

Book Notices.

The Conquest of Mexico and Peru, Prefaced by the Discovery of the Pacific: An Historical Narrative Poem.

Mr. Kinahan Cornwallis, the author of this work, is well known to the reading public of America. He is a voluminous writer, and some of his works have attained considerable popularity. The present work is an attempt to popularize the study of history by presenting it in an unusual and attractive form. The attempt, no matter what degree of success may attend it, is worthy of praise. What strikes one first, on taking up the book, is its great length. It is a fair sized volume of four hundred and forty-three pages! Its great scope is no less a matter of surprise; for it is a complete history, omitting no important details, of the career of Cortez in Mexico and of Pizarro in Peru. But what surprises most of all is the boundless enthusiasm and tireless energy with which the author enters on and pursues his theme. If only the work arouses a similar interest and enthusiasm in the reader, its success and popularity, it is safe to say, will be great beyond example. But, as the author suggests in his preface, in this busy age great length in a poem is apt to frighten and repel. It would not be prudent, therefore, to attempt to predict the fate of this poem, or to assign to it its place in the Columbian literature which is now assuming such vast proportions. To the class of readers, however, that delight in rhyming chronicles, it can be recommended as something that will entertain and instruct. The writer follows closely such authorities as Robertson, Prescott and Washington Irving, and if the poetical merits of his narrative be not of the highest order, its historical value, at least, cannot be called in question.

The *American Catholic Quarterly* for April is just to hand with the following interesting table of contents: The Age of the Human Race; the High Church Untenable; Latin Hymns and English Versions; English Liberty from the Reformation to the Triumph of William of Orange; the Lately recovered apocryphal Gospel According to Peter; Archbishop Ullathorne; Notes on the Necessity of True Religion for Man; Catholic Tendency in American Literature; Madagascar and Catholic Missions; More Light on the Election of Urban VI.; Scientific Chronicles; and Book Notices.

The Messenger of the Sacred Heart for May, with excellent reading, one portion being specially devoted to the Blessed Virgin; the other to the Apostleship of Prayer. The general intention for this month for the members of the League is announced—conversion of heretics and unbelievers.

That most agreeable and well-edited College magazine, the *Owl*, has reached us, opening with a good photograph and notice of the Hon. J. J. Curran. The other principal articles are: The Greatest of Grecian Generals; the Growth of Political Liberty in Canada; Relation of Truth to Art; and English in Canada.

We regret to learn that the *Arcadia* of Montreal has ceased publication. Tasteful in its selections, dignified and masterly in its criticisms, it was ever welcome to our desk. We felt that it was doing a good work in cultivating a more extensive desire for a high class of literature.



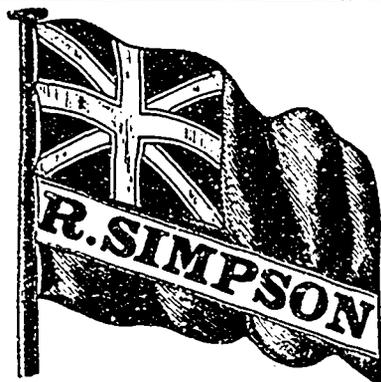
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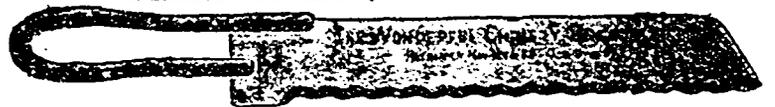
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