTORY.
THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON. An Account of the Operations on the South Atlantic Coast in the War Between the States. By Daniel Jones, formerly Major-General U. S. A. Pp. 258. (The Neale Publishing Company.)
A brief study and account of the siege.
GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. Officers of the Executive Department of the Confederate Congress by States. Compiled and Prepared by Mrs. J. M. Wright. 12mo, pp. 188. (The Neale Publishing Co.)
A genealogical dictionary of the civil and military authorities of the Confederate States, compiled from official records.
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Setting forth the chief developments of the period in the British Empire, France, Eastern Europe, America, Germany and the Latin South of Europe. Other volumes which are available in this series are "The Civilization of China," "The Papacy in Modern Times," "The Civil War" and "The East of History."

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET. Studies in the Origin, Formation and Development of the Executive Institution. By Henry Barrett Learned. Sc. D. 471. (Yale University Press.)
An explanation of the origin and formation of the council as well as the establishment of the structural offices—board secretary, the House of Representatives and the Postmaster General—which form the institution.

MISCELLANEOUS. **PROFITS AND WAGES IN THE BRITISH COAL TRADE, 1880-1910.** By Thomas M. P. P. and John A. Waik. Pp. 120. \$1.50. (Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, W. G. & Co.)
The facts set forth in this booklet point to the conclusion that a minimum wage is feasible and that a superior board of education instead of cutting British industries, would be to their benefit.

THE EVOLUTION OF INDUSTRY. By E. H. Holt & Co. 12mo, pp. vii, 254. (Henry Holt & Co.)
Appearing in the "Home University Library of the World." Also available in this series "Elements of English Law," "An Introduction to the Study of English Literature: Modern and Psychological Research."

MUSIC. **KOENIGSKINDNER.** (Royal Children.) A Guide to English Music. By Lewis M. Isaac and Roy Koenigskindner. Pp. 120. \$1.50. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)
A description of the opera for those who have not a technical knowledge of music.

RELIGIOUS. **SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN LEADERS.** With Henry Alexander White, A. M., D. D., as Editor. Pp. 476. (The Neale Publishing Company.)
Biographical sketches of such men as Samuel Davidson, James Waddell, William Buchanan, George Washington Jones, and others, with some account of the work of the present day.

SOCIALISM AND THE ETHICS OF JESUS. By Henry Carter. Pp. 120. \$1.50. (The Macmillan Company.)
A discussion of the principles of socialism and an inquiry into the ethics of Jesus and wherein the two differ.
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Impressions of Munich, Berlin, Paris and London.