

New Light on the Dauphin: The Menace of Revolution

Sinister Plot Is Perceived in Movements for Revolution

Mrs. Nesta H. Webster States a Dogmatic Conception of History, Based Upon Inadequate Evidence

WORLD REVOLUTION. By Nesta H. Webster. Published by Small, Maynard & Co. Price \$3.50.

HISTORY, like every other science, suffers when it is approached in the spirit of dogma. In the evolution of revolutionary theory and practice from Robespierre to Lenin Mrs. Webster has chosen a theme that might readily lend itself to an original and interesting interpretation. The numerous striking psychological parallels between the French and Russian revolutions, for instance, present a fascinating field that has not yet been entered by any historical scholar.

Now, in the first place, the author has little but rumor and conjecture to offer in support of her thesis that the Illuminati were anything more than a rather unimportant secret society, brought into existence by the influence of the French enlightenment and suppressed with little difficulty by the reactionary authorities. When Mrs. Webster argues that, because Bakunin and other revolutionists were atheists and because Weisshaupt, leader of the Illuminati, was an atheist, therefore the revolutionists must be Illuminati, she is adopting a line of reasoning which obviously cannot stand analysis.

Unfortunately the author brings to her subject a preconceived theory that has all the formidable force of an obsession. She believes that most of the European insurgent movements during the nineteenth century can be linked up with a sinister plot, hatched by a mysterious secret society called the Illuminati. The actors in this hypothetical plot are a strange and ill-assorted company: German imperialists, French revolutionists, continental Freemasons, Jewish financiers and Jewish radicals, Russian nihilists and international Socialists, Syndicalists and Anarchists. Behind the scenes is always the hidden hand of the Illuminati.

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That there is such a thing as a revolutionary tradition, that the Paris Commune of 1871 was influenced by memories of the Paris Commune of 1793, that the modern Bolshevik look with admiration and sympathy upon the Commune of 1871—all this is quite well known. But it is mere arbitrariness to assume, with the author, that this revolutionary tradition has been preserved and handed down by the agency of secret societies. The idea of a sinister revolutionary force controlled by a central agency and determining the foundations of society may be good material for a romantic novel; but it is not good history.

The author is further disqualified for her task of creating a work of serious historical scholarship because she harbors several inveterate prejudices. She is a reactionary in the full sense of the term. She professes to believe that the social order which existed before the French Revolution was humane and tolerable in its general outlines, and she grossly exaggerates the well-being of the masses during the Middle Ages.

She is pronounced anti-Semite—a natural corollary of her leanings toward royalty and medievalism. She declares that "whether we regard the 'capitalistic system' as an evil or not, we cannot deny that the Jews were mainly responsible for it." This sweeping statement has absolutely no basis in fact. Not one of the great inventions which marked the transition from handicraft industry to large scale production was made by a Jew. The capitalist system has reached its highest development in America; and it happens that not one of our greatest millionaires, Astor, Vanderbilt, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Morgan, etc., has been a Jew.

The author's desire to include all the enemies of the British Empire in her comprehensive "plot against civilization" can alone be responsible for her absurd grouping of the nationalist movement for Irish freedom with the schemes of the Pan-Germans and the plots of the continental international revolutionists.

Mrs. Webster has evidently put a large amount of industry into the preparation of her work, and it possesses some value as a sourcebook of revolutionary documents. But the chief merit of the work is negative. Its restrained reasoning, its ill-balanced documentation, its constant substitution of passion and prejudice for reason and logic—all these characteristics should serve as an impressive warning against attempts to write history in a dogma.

Earth and Flowers

Minerals and Blossoms in Fact and Fancy

SECRETS OF THE EARTH. By Charles Curtis Frazer. Published by T. Y. Crowell Co. \$1.00.

WHAT THE WILD FLOWERS TELL US. By Dudley C. Osterheld. Published by Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.50.

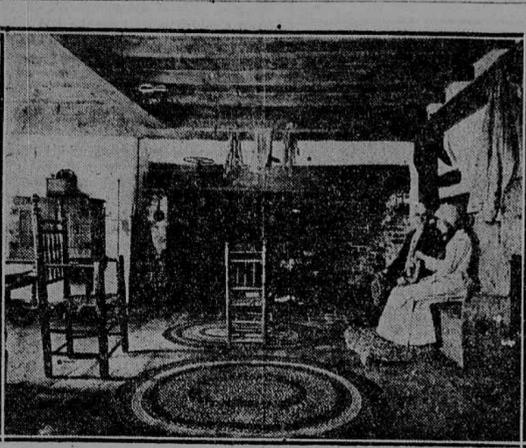
THE first of these two books, written for children, is a mine of information for readers of all ages. It contains a groundwork of description of modern methods employed in mining valuable minerals and obtaining oil from the earth, with a surface-story of the many uses to which they are put when in the factories and laboratories of man. We are taken deep into the ground, see the processes of mining, and then are introduced to the mysteries of chemistry and the almost fanciful products of metal wrought by men. In the chapter on coal—this shows the thoroughness of the author in his knowledge of the history of geology as related to man—he tells us that there is evidence that coal was used perhaps as early as 300 B. C., and that excavations in England show that men of the Stone Age may have known its heating properties.

"What the Wild Flowers Tell Us" is really a road to the beauties of nature and the wisdom of God through a poetical study of flowers. The book is arranged in a way that suggests use in Sunday schools and meetings of Boy and Girl Scouts, when there is opportunity for combining a study of the construction and value of flowers with a lesson in life derived from their twofold service of loveliness and help. This book deserves a place in every Sunday school library.

Our Friend the Goat
MODERN MILK GOATS. By Immarde Richards. Published by J. B. Lippincott. \$1.00.

THE GOAT appears to have the good old cow beaten to a standstill when it comes to cleanliness and quality of milk. One honest goat yields enough milk to supply a family of ordinary size and restricted thirst. And so it is high time that we have a truly goat book, one that gives a condensed history of this ubiquitous animal and furnishes information relative to its economic value. Immarde Richards has written the magnum opus capricorn, and has put into her efforts a genuine enthusiasm. Her chapters cover the history of the importation of goats into this country, imported milk goats, the goat industry as it is to-day, the home dairy, goat breeding and other topics germane to the subject. This needed book is adequately illustrated by cuts from photographs.

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Love and the Orient

American Girl's Romance Has Colorful Setting By Grace Phelps

IN THE EYES OF THE EAST. By Marjorie Barstow Greenbie. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co. Price, \$3.50.

IT IS not given to every girl who starts off well chaperoned on a trip to China and Japan to find a lover and plight her troth on top of Fujiyama, else the steamship lines of the Pacific might reasonably expect to increase their dividends with the next quarter. However that may be, the romance of Marjorie Barstow lends zest to Marjorie Barstow Greenbie's fascinating book of travel and adventure, "In the Eyes of the East."

There is a gay nonchalance with which the author first steps out from under the wing of the bishop and the bishop's lady to the deck of a houseboat in the Ming River that would, if the preface had not already done so, prepare the reader for almost anything out of the ordinary, from a husband to a shipwreck. The Ming was reputed to be full of pirates, but a village in the interior promised more than the mission which was the bishop's goal, and with an airy promise to meet the party at Hingwha, eighty miles away, Miss Barstow set off.

Her white skin and yellow hair made her an object of curiosity to the Chinese women in particular, who could not decide how old she was and who pitted her audibly because she had no husband. Japan was to settle both matters; definitely, the one through the ubiquitous Japanese detectives, who demanded to know her age on every occasion, and the other, as aforementioned, on Fujiyama, but for the time being Miss Barstow "lost face" completely.

The story of that dawn on Fujiyama must be left to the author, but in consequence of it she journeyed to Manila—it was war time and cable connections between Japan and America were cut off—to await a cable from home. From that point on the unexpected happened in rapid succession, and for months she traveled alone to Burma, to India, to Ceylon, through the Suez, to Spain and finally to Boston, where the record ends in the fashion approved by truth and fiction.

Throughout the spirited and extremely well written narrative the characters which the author meets stand out vividly against the varied Oriental background. There is the squat, brown, little "Miss Lulu," more Chinese than English despite her unimpaired ancestry, who kept a half matriarchal surveillance over remote mountain hamlets in southern China. There is Princess Der Ling, former first lady in waiting to the Empress Dowager; a Chinese feminist, an outlaw bride, who had picked up American ideas of freedom while an indemnitee scholar in this country; the bushwhacker from South Africa, who "proposed" but waited six days before mentioning a little obstacle to connubial bliss in the shape of a wife and six children already acquired; the homesick Englishmen of all sorts, the half caste Circe aboard ship and others far too numerous to mention.

In India Miss Barstow visited Tagore and found him less a mystic than a scholar and poet, and sets it down as her belief that he was wronged on his trip to America by the emphasis laid on his esoteric mysticism. Aside from Tagore the author meets no one of international note, but the charm of the book lies in that very fact. It is her observations of the "typical individuals who go back and forth upon the borderline where the two great civilizations of the world are now coming together"—it is in these that the interest is held and the imagination stimulated.

Hamilton
Glowing Tribute to Great Federalist

THE GREATEST AMERICAN. ALEXANDER HAMILTON. By Arthur Henshick Vandenberg. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price \$2.50.

THIS is a eulogy rather than a biography of Alexander Hamilton. The author does not pretend to disclose new sources of information about Hamilton's life. Relying upon the abundant material which is already at hand, he analyzes the career of the great Federalist and emphasizes with sonorous superlatives the debt which America owes to his many sided genius.

It is Hamilton's extraordinary versatility, displayed in so many fields of patriotic service, that impels the author to award him the crown implied in the phrase "The Greatest American." Hamilton's merits as chief architect of the Constitution and as reorganizer of the young Republic's shattered finances are extolled. The author also reveals his hero as a leader at the bar, as a masterly pamphleteer, as a far-seeing statesman who anticipated the ultimate tremendous industrial development of America and built his economic policies with this end in view.

The chief accusation brought against Hamilton by his critics is lack of sympathy with democracy. This accusation gains some color of plausibility because of Hamilton's characterization of democracy as "our real disease." Mr. Vandenberg explains that Hamilton meant by democracy what we in modern times would brand as Bolshevism.

Not the least interesting feature of the book is a prefatory symposium of opinions which prominent Americans of the present day hold about the identity of the greatest American. As might be expected, Washington and Lincoln lead the poll, although Roosevelt's claims are not forgotten, and there are scattering votes for other candidates, such as Roger Williams and Benjamin Franklin. Mr. Vandenberg's preference for Hamilton is not devoid of high indorsement; for President Harding, in a letter to the author quoted at the beginning of the volume, declares that "no man's life ever gave me greater inspiration than Hamilton's; and no man's life ever made greater contribution to the founding and functioning of constitutional America."

Japanese Vistas

The Informal Impressions of Julian Street

MYSTERIOUS JAPAN. By Julian Street. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co. \$1.

SO MANY "Conference books," dealing with various phases of the Pacific problem, are now being published that there seems to be some danger that they will ultimately replace the "War book" as a drug on the literary market. Julian Street's work does not belong in this category of "Conference books." Its references to Oriental political complications are casual and incidental. First to last it is a simple record, set down in lively and informal style, of an American traveler's reactions to the everyday life of Japan.

There are some Japanese characteristics, including the national attitude toward women and the telephone and cable service, which Mr. Street does not altogether like. But in the main his impressions are highly favorable. He is enthusiastic over the fascinating geisha girls and the innumerable babies whom one finds in Japanese cities. He applauds the almost unfeeling courtesy which marks the conduct of Japanese of all classes. He does not subscribe to the theory which represents China as a hopeless victim of the ruthless brigand, Japan. He sums up his own conception of the relation between the two countries in the following terse figure of speech:

"China appears to be an amiable, fabled, sleepy giant who has long allowed himself to be bullied, victimized and robbed. Japan, on the other hand, is a small, well-knit, pugnacious individual, well able to look after himself and profoundly engaged in doing so."

The author traveled extensively in Japan, seeing a little bit of everything. He witnessed an exhibition of the Japanese national sport of wrestling, in which skill rather than stamina is required; he struggled with chopsticks in tea houses; he even became initiated into the advantages of the kimono as a garment. All in all, he seems to have enjoyed an uncommonly good time in Japan, and some measure of this good time may confidently be promised to readers of his entertaining book.

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Mystery of the Dauphin's Fate Analyzed by French Historian

George Lenotre Presents Convincing Evidence to Show That the Son of Louis XVI Did Not Die in the Temple

THE DAUPHIN. By George Lenotre. Translated by Frederic Lees. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co. \$3.

THE fate of the Dauphin, the eight-year-old son of Louis XVI, is one of the unsolved mysteries of history. The young prince is officially reported to have died in the summer of 1795. But rumors persisted that the Dauphin had been abducted from his prison and that another child had been substituted in his place, and M. Lenotre presents abundant evidence to show that these rumors have a plausible basis in fact.

In the first place, the conduct of the Directory officials is almost inexplicable, on the hypothesis that the child imprisoned in the Temple was really the son of Louis XVI. After the downfall of Robespierre a period of leniency toward aristocrats and royalists set in. To keep the young prince shut up in the Temple, isolated even from his own sister, would have been an act of needless and impolitic cruelty.

Yet this is just what was done. Every effort was made to prevent those who might have recognized the Dauphin from seeing the child prisoner of the Temple. When Spain demanded the release of the Dauphin and his sister as an essential condition of peace negotiations with the Directory, the representatives of the Directory haggled unaccountably over this trifling concession. The opportune death of the child in the Temple prevented the matter from being pushed to a final issue. The same atmosphere of sinister mystery surrounded the last sickness and burial of the reputed prince. Here, again, a deliberate attempt was apparently made to hurry off the affair with as little investigation as possible.

But, if it was not the Dauphin who died in the summer of 1795, when was the young prince taken from the Temple and what was his ultimate fate? M. Lenotre does not profess to be able to answer the latter question, but he has a definite and credible hypothesis for the former.

He believes that the Dauphin was abducted from the Temple in the winter of 1793-'94 at the instigation of Chaumette, one of the leaders of the Paris Commune, who was shortly afterwards sent to the guillotine by Robespierre. He points out that in January, 1794, there was a time when the Temple was very carefully guarded, that Mme. Simon, wife of the man who had been appointed the Dauphin's guardian by the revolutionists, was given free access to the prison; that Chaumette had every reason to desire exclusive possession of the prince's person on account of the advantage which he would thereby gain in the not improbable event of a monarchical restoration.

There were still further links in the chain of circumstantial evidence. After the Restoration Mme. Simon, now an inmate of a home for the aged, talked incessantly of the removal of the

Dauphin from the Temple, and was only silenced by the threats of the police. Louis XVIII had no desire to raise embarrassing questions about the legitimacy of his own title to the throne. Then M. Lenotre, in the course of his indefatigable historical researches, has dug up references to a mysterious visit which Robespierre paid to the Temple shortly before his overthrow. It does not seem unlikely that the revolutionary dictator, feeling his power slipping away from him, should have conceived the scheme of strengthening his position by proclaiming a constitutional monarchy with the Dauphin as ruler. The discovery that another child had been substituted would, of course, have ruined this scheme.

What happened to the Dauphin after his abduction is still an impenetrable mystery. A large number of pretenders appeared, and some of them seem to have made the government of Louis XVIII uneasy. But there is no decisive proof that would lead an impartial historian to identify any of these pretenders with the missing Dauphin.

M. Lenotre's analysis of the Dauphin's probable fate is no less fascinating because of the uncertain ending, which opens up an endless field of romantic conjecture. Besides revealing and discussing every bit of available evidence regarding the Dauphin and his captivity, the author gives an absorbing picture of some of the scenes and personalities of the French Revolution. The picture, to be sure, is somewhat distorted with royalist bias, but it is illuminated with scholarship and colored with vivid imagination.

The Rural District

A Scheme for Service Through System

RURAL ORGANIZATION. By Walter Burt. Published by the Macmillan Company. \$2.25.

THE crystallization of the community into a clean working efficient unit is now a major problem of the day. Theorists have approached the intricate problems involved in the attempt to arrive at a plan that shall be national in scope and applicable to all kinds of people living as a self-controlled body. A number of intensely practical men have investigated the subject, and some have reached plans that work.

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for the benefit of the local leader." rally in their activities on the farm. With that scheme as a base, the book or the workshop, and in their individual discusses the general phases of the units. The aim in this book has been rural community, economic and educational to present a clean-cut, logical, rational, national problems and the vital affairs of organization and co-operative efforts of health and general welfare. that the nation may find itself vitalized. Of course communities differ radi- and purified through its parts.

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