

LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

NEW BOOKS.

A Maiden's Plight.

Mr. Cyrus Townsend Brady writes novels that are both realistic and romantic, and he adds interesting reflections. The reader of his eventful and vivid story "The Choice of Courage" (Dodd, Mead and Company) will be particularly struck by the character relating to the heroine's adventures with a bear. Enid Mattland while fishing in the Rocky Mountains came upon a pelucid pool. Here, the novelist observes, was an opportunity for a plunge in a natural bath tub. "Impulsively she dropped her rod upon the grass, unbuttoned her cap, threw the fishing basket from her shoulder. She was wearing a stout sweater; that too joined the rest. Nervous hands manipulated buttons and the fastenings. In a few moments the sweet figure of youth, of beauty, of purity and of innocence, brightened the sod and shed a white lustre upon the green of the grass and moss and pines, reflecting light to the gray brown rocks of the range. So Enid may have looked on some bright Eden morning."

The water was icy cold. As she came up from her plunge the bear was standing on her clothes. A small bear would have been disturbing enough, but this was "a great, monstrous, frightful looking Grizzly Bear." The Grizzly Bear is the lowest dweller upon the unhappy maiden's itinerary. Alone, naked, defenceless, lost in the mountains, with the most powerful, sanguinary and ferocious beast of the continent in front of her, she could only wait his pleasure. It would have been thoroughly alarming situation if it had been the intention of the bear merely to remain standing on her clothes. He weighed more than half a ton; it would not have been easy to pull the clothes from under him, and the water was very cold.

But the bear was plainly intended to be aggressive. He regarded Enid with red, hungry, evil, vicious eyes, the eyes of the covetous filled with the cruel lust of desire and carnal possession. He wagged his broad square head. His fanged mouth opened and a low hoarse growl came from the red cavern of his throat. He advanced one ponderous paw. Three ribs rang out. The bear sank down dead. But "a new and more appalling terror swept over Enid. Some man had fired that shot. A bullet had sped upon Diana. With this sudden revelation of her shame the red blood beat to the white surface in spite of the chill water. The anguish of that moment was greater than before. She could be killed, torn to pieces, devoured, that was a small thing, but that she should be outraged in her modesty was unendurable."

For we are sure the reader will be sorry for her. "She wished the hunter had not come. She sank lower in the water for a moment, faint in hide in crystal clarity, and realized as she did so how frightfully cold she was. Yet although she froze where she was and perished with cold she could not go out on the bank to dress, and it would avail her little, she saw swiftly, since the huge monster had fallen a dead heap on her clothes." Now, however, who had fired the shot, happily as she was as she was. He never looked at her as she descended into the water, untroubled by a small breeze with the case of a Hercules, and easily prised the bear off the needed garments. He generously passed on out of sight, never once turning around, and it was only after Enid had dressed herself and when she was being whirled down the canyon in the torrent that followed upon the cloudburst that he again presented himself.

Poor Enid! She had a hard cry just before the cloudburst. The story says: "She was not weeping woe; her tears came slowly as a rule, and then came hard. She rather prided herself upon her stoicism, but in this instance the great depths of her nature had been unmoderned and the fountains thereof were fain to break forth." She had further very romantic and thrilling adventures. The story is thoroughly fulfilling.

A New England Estimate of Lee.

In spite of the critical and matter of fact attitude that Mr. Gamaliel Bradford, Jr., assumes in his "Lee, the American" (Houghton Mifflin Company), even Southerners will admit, we believe, that no finer eulogy of a great man has been delivered than this. It is an examination, not so much of a life as of a character, which, after applying in cold blood all scientific tests, Mr. Bradford finds faultless; the restraint of his style shows all the more clearly the intensity of his admiration. His book is not strictly a biography; it is an examination of the facts we really know about Robert E. Lee, which ostensibly leaves the reader to form his own judgment, but only allows one to be formed.

The application of modern historical methods, with their rejection of all but first hand evidence, would work havoc with most heroes of the past; they are by no means so fair as appears on the surface. By employing them Mr. Bradford is enabled to do away with nearly everything that applies to Lee's earlier career, even his service in the war with Mexico. The elimination of all but contemporary expressions of opinion, the exclusion of recollections narrated after Lee had become the general of the Confederacy, apparently leaves little to tell, except that Lee was a dutiful son, an excellent student, a thoroughly efficient and resourceful officer and, throughout his life, from beginning to end, a perfect gentleman and the soul of honor. It is pathetic to note Mr. Bradford's search for foibles or slips that might make Lee seem "human" to him, as later publications have made Washington. He simply cannot find them.

For Lee's adherence to his native State makes no apology; he accepts it as the only natural thing for him to do, and associates himself with Charles Francis Adams in declaring that they would have followed New England or Massachusetts against the Union if they had been compelled too; a common attitude of men before the consequences of the war were felt, which now can be acknowledged frankly. In telling of Lee's relations to Jefferson Davis Mr. Bradford can be fair to the President of the Confederacy, even if he is not fair to his family. He dwells at great length on Minnowall Jackson, in whom he discovers many foibles that make him human. In his criticism of Lee's military operations he dwells more on the character of the general than on the details, and we fancy that high as his place Lee is not far from right. The chapters on Lee's religion, on his treatment of his men and on his family life, being in the picture, but the best part of the book, that which tells most

in the end, the story of the years after the war when Lee was college president. Mr. Bradford's sense of dramatic fitness is shown in his last words, Lee's pathetic and dignified reply to an impertinent student.

In his search for "human" imperfections Mr. Bradford finds that Lee at times carried tact so far as to appear disingenuous. The instances he gives seem like anachronisms, for in Lee's time the art of interviewing had not progressed so far that a gentleman felt obliged to answer indiscreet questions directly. The subjects of biographies, too, have an annoying way of not writing or saying what the biographer wants to know. Mr. Bradford's book is a worthy gift from Massachusetts to Virginia; it is a biography that should accomplish for American youth what the Rev. Mr. Weems intended when he invented the Washington legends. It is a faultless Christian gentleman that Mr. Bradford describes, who was also an American.

The Catholic Encyclopedia.

That scholarly and valuable publication "The Catholic Encyclopedia" (Robert Appleton Company, New York) is rapidly approaching completion. Volume XIII, comprising articles from "Revelation" through "Simon," is at hand and two more volumes will complete the work. As in the case with all encyclopedias the articles toward the end of the alphabet seem more important and shorter than those at the beginning, the reason being probably that long descriptive articles are inserted under the first word that justifies their admission. In this volume the alphabetical order seems to make the geographical and historical articles predominant owing partly to the inclusion of "saint" in its various forms.

There are long articles of marked importance besides, however. That on the massacre of St. Bartholomew's is a fair specimen of the impartiality with which disputed historical points are handled. "Home" is the occasion for important topographical articles and among the "Roman" topics is an elaborate description of all the Congregations. "School" and "Science" are treated at great length and a careful list of "seminaries" is included. Under "Rites" the propagation of the faith in China is described; among the religious topics to which much space is devoted are "Rites," "Sacrifice" and "Sacraments." The elaborate account of "Sails" is rather unexpected here.

The encyclopedia keeps up to the high standard set at the beginning. It is a truly useful work of reference, of which the editors have every reason to be proud.

Humor.

Though hastily pitchedfork together, there are enough good stories in Mr. Charles Johnston's "Why the World Laughs" (Harper's) to make the book entertaining. The compiler has snatched a few stories from every literature, it cannot be called a selection, nor does he seek for anything typical; he presents them, the things that the Chinese, Japanese, Persians and so forth laugh at. How clumsily the work is done the reader can judge for himself by looking at the chapters on English and American humor. Sometimes the stories are good; many are of venerable antiquity.

We do not envy Mr. Carl HOLLIDAY the task he has gone through of reading the body of early American literature in search of material for "The Wit and Humor of Colonial Days" (G. B. Lippincott Company). The chief value of the book is in the brief biographical notes. The editor was either stupefied by the dullness of the stuff he waded through or is naturally deficient in any sense of humor, for his selections rarely justify the title of his book. Brighter things than those he chooses have been quoted from these deservedly forgotten authors. The book is dull and very hard to read.

Historical and Descriptive.

It seems strange to accuse Sir Frederick Pollock of authors of the sin of "fine writing," but that fact mars the admirable lectures he delivered before Columbia University on "The Genius of the Common Law" (Columbia University Press; Lemcke and Buechner). The somewhat cumbersome effort to mingle humor and fancy with the facts, which he is perhaps weary of repeating, diminishes the clearness of his exposition of the historical development of the law, which we assume was delivered before an audience consisting chiefly of students. With close reading, however, those who have some familiarity with the law will be able to follow a masterly exposition by the man who, now, is the greatest living authority on the common law.

There is little that is new in Mr. Jeremiah Lynch's "The Life of David C. Broderick" (The Baker and Taylor Company) and the book is padded out with general information regarding California in the early gold days. The career of a man who began as a New York ward politician and, when he was killed, was a United States senator, and was believed by many to have been put out of the way because he was a reformer, was striking enough to have been told in great detail. The author has not done; perhaps the material is lacking. His book merely repeats a story that may be found easily in other books.

An interesting antiquarian volume, "Reminiscences of New Utrecht and Gowanus," has been written by Mrs. Bleecker Bangs (the author, Brooklyn). It includes a history of the town from the beginning, and also genealogies of many families and descriptions of many places of interest, old houses that have been torn down or are still standing, churches, the forts and so on. It is the sort of work that should be done for every section of New York city that has a history. The book is illustrated with many good drawings of the places described.

It is interesting to see the Japanese applying Western methods. They have their problems of colonization in Formosa and the Government of that island issues an extremely interesting and well done ethnographic document in the "Report on the Control of the Aborigines" (Bureau of Aboriginal Affairs, Taihoku). For which we are indebted to Superintendent Rimpel. The report is written in English, it describes the various Formosan tribes and their habits; it is illustrated with an abundance of photographs, selected intelligently and with excellent maps. It serves as a model for ethnographic reports of any nation.

The present interest in the condition of China is abundant excuse for this issue of an important book by a man who knows China as few foreigners do. Dr. W. A. P. Martin's "The Lore of Cathay" (Fleming H. Revell Company). Dr. Martin



A New Novel by Frederic S. Isham

Half a Chance, Under the Rose, The Social Buccaneer, Etc. THE hero is a young man who voluntarily gives up his millions to start at the bottom. For Horatio Heatherbloom—which, as you may guess, was not really his name—wealth had formed a handicap. So he put it away—and went to work with his hands and his brain. Mr. Isham's treatment of his unusual theme is whimsical and romantic. Mr. Heatherbloom, is blessed with a sense of humor, and the story of his experiences reads right gaily. Exciting adventures come on by sea and ashore. At the end—well, the story ends as all good love stories should.

Illustrated by HARRY ALBERT WALKER. THE BOBBE-MERRILL COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.

was president of the Chinese Imperial University at Peking; he has spent his whole life in China. In this volume he tries to explain what the Chinese know, their arts and sciences, their literature, their religion and philosophy, their system of education, and he touches also on their history.

Holland has been discovered for the first time apparently by Mr. Blair Jackson, who records his impressions in "Windmills and Wooden Shoes" (McBride, Nantel and Company, New York). He is a rather pompous and dreary traveling companion, but he managed to take some pretty good photographs.

Japanese Notes on English Girls.

The American publishers of Yoshio Markino fortunately induced him to call his latest book "Miss John Bull" (Houghton Mifflin Company) instead of "My Healed John Bullresses," the title under which it was published in England. There his peculiar broken English seems to have met with public favor. There is little more than that to the text that accompanies his pretty colored pictures and his many minute pen and ink sketches. Either he has observed little in the fourteen years he has spent in England or else he prefers to hold to the vaguest of generalities and to a tone of adulation. In this volume he fills out what he has to say about English girls and women with an account of a visit to Windsor and with notes on interviews with Miss Pankhurst and other militant suffragettes.

He begins with the babies in Kensington Garden, where we share his enthusiasm. "But what fascinates one most are these little John Bullresses. In the spring they crawl on the grasses to pick up tiny daisies. In the summer they play balls under the shade of the green foliage. In the autumn they chase what he calls 'leaves' when the winter they roll hoops, leaping themselves warm in pretty furs." Then he destroys an illusion that every traveler has helped to build up, that Japanese babies do not cry in public. He insists that English babies cry less than the Japanese.

Then he tells the story of a servant girl in the house where he lived. "It was not long after I came to London that I met with an unfortunate John Bullress. She was about 22 or 23. She married with a Greek tobaccoist. They lived happily together only for eight months, when the former wife of that tobaccoist came from Greece. It was such a great shock for that poor innocent John Bullress. Her tender nature would not allow herself to appear in court. She simply ran away." He tells how she took service where her mistress allowed her to keep her baby with her. "My heart was much moved with this pathetic girl. I sincerely wished that I could help her to make all days free for her, but I myself was far too poor to assist her materially, and she seemed quite comforted with my only mental sympathy."

When he reaches girls of more advanced age he observes: "The age of the school girls is most dangerous time in life. Their heart is most sentimental, and a bud of some romance is growing inside. They may be easily tempted. To pass this period of their life is just as difficult as to pass a steel pin between the two limbs of a magnet. I know personally many women in other countries who have been entirely infatuated at their youthful time, and some time they have too high ethic to be ruined, then they generally get into melancholy fit," and so on.

Mr. Markino's pictures are excellent technically and are very pretty. The frontispiece is very good. The choice of the subjects, however, is rather commonplace and except for the pen and inks has little to do with the text.

An Infant's Ideas.

The news that King Alfonso of Spain had ordered the suppression of a book by his aunt, the Infanta Eulalia, started the American people on whom that amiable lady had made so favorable an impression when she visited this country. What she could have written that needed to be suppressed was hard to imagine; it is scarcely easier now that the book is to be had in an English translation under the title "The Thread of Life" (Duffield and Company).

It is made up of reflections or short essays on a variety of abstract subjects, Friendship, Honesty, Morality, Tradition and so on, with some stress, perhaps, on the woman question, in which the Infanta expressed views, such as any other fairly educated woman, might hold innocuous, not to say commonplace, which can attract attention only because a Royal Highness has uttered them. Many women, no doubt, will be glad that they can assert that the Infanta Eulalia agrees with them.

In one paper alone can the cause of her nephew's wrath be detected, and this affects his Most Catholic Majesty on the religious and not on the political side. The Catholic Church does not permit divorce, while the Infanta, though she is a Catholic, expresses extremely liberal

views on the subject; she even thinks it should be granted when both parties wish it without assigning other causes. Apart from that there is nothing that can shock the most middle class prejudices in the Infanta's essays.

Prof. Taussig's "Economics."

A book of much more than passing importance to students of economics is Prof. F. W. Taussig's "Principles of Economics" (Macmillan). Prof. Taussig puts into his two volumes a careful consideration of the whole field of economic theory, from the most elementary statement of principles governing wealth, labor, production, capital, exchange and the other starting points of economic study, to specific discussions of railway problems, poor laws, trusts and combinations, workmen's combinations, various schemes for economic regeneration such as socialism and government supervision of corporations and many other matters which nowadays confront the practical worker in economics and finance.

Dr. Taussig prefaces his book with the remark that he has tried to prepare a treatise on economics which can be understood without previous economic study. In the main he lives up to this programme. He has written of matters which carry him oftentimes into fine distinctions and close reasoning, but he has stated his line of thought with remarkable clearness. Prof. Taussig has not allowed himself to be carried away by any specialized form of economic theory. Free trade and protection are each treated fairly. Socialism has a clear exposition of its case. Government regulation of corporations is discussed and Dr. Taussig keeps his skirts clear of partisanship. He concludes his book with a discussion of taxation, the theories underlying it and various schemes of application. All in all Dr. Taussig has written a book which speaks with authority on economic principles and almost invariably in a judicial manner. The book meets the purposes of college

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classes and the general reader will find it precise and illuminating.

Immigrants and Society.

"The Immigration Problem" by Jeremiah W. Jenks and W. Jett Lauck (Funk and Wagnalls) is a survey based on the findings of the Immigration Commission, of which both authors were members. Dr. Jenks and Mr. Lauck discuss the effect of immigration upon America, upon Europe and upon the immigrant himself. They recognize too that each nationality brings a separate immigration problem, and in so far as space permits they emphasize distinctions. With the enormous increase of immigration a complex system of immigrant institutions, such as banks and various immigrant protective agencies, has grown to the point of requiring a minute investigation by the commission; and an analysis of their conclusions is one of the most valuable parts of the book. The authors disclaim any bias with regard to restricting immigration, and indeed the book throughout is written with authority and without partisan dogma. Nor have the authors a single point in mind, to the emphasis of which all their facts are massed, but they have written a comprehensive study which is fundamental among books on the same subject. It is usual to discuss the causes of immigration, but the chapter on this subject in the present volume is particularly sound and particularly timely. In dealing with the need of a cheap labor supply in America, so often proclaimed without protest, the authors expose a common fallacy by pointing out that the demand is for labor at lower than prevailing rates rather than labor to offset a shortage.

In the chapter on remedies for abuses are embodied the recommendations of the commission, together with the more detailed views of the authors.

"The New Democracy" by Walter E. Weyl (Macmillan), is an attempt to express the new spirit, as yet negative, which Dr. Weyl feels to be rampant in "millions of insurgents in America who have never been to Washington." This new spirit is not defined, nor described save in its effects, such as the striking fighting for principles, the city reformer, the philanthropic employer or the inventor. Dr. Weyl begins in pessimistic mood with what he calls the disenchantment of America, the disillusionment of others with us and of us with ourselves. Our exaggerated self-criticism he declares to be a symptom of the evils he describes. The author throughout appears to regard Americans as the general outcasts of a single temperament and a single point of view, and a number of his conclusions must be discounted by the reader who realizes the complexity of the American nation. Immigration he appears to regard as an isolated social problem; the immigrants as a distinct body, to be dealt with by Americans as another distinct body. In the last chapter Dr. Weyl somewhat dimly indicates the possibility of socialism and Oriental invasion, but concludes that we need not put on our armor for battles which our children must fight.

Nine lectures on current sociological points by Edward T. Devine are collected in "The Spirit of Social Work" (Charities Publication Committee, New York). The comments on crime, woman suffrage, tenements,

Continued on Eleventh Page.

THE NEW ITALY To those who know Italy as the most beautiful pleasure ground in the world and as a vast storehouse of wonderful antiquities, the article upon Italy's Economic Outlook will supply a new and modern point of view. After all, Italy is a nation which must work out its own economic welfare just as a nation less highly favored and gifted by history and nature. James Davenport Whelpley has made a study of business conditions in Italy, one of the series in the Trade of the World papers, which will interest everyone, but which will especially interest those to whom the commercial progress of this world is an important study. Right now, while Italy is occupying the center of the stage in her troubles with Turkey, this paper is particularly timely. Other interesting features are: A fascinating Napoleon article Five Short Stories Fatality of the Fliers Japanese Gardens, Illustrated W. J. Locke's "Stella Maris" Pictures by Maxfield Parrish, Prof. Ross on "The Middle West" Timothy Cole and others William Watson on "The Muse in Exile" etc., etc.

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