

THE LIVES OF TWO COLONIAL BUILDERS

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WITHIN the last two or three years there has been a growing literary movement in this country which augurs well for the ever green memories of the early fathers; that is, the writing and ready reading of biographies whose subjects are the men of mark in colonial and revolutionary days. Until recent years the only fund of biography which was open to the student of American history, and the casual reader as well, was that supplied by the scholarly but often too voluminous writings of the biographers of fifty or seventy-five years ago. Though satisfying enough to the close student or the assiduous reader, these old writings are not of the kind which can merit the term popular.

It is the advent, then, of the popular biography which has produced a distinct revival in this somewhat neglected branch of standard literature. To the list of these newly written biographies there has just been added those of two colony builders, "William Penn" by Augustus C. Buell, and "James Oglethorpe," from the pen of Harriet C. Cooper.

In essaying a life of William Penn, Buell has not selected a task without its difficulties. There have been Penn biographers since the time when the Proprietary of Pennsylvania laid down the burden of a long life in 1718. Many of them have been Quakers, whose adulation has partaken so much of the character of saint worship as to be hardly acceptable as authority. Others there have been whose works have smacked so much of the Puritan that the sting of bias has prohibited an unprejudiced account of the life and works of the great Friend. With an honest determination to steer the straight path between this Scylla of bias and Charibdis of bigotry, this biographer has written a life noteworthy for clearness of outline and fidelity to accepted facts.

The author is manifestly very chary of any phase of his subject which may demand statements able to be construed into controversial. With the best of intentions he states in the opening paragraphs of his book just what he hopes to do and what he will carefully eschew. "The character of William Penn presents three sides," says he, "the political, the commercial and the religious. With the last mentioned aspect the writer possesses neither the capacity nor the inclination to deal. It is his purpose to view Penn as an agent and promoter of secular civilization in its broadest sense, and therefore his religious character need not be introduced except as it may from time to time become incidental as a key."

This is a worthy purpose on the part of the biographer, for theoretically, at least, its pursuance would free the writer from the entangling meshes of personal religious contention, but as well try to dissociate Washington from his statecraft or Franklin from his learning as Penn from his Quakerism. The biographer finds it necessary to work that a life of William Penn, shorn of its religious convictions and their influence upon his character and life work, would be but a distorted reflection. Indeed, so, he writes, "it may be to do so, Buell has made the constant influence of the teachings of George Fox upon the Proprietary of Pennsylvania one of the keystones of his work. Properly it is done, for the inspiration of the colony on the New World sprang from the Quaker heart of Friend Penn, two of the most important articles in its code of government were the direct inspirations of Quaker teaching, and the troubles which beamed upon Penn and his colony during the first years of his rule were the logical results of Quaker principles applied to government."

Prefacing his accounts of Penn's early conversion to the Quaker sect with an admirable review of the religious Hallelujah which churned and boiled in all England during Cromwell's dominion, the author proceeds to a somewhat ingenious theory to account for the fact of young Penn's apostasy. From the seeming coincidences of the boy's having heard one Thomas Lee, a Quaker, in London, and Friends twice in Dublin and once near his home in London, Buell draws the deduction that George Fox, founder of the sect, had deliberately "set" Lee on to young Penn with malice aforethought in order that the latter might have a convert from the nobility. This speculation of the author's lacks any documentary confirmation and is not altogether a worthy one to be uttered.

The author's account of Penn's interest in the colony of West Jersey, of his subsequent efforts in behalf of the persecuted Quakers which led up to his conception of the proprietary colony and of the final granting of the charter, 1681, by Charles II, sticks close to the only reliable authority—Penn's own journal. His estimate of the new Pennsylvania charter is not as high as that accorded by the historian. He maintains that it contained a bewildering confusion of elements, feudal, monarchical, democratic and aristocratic. But he absolves Penn from all blame in any of these seeming contradictions, save that of the "set" which he says he had in mind to lead toward the Quaker non-combatantism. These weak elements he ascribes to Penn's religious convictions; the others he puts upon the shoulders of Charles II and the Duke of York.

The famous treaty under the elm tree between Penn and the Indians—that sacred idyl which lingers picked out in the mind of everyone with all the right banners of the national text wood cut—gives the biographer opportunity to make comment upon his subject's commercial instincts. "It requires an exuberant imagination," says Buell, "to depict the scene before the mind's eye, on the one hand, the redoubtable Captain Myles Standish, with resolution graven upon his grim visage, striding, armed cap-a-pie, in the direction of Wessagusset; and on the other hand, the pacific Penn, his placid features all aglow with a smile that was childlike and bland, and his hands full of economical presents, setting out for Shackamaxon."

Buell evidently desires, by insinuating at least, to shake the hoary sentiment of Penn, the great and good, making fair barter for his lands.



JAMES OGELTHORPE, FOUNDER OF GEORGIA COLONY.



WILLIAM PENN, FOUNDER OF PENNSYLVANIA COLONY.

TWO OF THE EARLY FATHERS OF AMERICAN COLONIZATION

power go that the least should be greatest, irrespective of its effect, the peculiar system of land tenure—these were the hills brought on by the Quaker principles of William Penn, according to Buell.

"He accomplished nothing," says the author in reference to Penn's second residence in Pennsylvania, "except to demonstrate further—had further demonstrated—been needed—the futility of trying to adapt the doctrines of John Saltmarsh to the problems of popular self-government. He found that, no matter how beautiful his theories of universal toleration and unrestricted suffrage, he practically—had to deal with an Established Church in fact if not in name."

The Established Quakerism of Pennsylvania was in the air, spiritual, elusive to the sight, impalpable to the touch and irresponsible to itself or anybody else; but still an establishment, capable of thwarting everything, though incapable of creating anything.

Throughout the whole of his biography, even in those parts wherein Penn does not appear in the unclouded glory which beats about the throne of greatness, Mr. Buell sustains, above all else, the quality of honesty, cardinal in a biographer. His effort has been to show William Penn the man only through the works of William Penn the founder of new empire and ruler of men. His biography is more historical than intimately personal. It is everywhere well written and of an absorbing interest.

(D. Appleton & Co., New York; price, \$2.25.)

Of a far different sort of a man than William Penn, the gentle Quaker, does Harriet Cooper have to write in her biography of James Oglethorpe, founder and first Governor of the royal colony of Georgia. Each a builder of the new empire across seas, each an organizer, legislator and executive of rare ability, the supreme difference between the two lay in this: Penn, the man of peace, had the desire for pushing back the frontier softened by the warrior, was ever ready to carve out a larger destiny for his colony by the sword blade.

This biography, one of the Appleton's Historic Lives Series, is not so pretentious as the work mentioned in the foregoing; this partly because of the purposely elemental nature of all the works in this series and partly on account of the necessary restrictions placed upon the scope of the work by the comparative meagerness of original sources. With no detractor from the credit due the author, he said that her work is more a compilation from and condensation of all authorities than the attempt at original research. Here again the character of the Historic Lives Series—designed as it is to give first glimpses at little known characters—prohibits in a large measure any deeper treatment.

One of the most interesting passages in the author's book is that describing the conception of the Georgian project in the mind of Oglethorpe and the carrying into execution by himself and others of the scheme of philanthropy which was born the new colony. It is a fault which should be remedied that the first impression of Georgia colony gained by young America from his school history is that of a penal settlement in early Botany Bay. In fact, where dangerous criminals were sent to the purlieus of London were shipped in chains. The biographer clearly points out in her opening chapters the fact that Oglethorpe's design for the colonization of Georgia was purely a philanthropic measure far in advance of the humanitarian thought of the time, and directed solely to the betterment of those unfortunates imprisoned for debt. No convicts or desperate characters were allowed to embark for Georgia. The colonization was open not only to the debt-ridden English, but to the persecuted Protestants of Europe.

A Powerful Novel of Paris Commune

NOVELS of Paris smiling are always interesting; novels of Paris in the thunder fit of revolution are ever enthralling. So it is that a story far less better written than Dr. William Barry's "The Dayspring" would be accepted with eagerness. Dr. Barry's novel deals with the tinsel days of Napoleon "the Little" and the sudden blackness and madness of the Commune. Robert Chambers' book, "Ashes of Empire," which had such a wide vogue a few years ago, turned the rich opportunities of Paris' last revolution to account in no more telling a manner than does this latest romance of these troublous times. Dr. Barry's is a thrilling enough to satisfy the tastes of any devotee of Erickmann-Chatriain.

The plot opens with the hasty flight from England to France of Henry Guiron, an Irish lad who has murdered his hard-hearted landlord and seeks to escape the consequences of his crime in the purlieus of Paris. Opportunely befriended by a young Frenchman for whom he had once done a service, young Guiron—alias, of course—finds himself among friends when once in Paris and the chapter of his adventures begins. Cast into kindly places by being made the secretary of an Englishman who is, rather strangely, deeply concerned in French politics, the refugee has an opportunity to profit by his native Celtic wit and ready address to the extent of becoming an accepted member of a very select little salon, over which there presides Madame Kingswood. This throws his fate under the same favoring star as that of la Comtesse de Montois, a beautiful and romantic young widow whose time is divided between decking her late husband's grave with lilies and consulting a necromancer and modern Casanova, Hiram Temple by name.

Against the sinister and all-pervading power of this charlatan spirit conjurer the hero finds himself set. Temple has succeeded in gaining such an ascendancy over the credulous ladies of Mme. Kingswood's salon, especially the romantic widow, that Guiron finds a combination of circumstances, dictated and arranged by the necromancer, forcing him into a dishonorable position. In despair he rushes out from all this gay and rose-colored life to lose himself in the slums of the great city in pursuit of a new-found zeal for the cause of the Socialists. It is in the unfolding of the hero's wild enthusiasm for the propaganda of revolution, his association with the bare-brained fanatics and journalists of the red flag, his garret conspiracies and secret meetings with the "miserables" that the author does his best work. The terrible, seething pot of sedition and anarchy which boiled under the fragile throne of Louis Napoleon, the mutterings of a distant holocaust to throne and state, the blind fury of the Reds lamenting everything on to hoped-for destruction—these elements of grim portent introduced into the story give it a quickening thrill.

With the general crash of everything in the horror of the Commune the story draws to a close. Vindicated of the stain of dishonor falsely imputed to him, triumphant over Temple, his enemy, and heroically outlined by the fires of the Tuileries before the eyes of his lady, Guiron wins the heart of the fair and romantic Comtesse and the cooling ashes of Paris are sited upon the last page of the story.

Admirable in the main as Dr. Barry's story is, it admits of criticism on two points. His introduction of the element of the occult through the spirit medium, Hiram Temple, weakens the plot by just the measure that it falls to win the credulity of the reader. The occult should either be the absorbing feature of a story—so persistent as effectually to put the reader under the

Roosevelt the Man, a Personal View

"THE Man Roosevelt," a portrait sketch by Francis E. Leupp, is the eighth volume in Messrs. Appleton & Co.'s excellent Historic Lives Series and appears at a most opportune moment. Mr. Leupp is editor of the New York Evening Post. He has been privileged to know the President, and his intimate friendship of the leader, they could see more of the man.

The book opens with a reference to the right good luck and extraordinary series of fortunate accidents that raised Roosevelt from the position of an obscure politician to the highest of the land. As is well known, he did not gain the Presidency like many of his illustrious predecessors by force of mental ability alone; for as Leupp says, "Roosevelt is no genius, his political and administrative ability is not extraordinary, his nature is not exceptional. As author, lawmaker, administrator, huntsman, athlete, soldier, what you will, his record contains nothing that might not have been accomplished by any man of sound physique and good intelligence. Such as he has acquired partly by hard work and partly by using his native wit in his choice of tasks, and his method of tackling them." Accidents gave him opportunities and positions; his good sense in choosing his advisers and his strict attention to the injunction of his favorite motto, "When in doubt wait," have enabled him to carry out the multitudinous tasks allotted him.

Throughout his life Roosevelt has found that wherever he has worked for a position to the best of his ability and failed, some power has intervened to turn defeat into a surprising success. It is clearly seen now that had he gained the Mayoralty of New York in 1885, as he dearly wished to do, he would have been content with civic honors, probably, and would have kept too far away from Federal politics to have had ambition to become a candidate for the position of Assistant Secretary of State under President Harrison. He worked hard for this position and failed; but was awarded a civil service commission. In this office he gained considerable publicity, which was afterward increased on his appointment to the police commission in New York City. This office paved the way for him to the Assistant Secretaryship of the Navy. On the declaration of war with Spain he applied for a position on the staff of General Lee. Had he obtained this position there would have been no rough riders; his application failed and he set to work and organized the rough riders; as their colonel he became the most picturesque figure in the volunteer army. The prominence he thus gained assisted him to the Governorship of New York. His popularity clung to him. He obtained his election to the Vice Presidency, and, finally the tragic death of President McKinley placed Roosevelt at the head of the

Roosevelt's love of sports and athletics, his family life, his religious tolerance, his interpretation of the Monroe doctrine, the Booker Washington incident and many other happenings of his administration which have had either a political significance or the mere worth of anecdotes, are recited by the author in a clear and entertaining manner.

On reading this book one cannot help but enjoy it, no matter what his political convictions may be. In truth it is a bold and an unprecedented action on the part of the publishers to bring out a work upon a man who is yet living and whose political career is still in the making, yet the reputation of the publishing house and the sincerity of the author should be enough to scout the idea that in this work there is anything which could be construed into an attempt to furnish material for a political campaign. Whether or not Roosevelt becomes the next President, there is enough of mark in the man to warrant the publication of an intimate view of him.

(D. Appleton & Co., New York; price, \$1.00.)

Her Dispensation of Psychic Light

GOOD old Dr. Channing once said: "It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds, and these invaluable means of communication are in the reach of all."

Blessed boon! Were it not for the old German who learned how to set the letter blocks we of to-day could not be receivers of the "Psychic Light" which flows in golden streams from one Mrs. Maude Lord-Drake of Kansas City, Mo. It is through the medium of a book that her superior mind has sought to hold out the beacon of "Psychic Light" to us blundering mortals, who see as through a glass, darkly. To do this, to point the way to the acme of continuity in law and life, to reveal the secret workings of the spirits and to tear the veil from the

BY ROBERT W. RITCHIE

Chambers, Roy Rolfe Gilson, Alice MacGowan, Margaret Sutton Bisco, Grace Lathrop Collin, Kate Whiting Patch, Charles B. de Camp and May Isabel Flisk "contribute the short fiction."

The March Century's leading article is a pen picture of "The Paris Bourse," from Cleveland Moffett, with illustrations by Andre Castaigne. There are only seventy brokers in the Paris Bourse, as balanced against the 1100 of the New York Stock Exchange and the 3000 of London. The Paris Bourse is a Government institution, existing and operating under direct Government control. The New York and London exchanges are, as every one knows, private associations, with laws that are binding upon members only because of their voluntary acceptance. Cleveland Moffett's vivid, picturesque style is well known. His story of the life and workings of this "place of maddening bewilderment" to a stranger, this "stronghold of the seventy, the great financial machine of France," will be well worth the reading.

Rollo Ogden, editor of the New York Evening Post, has prepared for the March Century an essay on "The Making of Public Opinion," the discussion being thrown into the form of a jumble talk between a Senator, a college president, a doctor of divinity and an editor, in which there is a good deal of genial recrimination, if so harsh a word may be used.

Since The Booklover came out with the first of the year in a handier size and a new dress the reputation which it has acquired with true lovers of the artistic and the sterling in literature has been increasing an hundred fold. In the crowded field of the monthly and especially in the rapidly filling province of the critical magazine The Booklover has succeeded in appropriating for itself an entirely distinctive mission. It answers all the demands of the bibliophile, the collector of literary prices, the devotee of sparkling fiction and the lover of true poetry. The mechanics of the magazine's makeup leaves nothing lacking.

In the last number the opening pages are devoted to a delicately lined little pastel, "The Shepherd's Hour Glass." There follow articles upon "The Influence of Environment upon Men of Letters," "Thomas Nast," the father of American caricature; "Omar Khayyam," by John Hay; "Types in Fiction" and a baker's dozen more of the same high order.

The Reader is another magazine which is coming to the front with rapid strides. With the March number it makes its initial bow under a charge of owners, for the Bobbs-Merrill Company of Indianapolis have evidently felt that to be in line with all of the big Eastern publishers they must have a magazine with their name upon the cover. They could not have a better one. The character of this publication seems to be the product of a blending of fiction and review— all having a light breezy tone which is calculated to appeal to the dilettante in literary appreciation rather than to the scholar. Some very clever stories about newspaper life from the pen of the veteran correspondent, Julius Chambers, serve to lighten the pages.

The March number contains stories and sketches by Clara Morris, Reginald Wright Krauffman, Vance Thompson, Kenneth Brown and a score of other clever and practiced writers.

New Books Received

- THE DATSPRING, Dr. William Barry; Dodd, Mead & Co., New York; price \$1.50.
- THE STORY OF SUSAN, Mrs. Henry Dudeney; Dodd, Mead & Co., New York; illustrated; price \$1.50.
- ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE, Josephine Caroline Sawyer; Dodd, Mead & Co., New York; illustrated in color; price \$1.50.
- AN ADVENTURE IN SPAIN, S. R. Crockett; Frederick R. Stokes & Co., New York; illustrated; price \$1.50.
- DENIS DENT, Ernest W. Hornung; Frederick R. Stokes & Co., New York; price \$1.50.
- A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER, Lee Wellington Squier; The Patriot Publishing Company, Greensburg, Pa.; price \$1.25.
- THE IMPERIALIST, Mrs. Everard Cotes; D. Appleton & Co., New York; illustrated; price \$1.50.
- THE MODERN BANK, Amos K. Fiske; D. Appleton & Co., New York; price \$1.50.
- WILLIAM PENN, Augustus C. Buell; D. Appleton & Co., New York; illustrated; price \$2.25.
- THE MAN ROOSEVELT, Francis E. Leupp; D. Appleton & Co., New York; price \$1.25.
- JAMES OGELTHORPE, Harriet C. Cooper; D. Appleton & Co., New York; illustrated; price \$1.
- BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE, Dr. Nellie Beighle; The Alliance Publishing Co., San Francisco.
- THE MAN WHO PLEASURES AND THE WOMAN WHO CHARMS, John A. Cone; Hinds & Noble, New York; price 75 cents.
- LECTURES ON COMMERCE, edited by Henry Rand Hatfield; University of Chicago; price \$1.50.
- THE THIRD POWER, J. A. Everitt; The Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- AN AID IN THE STUDY AND TEACHING OF SNOWBOUND, J. W. Graham; No. 2 of Western Educational Helps; published by The Whitaker & Ray Company, San Francisco; price 25 cents.
- AN AID IN THE STUDY AND TEACHING OF "LADY OF THE LAKE"; No. 2 of Western Educational Helps; published by The Whitaker & Ray Company, San Francisco; price 25 cents.
- WEBB'S UNIVERSAL HIGH SCHOOL REPORT BOOKS, Louis K. Webb; The Whitaker & Ray Company, San Francisco; price 5 cents.
- STATE AID TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS, David Rhys Jones; University of California Publication; price 75 cents.

Mrs. Stepany Rawson, Robert W.