

and starts on a long career of fraternity. Save for a few broad tendencies, the book is religious and Christian, and its purpose and execution are pure and good. Mr. Westall's "Birch Dene" reminds one of Charles Reade. Shewing the evils of the English criminal law and the factory system in the olden time, it brings the hero from the cell in the Old Bailey where his mother died, through all sorts of trials and adventures, to the recognition of his lost father and the possession of wealth which he uses for the good of others. It is also a safe book. Froude, James Anthony Froude, is among the novelists. His "Two Chiefs of Dunboy" is a book with a purpose, that purpose being to set forth the misgovernment of Ireland in the eighteenth century, a misgovernment that consisted in winking at all manner of abuses, and in encouraging rather than quelling the lawlessness of the people. Its upright Puritan hero, Colonel Goring, whose efforts to improve the people and the country are foiled at every turn is the one chief; Morty Sullivan, the Jacobite, privateer and murderer, is the other. Colonel Goring's character, as an earnest Christian man, is well depicted. And now the review of fiction must come to a close with "Micah Clarke," by A. Conan Doyle. Like "The Two Chiefs of Dunboy," this novel is of the historical order, being an imaginary statement by Captain Micah Clarke to his grandchildren of his campaign in Monmouth's rebellion against James II. The story is well told, and displays much antiquarian erudition on the part of its author. It is also manly and wholesome in tone, and cannot fail to be of value to the reader.

In former talks I have drawn attention to the good work performed by Professor Eben Norton Horsford in the fields of American philology and archaeology. Mr. Justin Winsor, who is considered an authority in American history, having made one of the rash, sweeping dogmatic utterances for which our literary cousins are somewhat notorious, to the effect that, "though Scandinavians may have reached the shores of Labrador, the soil of the United States has not one vestige of their presence," Professor Horsford meets it in a handsome, well illustrated quarto brochure of twenty-three pages, entitled "The Problem of the Norsemen," which he has printed for private circulation. He therein claims to have discovered the actual remains of the Norse settlement in the vicinity of Boston, in the form of stone walls, a ditch, and the outlines of buildings. These Mr. Winsor regards as indications of an early attempt by Governor Winthrop to found the city of Boston, an attempt for which he has no historical authority. Professor Horsford, quoting Thevet and other authors, shows that the fort was in existence more than a century before Winthrop's time. That he has actually discovered the site of Leif Ericson's colony it may be premature to decide, but that the Norsemen did land as far south as Massachusetts, that traces of their presence may be found, and that Professor Horsford, as a scientific, studious, and painstaking investigator, is more likely than men of