

at Dublin, 1547; see page 332 of a family settled in Ireland for three centuries; he was but a feeble forerunner of the glorious company which was in the eighteenth century to include Steele and Swift, Burke and Goldsmith. Stanhurst's nephew, Archbishop Ussher, is a noble representative of Anglo-Irish Churchmanship, and was also born in Dublin, 1581. Sir John Denham was born 1615 at Dublin, the son of an Irish judge, but was in no other sense an Irishman. But the Hon. Robert Boyle, born at Lismore Castle in 1627, bears the name of a great Anglo-Irish house. Roger Boyle (page 787), Earl of Cork and dramatist, was also born at Lismore. The Earl of Roscommon was Irish born, but lived most of his life out of Ireland. Tate and Brady both, as well as the dramatists Southerne and Farquhar, were Irishmen born and bred; but their work, like that of other notable Anglo-Irishmen—Swift, Toland, Steele, Parnell, and Berkeley—born before the Revolution, belongs mainly to the next period, and will be dealt with in the next volume. Of the Irish contributors to English literature before the Revolution it may be said generally that though some of them, like Ussher, thoroughly identified themselves with the land of their birth, the Irish tone and temper is rather conspicuous by its absence. The growth of that temper and the beginning of the Irish question are associated with the name of William Molyneux (died 1698), whose *Case of Ireland being bound by Acts of Parliament passed in England*, published in the same year, and burned by the order of the English House of Commons, marks him as the forerunner of Swift and Grattan.

In the English colonies in North America there was hardly any literature of consequence till about the middle of the eighteenth century. The books of travel, poems, sermons, and the like in the seventeenth century were largely the work of men and women English born, and, except for their change of residence, to all intents and purposes Britons of the native type. Captain John Smith, who told—if he did not also invent—the tale of Pocahontas, was a grown man when in 1605 he joined the Virginia expedition, spent only a small part of his life on American soil, and died in London. But his *True Relation of Occurrences in Virginia* (1608) ranks as the first book in American literature, though judged from the point of literature it has no great value. In Virginia, George Sandys

(see page 450) completed that translation of Ovid which he dedicated to King Charles I. Richard Ligon in his *History of the Barbadoes* (1657) furnished the materials out of which Richard Steele spun his famous novelette of *Inkle and Yarico*, but Ligon was a broken London merchant of sixty when in 1647 he sailed to begin life anew in the West Indies. Roger Williams, though he became heart and soul a colonial, was a Welshman, and was also thirty years of age ere he arrived (1631) on the shores where he was to found the state of Rhode Island, and to be remembered for his vehement discourse against *The Bloody Tenet of Persecution*. John Eliot, 'the apostle of the Indians,' who went to America in the same year, was four years younger when he left his native Hertfordshire. Anne Bradstreet (1612-72), 'the first professional poetess of New England,' was a woman grown ere she left her home in Old England. The works of all these authors were sent to England to be published. The *Bay Psalm Book*, printed at Cambridge in Massachusetts in 1640, was the first book in English that issued from the press in America; it was largely the production of John Eliot and of Richard Mather, a Lancashire Puritan, who emigrated to the colony in 1633, and was father of Increase Mather and grandfather of Cotton Mather.

Such were the slender beginnings of the vast and varied American literature, now one of the two great branches of literature in the English tongue. For well-nigh a century it has uttered the thoughts and feelings of a nation of marked characteristics, of strong originality, in which the English element has been the dominant constituent; and its history must be traced in another volume of this work. Written in English though English with a difference—the daughter literature in some respects rivals the parent, and has in many ways influenced, both in substance and in form, what is said and sung on the other side of the Atlantic. The people of the United States are now by far the largest section under one government of those who speak English. In America some English books find their widest circle of readers. The older English literature is by Americans justly regarded as an inheritance common to them with us; and much helpful work towards the better understanding of the English language and of the triumphs of English letters has been done by American writers and in the United States.

D. P.

END OF VOL. I.