

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it—to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction.—Gladstone.

THE FREE TRADE MOVEMENT.—

By Prof. G. Armitage-Smith, M. A. Cloth, 75c., 244 pp. The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. As an unassailable principle when universally applied free trade will always hold its own. But it has never been so applied. Mr. Smith discusses the theory as if English recognition of its accuracy solves the whole world's difficulty. He discusses, indeed, with apparent candor and full information all the later phases of protection abroad, but the latter part of the book is simply a Cobden tract. Mr. Smith has learned nothing since 1846, in which he differs from the cotton spinners who—freetraders in 1846—are not freetraders to-day. The historical portion is valuable. The controversial chapters, we submit, render it acceptable only to theoretical freetraders. The millions of men who belong to no economic school, but who simply seek light on the most practical means of reaching international tariff reciprocity (while allowing for necessary national jealousy and the frailties of mankind), will find nothing in the book to aid their perplexity. Mr. Smith states some facts in a way that helps him to make out his case. For example, he says (p. 194): "Canada has set an example of giving preferential duties to the home-country in return for the defence she affords, and this without making any claim for special treatment of Canadian exports." This explanation of the tariff of 1897 is new to us. The free trade movement is a great historical fact in Queen Victoria's reign, and, as such, may well be treated in the Victorian Era series (of which this is a volume). But an apology for the failure of the English system of free imports to fulfil the prophecies of 1846, is a poor conception of what such a volume should be.

AMERICAN WIVES AND ENGLISH HUSBANDS.—By Gertrude Atherton. Paper, 75c. The Copp, Clark Co. There is much clever epigrammatic writing in this book, and the touch of novelty in the plot is refreshing. Cecil, Lord Maundrell, marries a beautiful young Californian, and they go to England to live. This girl, Lee, has an independent character and a strong will. Cecil's father, the earl, has also married an American, his second wife, an underbred, wicked woman. In squandering her own fortune, and accepting gifts from a lover, she threatens ruin and disgrace to the whole family. Lee and Cecil, after a year or two

of perfect happiness, drift apart, owing to his absorption in politics and her wilful, demonstrative nature. Cecil's father commits suicide, Lee's passion for her husband revives in the hour of trouble, and she relinquishes her intention of returning to the United States in the dangerous company of her former lover and his mother. The story brings out admirably the vices of certain phases of English and American society, and the truth of Lee. It is altogether a notable novel, with plenty of life and wit in the telling.

REPUBLICS: NORTH AND SOUTH.—By One Who Does Not Believe in Them. Cloth, 359 pp., 5s. Beale Bros., 54 Stoke Newington Road, London, N., England. The writer of this paragraph, like the author of this book, is quite free to confess that he does not believe in republics, north or south, ancient or modern. But whether it is worth while writing a book to show up the United States is another matter. Englishmen have fixed ideas about the Republic, and to seek to dislodge them seems a vain task. In Canada, there are many people who will agree with this author. He believes there are as large a proportion of good people in the United States as in any other country, but they avoid politics. For the ruling elements, the system of government, and the institutions and manners that have grown up under that system, he has not a good word to say. His frankness is refreshing, and the condemnation is perhaps too sweeping. Accuracy of statement is not always the rule; at the same time such errors as we have detected are trifling, and the book, in the main, is founded upon sounder information than many of the works of traveled Englishmen who have visited the United States. It is altogether a curious and furious attack upon the United States by an Englishman who does not give his name, but who says he was formerly British Consul at Galveston, Texas.

PAUL KRUGER AND HIS TIMES.—By F. Reginald Statham. Cloth, portrait and map, 312 pp., \$3. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. In this fine volume the author presents "the other side" of the South African question. In Canada, while Cecil Rhodes has many admirers, it cannot be denied that the famous "Raid" found many critics, even among persons with Imperial sympathies. There is a real desire, with those who kept abreast of Imperial

and British affairs, to know the truth about South Africa from the two standpoints. Mr. Statham's book helps to supply this want. It is a serious effort to go into the origin and recent history of the Transvaal Republic and to show us Oom Paul in a sympathetic light. The author, an Englishman, stoutly takes the anti-Rhodes side throughout; he believes that gentleman to be in pursuit of selfish ends rather than to promote Imperial ends, and contends that his complicity in the Jamieson raid is clear. Mr. Chamberlain's diplomacy also comes in for severe handling. The narrative, therefore, is highly controversial, and it attacks the British policy without mercy, but it is certainly a valuable contribution to a discussion that is not likely to terminate for some years and which may yet lead to momentous consequences. The book, therefore, is a welcome addition to the printed evidence on South African affairs. That the views it expresses will be accepted by Canadian readers, is quite another matter, but it appears to give us the Transvaal's side of all the issues that have arisen, and that is what readers want. The personality of Kruger is also interesting from the world-wide curiosity that exists concerning him, and here we have an account of his ancestry, early career and later public services. The battle of Krugersdorp is also described.

CANADA AND ITS CAPITAL.—By Hon. Sir James D. Edgar, M.P. Cloth, gilt top, illus., 217 pp., \$2.50. George N. Morang, Toronto. Almost anything that a Speaker of the House of Commons would write about the political centre of Canada, and its principal parliamentarians would possess some interest. In addition, Sir James Edgar has a literary reputation, and he knows the inner history of politics and politicians well. The seventeen chapters of this book deal with the history of Ottawa, the settlement of Philemon Wright at Hull, across the river, the famous political events at the time Ottawa was chosen for capital, pen pictures of Laurier, Tupper and Cartwright, and society, sport and literature at Ottawa. In years to come this book will be valuable, from its unique character, as the product of a Speaker, and a compendium of much that is of permanent interest. The publisher has put some of his best work into the book, and it is entirely creditable in this respect. The 21 illustrations are portraits and scenes, fine half-tone reproductions of photographs, and serve to embellish a well-printed work.

DAVID HUME.—By Henry Calderwood. Cloth, 158 pp.; 1s. Famous Scots series. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. Of all the contributions to this series, the present monograph on Hume is one of the