

ness of "Bill Beresford and his Victoria Cross"; the daring risk of "An Outpost Adventure," will all be welcomed again by readers old and young, and they with the other companion sketches form a very attractive volume which only increases our indebtedness to their world-renowned author.

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTHS: Vermont: a Study of Independence. By Rowland E. Robinson. Price \$1.25. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson. 1892.

We have already commended the very excellent and useful series to which this volume belongs, and the present is an admirable addition to the histories of the States already published. Instead of the two volumes given to New York, we have one for Vermont, and it is sufficient. The story is told of the conflicts arising out of its position, surrounded as it was by Frenchmen on the north, Indians on the west and Englishmen on the south. It is a very stirring story which is told, every chapter of it, from the first chapter on "the Highway of War" to the seventeenth on the "Republic of the Green Mountains," being full of living interest. The story of the revolutionary war has been often told, yet we read these pages without weariness. To ourselves, however, some of the later chapters contain statements of greater present interest. We dip into chapter XIX., "Vermont in the War of 1812," and chapter XXI. on "Religion, Education and Temperance" with the following results:—

"The continual aggressions of Great Britain were gradually but surely tending to a declaration of war against the imperial mistress of the sea. To the impression of our seamen, the search and seizure of our vessels, the wanton attack of the *Leopard* on the *Chesapeake*, and many other outrages, was added the insult of attempting the same policy toward all New England, which for years England had pursued in the effort to draw Vermont to her allegiance." Naughty England! meditate on these things. And at the end of this chapter we read: "Peace was welcome to the nation, though the treaty was silent concerning the professed causes of the declaration of war, and the only compensation for the losses and burdens entailed by the conflict, so wretchedly conducted by our Government, was the glory of the victories gained by our little navy and undisciplined troops over England's invincible warships and armies of veterans." We should like to hear Colonel Denison's comments on this passage.

Here is a passage of universal interest from the latter chapter. Speaking of the attempts at Prohibition, the writer remarks: "Yet the fact remains that, after forty years' trial, prohibition does not prohibit, and presents the anomaly of an apparently popular law feebly and perfunctorily enforced. It is a question whether the frequent and unnoticed violations of this law, and the many abortive prosecutions under it, have not made all laws less sacredly observed, and the crime of perjury appear to the ordinary mind a merely venial sin." This is an excellent volume.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON: A Biographical Essay. By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. Price \$1.00. Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1892.

This is a very admirable piece of work, considered from the literary, historical or philanthropic point of view. Here is the problem of the book stated perfectly and charmingly in the author's Introduction: "There is sometimes a crisis in the history of a nation when a man is urgently needed to prick the national conscience on a moral question. The man need not be supremely wise after the fashion of earthly wisdom, nor supremely strong after the fashion of earthly strength. But he must be himself an impersonation of conscience. He must be perfectly free and disinterested, free not only from ambition and cupidity, but from vanity, from mere love of excitement, from self-seeking of every kind, as well as brave, energetic, persevering, and endowed with a voice which can make itself heard. Such a crisis was the ascendancy of the Slave Power in the United States, and such a man was William Lloyd Garrison. His character is interesting in its weakness as in its strength, and the contemplation of it is cheering as it shows what a fund of moral force a society sound at the core always possesses, dark as may be the apparent outlook, and how that force may be called forth, perhaps from the most unexpected quarter in the hour of need."

These are large demands and large assertions; yet they are not exaggerated. Lloyd Garrison responded to these demands, and the little book before us, which is based upon the "Story of his Life told by his Children," tells the story of what he was and what he did. Garrison was practically the originator and the life of the Liberation movement in the United States; and he lived to see the work accomplished, not indeed in the manner he had attempted, but more perfectly and completely than he had ever dreamt. Beginning as a gradual emancipator, he soon came to demand that the freedom of the slave should be immediate and universal. It was a martyr's life that he lived, although he did not die a martyr's death—sometimes, however, coming very near to it, as did his coadjutor from England, Mr. George Thompson. There are some pathetic scenes as that in which Garrison was presented with a gold watch in token of the appreciation of his work. If it had been rotten eggs or brickbats, he said he should have known what to do with them. He was

accustomed to that kind of offering, but not to gold watches! Professor Goldwin Smith points out that Garrison did not quite see all the difficulties of the Negro problem, which has not yet received its final solution.

LYRA HEROICA: A Book of Verse for Boys. Selected and Arranged by William Ernest Henley. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: Wm. Briggs. 1891. \$1.25.

To all who are at all familiar with the literary taste and work of the editor of the "Scots Observer" and the author of "Views and Reviews," this volume will be by no means disappointing. Its title suggests a subject congenial to the manly spirit and the unfettered style of its gifted editor. It requires no apology to permit Mr. Henley to speak for himself from his preface as to the object of the work. "My purpose has been to choose and sheave a certain number of those achievements in verse which as expressing the simpler sentiments and the more elemental emotions, might fitly be addressed to such boys—and men, for that matter—as are privileged to use our noble English tongue. To set forth, as only art can, the beauty and the joy of living, the beauty and the blessedness of death, the glory of battle and adventure, the nobility of devotion—to a cause, an ideal, a passion even—the dignity of resistance, the sacred quality of patriotism, that is my ambition here." For our part we must say we think Mr. Henley has given in his "Lyra Heroica" one of the brightest and best collections of songs of high incentive and valorous achievement that our language, or, for that part, any language, contains. Of course we miss old favourites. We should have preferred to have had some of Aytoun's stirring lyrics and Moore's melodious verse, and the work of others that we could name, but everyone to his taste, and where so much of good has been given it were ungracious to complain of the lack of the good withheld. From Shakespeare to Kipling opens a wide field, and the three hundred and thirty-nine pages of this "book of verse for boys" contain a collection of varied and virile verse that should warm the blood and stir the heart of every British reader be he man or boy. The nobility that breathes in the fine lines of rare Ben Jonson:—

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk doth make man better be:
A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May:
Although it fall and die that night,
It was the plant and flower of light.

The tender plaint of Cunningham:—

Hame, hame, hame, hame fain wad I be,
O hame, hame, hame, to my ain countrie!
When the flower is i' the bud and the leaf is on the tree,
The lark shall sing me hame in my ain countrie:
Hame, hame, hame, hame fain wad I be,
O hame, hame, hame, to my ain countrie!

And the stirring lines of Kipling:—

The dead dumb fog hath wrapped it—the frozen dews have kissed—
The morning stars have hailed it, a fellow star in the mist.
What is the flag of England? Ye have but my breath to dare,
Ye have but my waves to conquer. Go forth, for it is there!

appeal alike to the Race that has never been a laggard on the path of duty or the field of honour. No Canadian lad should be without this volume. The table of contents, the notes and the index, the clear type, excellent paper and convenient form, make it all that could be desired.

PROBLEMS IN GREEK HISTORY. By J. P. Mahaffy, M.A., D.D. Price \$2.50 or 7s. 6d. London and New York: Macmillan; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1892.

It is superfluous to recommend a work by Professor Mahaffy. Whether he appears the expositor and apologist of Kant or as the critic of histories and historians, his remarks are always weighty and worthy of attention. We do not even dislike his tone of self-assertion, nor altogether the cool way in which he speaks of the greatest of his predecessors being tolerably right as far as they understood their subjects. There are very few men who have a right to talk in this fashion. If there are any, Professor Mahaffy is one of them; and, whether he is or not, we enjoy hearing him.

The area covered by these essays is nothing less than the whole history of Greece and the manifold problems and difficulties which present themselves for solution in the course of that eventful record. Dr. Mahaffy differs in no small degree from his predecessors in regard to the goodness and badness of the democracy and the tyrants respectively. He never thinks quite well of the democracy, and he does not think quite badly of the tyrants. It is too large a question to be even fully stated here. It is not of much use to debate it, since everyone seems to carry back to the question of Greek history the political prepossessions of the present age. Dr. Mahaffy shows clearly how this has been done, particularly by Grote, who is nothing less than a partisan historian.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is the first on the earlier historians of Greece. Goldsmith is, of course, quite useless. He has a good word to say for Gillies, in spite of his having written in the interests of monarchy and loyalty and in the midst of the horror caused by the French Revolution. To Mitford he is a little kinder than was Dr. Freeman, who, in his cut and thrust manner, pronounced him to be a bad writer and a bad historian. The chief merit of Mitford, in the eyes of Dr. Mahaffy, however, is the fact of his having called out two "splendid refutations," the histories of Thirlwall and of Grote.

Both of these histories are of great value. Thirlwall was a great scholar, a profound thinker and an admirable writer. But Grote excels him in warmth and glow. It was impossible for a man like Thirlwall, with his judicial and well-balanced mind, to take up the work in the spirit of a partisan. It was, apparently, impossible for Grote to do it in any other spirit and manner. Grote's history will, therefore, always be the pleasantest reading; but there seems now to be a tendency to go back to Thirlwall as to a writer upon whose judgment the reader can more confidently depend. It was natural that Dr. Mahaffy should be almost contemptuous of Grote's treatment of Alexander. He has told us more than once what he thinks of the great King and of the Athenian demagogues and orators.

We recommend to special attention also the fourth chapter on the Despots and the Democracies, the fifth chapter on the Great Historians; where he plucks, with no faltering hand, some leaves from the crown of Thucydides. The eighth Chapter on Alexander the Great is of supreme interest, even if we sometimes hesitate to adopt his conclusions.

THE April number of *University Extension* has several useful and practical articles. "Class Work in University Extension" is a full and good series of directions for the difficult task of guiding a number of purely voluntary pupils through a course of lectures. There is an encouraging report from Wisconsin, a memorandum of successful classes in mathematics, and an article on the general aspects of the work. The "Notes" are full and valuable to persons wishing to keep fully informed of the condition of the scheme.

"LORD ROBERTS OF KANDAHAR" is the subject of a characteristic sketch by Archibald Forbes, which has the first place in the *English Illustrated Magazine* for April. A fine portrait of that distinguished soldier is the frontispiece of the number. "A Hampshire Moor" is a pleasant piece of descriptive writing, made vivid by the excellent illustrations of Alfred Parsons. W. E. Norris begins a new serial story entitled "A Deplorable Affair," which is but poorly illustrated. Other interesting articles will be found in this excellent number.

GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON, under the caption "Our Army," in *Blackwood's Magazine* for April, gives some startling statements with reference to that important subject. Sir Herbert Maxwell makes philology easy and attractive reading in his article on "Personal Names." The serial story "Diana" is continued in three readable chapters, and "Sketches from Eastern Travel" conducts the reader from "Shechem and Samaria" to Damascus. In short fiction there is "The Conquest of Dona Jacoba," and "Six in a Lava Flow." The African explorer, the late Colonel J. A. Grant, C.B., receives a well-merited notice, and a timely subject is treated in "The History of Small Holdings."

THE frontispiece of the *Magazine of Art* for April is an etching by Chauvel from Troyon's "The Watering-Place," which is among the happiest and most admired of this famous painter's compositions. The opening article of the number on "The Old Masters at the Royal Academy" is richly illustrated with reproductions from Rembrandt, Sir Joshua, and Constable. "The Art Treasures of the Comédie Française" is by Theodore Child, and is illustrated with views of the interior of *La Maison de Molière*. "The Royal Water Colour Society: its Rise and History" is by F. G. Stephens. "The Dixon Bequest at Bethnal Green," by W. Shaw-Sparrow, is well illustrated. Lewis F. Day writes, in a series on Artistic Homes, about "The Choice of Wall Paper." There is also a short paper on architecture "A Profession or an Art," and other good matter.

Literary Opinion for April comes to us in the first number of the new volume in improved form and make up, and opens with "Walt Whitman: A Study," by Gilbert Parker. "And though his work," says Mr. Parker, "has not been a great achievement in art, though he is a magnificent and audacious failure in the arena of emancipated form which he projected, he still has been a poet, a force, and an inspiration." Mr. Charles Whibley follows with a paper entitled "The Decadence," in which he treats upon the nerve-school of French novelists which M. Zola and his confrères, be their faults what they may, have been opposing for so long. The real decadent, however, according to this writer is not M. Verlaine or M. Kahn, but—Mr. Swinburne! "Mary Wollstonecraft" is the title of a most interesting paper from the pen of Elizabeth Lee. J. Ashcroft Noble contributes two pretty sonnets entitled "Half a Century of Love."

THE writer of the remorseless article entitled "William" in the *Contemporary Review* for April has surely placed that intellectual periodical in the same category with *Punch*, and cost its publishers a royal subscriber. It will be but sorry reading for Wilhelm II., and we might ask is it altogether fair? R. T. Reid, Q.C., M.P., tries to aid a solution of a vexed question, by his article on "Forms of Home Rule." A strong negative plea from the facts, is that of Henry Norman on "The Evacuation of Egypt." The Rev. J. Guinness Rogers argues in favour of the salutary influence of "Nonconformists in Political Life." A Russian article, is the review of de Windt's "Siberia as it Is," by F. Volkhousky. "The New Star in Auriga" receives attention from Agnes M. Clerke. In the article, "Spoken Greek, Ancient and Modern," Pro-