

BOOKS AND AUTHORS REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Builders of the Panama Canal—Mr. Huneker at Home and Abroad—A Dreary Page of Dutch History—Other Reviews.

THE MASTER BUILDERS. WHO BUILT THE PANAMA CANAL? By W. Leo Pepperman. Chief of Office of Administration of the Canal Zone. Illustrated with drawings by Joseph Penner and others. Small 8vo, pp. 419. Dutton & Co.

For "Who" read "Shonts," and substitute a period for the interrogation mark. The title thus changed would fit the book as perfectly as it does in its present form. It would, indeed, be more to the purpose, for it would more directly express the character of the book.

The United States history of the canal enterprise is divided into three parts. The first was the era of survey and estimate, under the so-called Army and Navy Commission, with John F. Wallace as chief engineer.

It is quite true that Colonel Goethals performed his great work on the basis of the equipment and organization which had largely been provided by Mr. Shonts.

His proposition, briefly stated, is that Mr. Shonts was the real builder of the canal. He organized the system of administration. He equipped the enterprise with up-to-date appliances.

It is well to give each man his due, and it is well, therefore, that this book has been written to set forth Mr. Shonts' achievements.

Published at 61-63 5th Ave., N. Y. THE MACMILLAN COMPANY On Sale at All Bookstores.



NAPOLEON ENTERS AMSTERDAM FROM "THE RISE OF THE DUTCH KINGDOM"; DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO.

some passages which were certainly a gross lampoon upon Panama. He falls, that is to say, into the almost inevitable pitfall of the special pleader in historical writing.

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shows. But does that account for the present condition of American culture? It is the inside of her pretty head not as distinguished as her person.

contact with his audience; he must do it at once, for he is on the stage only for a few moments. Hence an almost startling directness of method.

WHAT I FOUND OUT IN THE HOUSE OF A GERMAN PRINCE. By H. F. Zepelin. Dutton, 1914. 248 pp. \$1.50.

It is a most entertaining story. Its author tells us that she is the daughter of an English father and an American mother.

Is it any wonder, then, that this governess heard of the marvelous news of the common people. They danced around Liberty Bells.

Occasionally there is a bit of generalization, on the subject of "getting across," for instance. The vaudeville has no time to establish gradually his



HENRY SVDNOR HARRISON ("ANGELA'S BUSINESS"; HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CO.)

cret service, and in all innocence was made the means by which a secret agent was introduced into an English official household?

DULL HISTORY A Vain Attempt to Put Life Into a Dead Past.

THE RISE OF THE DUTCH KINGDOM. 1775-1815. A Short Account of the Early Development of the Modern Kingdom of the Netherlands. By Hendrik Willem van Loon. Illustrated. 320 pp. \$1.25. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Dutch historians usually deal briefly with the decline of the Dutch republic during the eighteenth century.

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"Me" is called the 2 A. M. manuscript in THE CENTURY office, because all the veteran readers reported that they had to sit up with it until the early hours.

with a touch of scornful humor which has been much resented in Holland. It is true, that decline was a tragedy, and remains one in the retrospect, but it was a petty tragedy lacking all elements of grandeur.

But his method does not serve in the case of this new book. He speaks of the period with which he here deals as "comic opera," as "vaudeville," as "puppet show."

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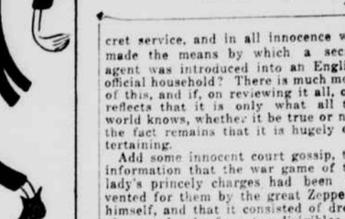
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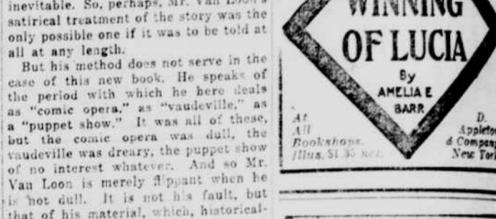
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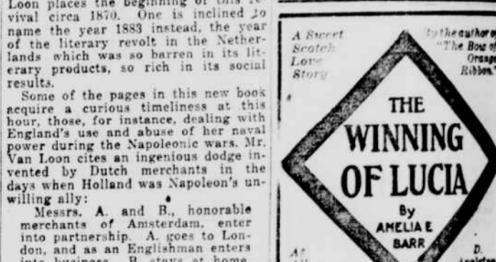
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