

### HUGO GROTIUS, THE FATHER OF THE MODERN SCIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

*By Hamilton Vreeland Jr., Ph.D. of the New York Bar. New York (Oxford University Press). 1917. (xx, 258, 8vo.)*

This book contains a painstaking and, so far as appears, accurate sketch of the public and private life of the statesman, jurist, philosopher, theologian and poet (to mention some facets of his many-sided genius), who is known to his countrymen as de Groot and to the rest of the world as Grotius. The writer has drawn upon well-known authorities such as Caspar Brandt's "Historie van het leven des heeren Huig de Groot," Adriaan Van Cattenburgh's "Vervolg der Historie van het leven des heeren Huig de Groot," and de Burigny's "Vie de Grotius." It is satisfactory to learn that the author's own researches in the library of the University of Leyden confirm the accuracy of these writers. Grotius shares with Montesquieu and Rousseau the distinction of being more spoken of than read. But his "De jure belli ac pacis" should certainly be read and studied by any person who pretends to a knowledge of the history of International Law. Up to the present day the international lawyer entering upon the investigation of any topic lying within his province has taken this classical teacher as the starting point of his enquiry. It is curious that Mr. Vreeland makes no mention of Whewell's well known edition and translation. During his enforced imprisonment in the fortress of Loevestein, Grotius threw off a little book on law under the title "Introduction to the Jurisprudence of Holland," which, Mr. Vreeland says, "immediately became an authority." It was not, however, published until 1631, ten years after Grotius' escape from prison.

A brief account of a man like Grotius of many-sided genius, and of extraordinary literary activity, is necessarily superficial and, as such, unsatisfactory. It is no reflection upon Mr. Vreeland's industry or enthusiasm to say that he has not escaped this criticism. A just appreciation of the work of Grotius in any one of its many phases is a task for the specialist. For this reason the reader will learn more of the "De jure belli ac pacis" and of its author's place in the history of international law from the admirable summary given by the late Professor Westlake in his "Chapters on the Principles of International Law" than from Mr. Vreeland. But Mr. Vreeland has, at all events, furnished us with the facts of the life of Grotius in small compass, and with much incidental information of value.

It is interesting to learn that the "De jure belli ac pacis" was placed upon the Papal index very shortly after its publication. Mr. Vreeland gives the reason and the subsequent history of this inhibition.

"When the book appeared in Paris it was read by Cardinal Francis Barberin, who was residing there as legate from his uncle, Pope Urban