

# TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE OF TODAY

UNTIL recently there was a curious dearth of trustworthy books about the continent of South America, but gradually this deficiency is being met by works of travel and research written from a practical standpoint, says the London Standard. One instance of this is the big and finely illustrated volume on "The Andes and the Amazon," written by Mr. Reginald Enock, a young engineer who has travelled widely in Peru, and has gone far from the beaten tracks. The people of Peru believe that their country is certain to make great commercial strides through the construction of the Panama canal. The through traffic from Europe and the eastern seaboard of the United States which will then be brought about will make Peru, with its fifteen hundred miles of coast and its splendid harbors, a great factor in the destinies of South America. At present the country is poor, though it already yields many staple articles to commerce, notably cotton, copper, wool, sugar, and indiarubber. Its mineral wealth is known to be great. There is no lack of gold, silver, copper and lead; and, what is equally important if mining is to proceed on an extensive scale and on modern lines, the coalfields are one of the country's most valuable assets. What is wanted at the moment is capital and energy to exploit such potential wealth, and railways to open up the land and to provide transit to the coast. This book describes every aspect of Peru, and, notably, its magnificent rivers and mountains. There are many high peaks in the Andes which have never yet been ascended, snow-capped, majestic mountains, some of which are higher than Mont Blanc. The two existing short railways which cross the Andes climb respectively fifteen and fourteen thousand feet, but the projected new railway will take advantage of a pass in the mountains which will reduce the altitude by no less than nine thousand feet. There is a great deal which is of interest to the traveller, the archaeologist, the mining expert, and the colonist in this finely illustrated and admirably written volume.

We have not for a long time come across

a more attractive book of travel of the lighter kind than Mrs. Grimshaw's lively account of a sentimental pilgrimage to the sunny islands of the Pacific. The book is called "In the Strange South Seas," and it is written with unfailing vivacity and abounds in quick witted observation and pleasant humor. Tahiti, Samoa, and other beautiful spots in the Pacific are described in these pages—always and everywhere from a woman's point of view—and in the closing pages we obtain glimpses of the wild scenery of New Zealand and the manner of life in a Maori village. The delights of living in a region of perpetual summer, remote from the strain and worry and out of the "clash and roar" of twentieth century civilization, are admirably depicted. It is possible for any one with a little capital to become monarch of all he surveys. "A planter with a fair amount of capital can realize the dream almost any day, for every big group in the Pacific has many small unoccupied islands which can be rented for a song, and if the new comer is made of stuff that can stand being totally deprived of theatres, clubs, music halls, daily posts and papers, and a good many other charms or burdens of city life, he has only to pick and choose, secure a good title to his island, decide what he means to grow on it, get his house built, and settle down at once." That sounds an attractive programme, but a good many awkward questions, no doubt, lurk in ambush. It is enough to say that Mrs. Grimshaw has a great deal that is alluring to tell about the scenery and climate of these little havens of rest in the Pacific, as well as of the manners and customs of the people. Sometimes her lively pen makes a slip, as when she scolds Coleridge for some lines he never wrote. It was Mathew Arnold who talked the "beautiful nonsense" which she cites. There are many illustrations in this pleasant, vivacious, unconventional book of travel.

Colonel Biddulph is responsible for a racy account of "The Pirates of Malabar" at a period when lawlessness was not the exception but almost the rule; at sea. He has a good word to say, all the same, for the reckless, dare-devil fellows who fitted out a sloop and went cruising on the high seas in search of

booty and adventure in the brave days of old. He even claims that Major Bonnet and Captain Kidd, and other reckless dogs of that type, were the forerunners of the men whom Hawke, Nelson and Dundonald led to victory. The pirates who infested the waters of India and imperilled sober trading ships returning from the East were a veritable menace to British trade, especially in the earlier years of the eighteenth century, and even subsequently. The book does not pretend to be a history of piracy in such quarters so much as a record of exciting adventures gathered from the archives of the East India company. The closing pages of the book describe in a realistic fashion the experiences of an Englishwoman in India two hundred years ago. It is not fiction we get in these pages, but fact, and that kind of it which is quite as enthralling as any romance.

"Egypt and Western Asia in the Light of Recent Discoveries" is a title which explains itself. It belongs to a finely illustrated volume written by two experts of the British Museum descriptive of the most important results of modern research in that part of the world. There is truth in the assertion that at no period have excavations been pursued with more energy and activity both in Egypt and Western Asia than during the few years which have elapsed since Professor Maspero wrote his scholarly and authoritative "Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient Classique," and this book chronicles the result of such spade work. Theories that held the field even twenty years ago have had to be modified in the light of the new knowledge which archaeology is continually bringing to light. The recent excavations at Susa—the Sushan of the Old Testament—have led to the discovery of a totally unsuspected epoch of ancient civilization. Memorials of the oldest historical Kings of Egypt have enabled scholars to reconstitute from material as yet unpublished the inter-relations of the early dynasties of Babylon; whilst important discoveries have also been made which throw unsuspected significance on isolated points in the later historical periods. Twelve years ago it seemed as if all traces of prehistoric Egypt had vanished, but in 1907 clues to the interpretation of ages so immeasurably remote have been ob-

tained along the desert margin of the valley of the Nile. This book gives a fascinating description in clear and lucid terms of the whole course of these wonderful excavations, and the value of the record is enhanced by reproductions of actual photographs of recovered tablets, tombs, and sculptured stones.

Italy, to any one at all touched by the poetry of association, or responsive to the spirit of romance, is one of the most attractive countries in the world. "Tuscan Feasts and Tuscan Friends" captures for English readers much of the beauty of rural life in that delectable and picturesque part of the Peninsula. It is written by a lady who was fortunate enough to possess a villa not far from Florence, and in her company we are taken to fairs and festivals which throw into relief all that is most typical in the life of the peasantry. We see, in short, Italian provincial society against the background of Italian scenery, and as we read, the Tuscan hills and the social customs and traditions which linger in the villages around them come into view and make their own appeal in favor of the quiet life, unspoiled by modern change, unweaved by the rush and noise of cities.

The sentimental mood is uppermost also, though in a more labored and affected manner, in Mr. Miltoin's account of the "Castles and Chateaux of Old Touraine." There is a good deal of information in the volume, and the subject, of course, to all who know the romantic charm of the district of the Loire, is fascinating. But the book is indifferently written, and the best thing about it is not the text, but the drawings by Miss Brance Manus. These illustrations, catch, with uncommon success, the dreamy beauty of great historic houses like Chenonceaux, the Chateau de Blois, the Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau, and other places which have played their part in the far-off centuries in the making of France. We do not desire to be churlish in regard to the accompanying text; it contains many interesting facts, but it is written without a touch of distinction and with small imagination, and these are the qualities which, next to knowledge, are imperative in any survey of buildings that demand, and, indeed, might well kindle them.

It is an excellent idea to devote a series of books to the countries of South America, and

an admirable start is made with it under the capable editorial control of Major Martin Hume, with Mr. Scott Elliot's monograph on Chile. He writes with exceptional knowledge, and describes the history and development of the country, its government and administration, its natural features and products, its statistics of the utmost value, and the picture—we are not prepared to say it is a highly colored—is certainly attractive. The country is peaceful, self-respecting, and patriotic; it is far ahead of most South American republics, and to a passing traveler it is just as safe as any country in Europe. It is very difficult to describe the charm which Chile exercises over leisurely travelers and most residents. There is the ineffable delight of being, obviously and in practice, one of the upper classes. There is a liberty and freedom to which in aged nations one is quite unaccustomed. The sunshine and the invigorating air no doubt account for much, but certainly the Chilean people themselves are largely responsible for the indefinite attraction which every one experiences in the England of the Pacific.

At first sight it seems a superfluous, and even a hopeless, task to write a book with any claim to freshness on "Florence and the Cities of Northern Tuscany"; but, for all that, Mr. Edward Hutton has succeeded, and largely by virtue of a certain distinction of style linked to an individual point of view. He has gathered into this short volume the spoils of a good deal of reading, but he has never allowed the critical note, whether in regard to churches or art treasures, to grow tedious, much less oppressive. We wander with him through the great galleries of Florence, and linger in the quaint nooks of Pistoia, Vallombrosa, Prato, Pistoia, Lucca, Livorno, Pisa, and Carrara, and feel the delight which comes to strangers in historic places who have at their elbow an intelligent, sympathetic, but never intrusive or too loquacious a guide. The pictures—some of them charming sketches in color and others reproductions of photographs—heighten the appeal of an attractive and well written book, filled with the kind of information, exceedingly well set forth, which the man to whom time is important desires to possess.

## Modern Literary Tendency

HE reported falling off, within the last few years, of the sales of books, and especially of fiction, has suggested as an explanation the theory that the actual happenings of the world during the past three or four years have been so dramatic, and have borne a personal relation to so many people, that the emphasis of interest has been transferred from books to life; and that people have become so absorbed in what is going on from day to day that, temporarily, they are not reading as many books as formerly.

The New York Outlook, therefore, asked several writers to express their views on this subject, in reply to a question thus formulated: "Is it not possible that in periods of such intense activity the daily story of fact may take the place, to a certain extent, of the serial story of imagination? Is it not possible that there may be, at times, a rivalry in this sense between literature and life?"

The writer who kept most to the point was Mr. J. T. Trowbridge. He does not admit the falling off in the reading of current fiction. It is always "out" at the library, while the standard works are "in." But he makes a most interesting defence of the case for the newspaper. He says:—

### The Consolation of the Newspaper

"I confess that it gives me a sympathetic pleasure to see some spectacled dame appear at her sitting-room window, as I pass in the afternoon, unfold her evening paper just picked up from the doorstep, and settle down serenely to the consolation it unfailingly affords. What a relief to her lonely hours is the coming of this constant gossiping visitor! It is a yet more touching spectacle to chance upon a bright young girl reading aloud, to her rapt and placid grandfather, the columns which even with the help of lenses he finds it painful to peruse. How pleasantly spent the hour for both! If only these columns were filled with things always worth telling and always well told, and were not so largely taken up with everyday accidents, suicides, shootings, divorces, criminal trials, not only profitless to fill the mind, particularly the mind of that fair young girl, but too frequently related in an execrable newspaper style of mingled slang and fustian, which the vulgar admire, but which makes the judicious grieve!

### We Look for Life

"It is life we are ever looking for and are curious about, whether in fact or fiction, in the most ancient history or in the happenings of today. The world was never so interesting as it is in this era of electric communication, of scientific discovery and industrial enterprise, of amazing human activity in so many hitherto unimagined fields. The records of the past are indeed priceless, but what is occurring in this most wondrous age, here and now, concerns us more than what befell the Romans or

Greeks or Hebrews thousands of years ago; a knowledge of the past having value for us chiefly in accounting for and interpreting the present.

"It naturally follows that—as the Outlook suggests—the reading public is turning more and more to the history of the day's doings. This tendency has been met half-way by a class of periodicals that are to the newspaper what the arch is to the colonnade; they complete and crown the whole. The experience of an elderly friend of mine will illustrate my meaning. He does not spend very much time over the daily paper, but looks it through for matters of immediate importance, trusting to the aforesaid periodicals to round out the information he requires.

"I notice on his table such weeklies as the Outlook, the Independent, the Nation, the Spectator of London, and such monthlies as the World's Work, the Review of Reviews, Popular Science, and Current Literature, and he tells me that he relies on these to give compactness and proportion to what the daily press presents in the rough, to sift out what is trivial, and to supply whatever of importance he may elsewhere have missed. They, moreover, develop an endless variety of subjects of world-wide interest which it is hardly within the province of the daily paper to treat. He reads no magazine through, not even the best—for life is short—but, with quick, experienced eye, he scans the pages and the pictures for such matters as concern him most; recognizing the fact that not everything in the most judiciously edited monthly or weekly has value alike for all readers.

### How to Keep Well Informed

"He who for a similar purpose chooses two or three such periodicals as those named (two or three are better than one, for variety of topics and comparison of points of view) can depend upon their keeping him well informed as to what is happening in all quarters of the known globe—in Russia, India, Korea, at Paris and the Vatican, at St. Petersburg and The Hague; what progress is making in world projects, social and religious movements, in politics, science, literature, adventure; and he will be guided as to the direction in which he can best seek further enlightenment on any special subject. Some such method of keeping abreast with contemporary events may be safely commended, not, however, to the neglect of the reading of good books, new or old, but as supplementary to it."

"The truth seems to be that the very best literature is simply a transcript of human life, whether shown in its highest or its lowest forms," wrote Mr. T. W. Higginson. "As we grow old enough to choose our paths, each finds himself already inclosed in a network of events and influence one-tenth public and nine-tenths private in its origin. By middle life, or much sooner, everyone who has come much in contact with the world knows secrets

of human life which would convulse the whole circle around him, if correctly told. The simple facts would easily eclipse all the novels, if the very complications of the tale did not forbid its telling.

### DOWN TO DEATH

If the severity of a panic can be measured by the number of suicides following in its wake, the present Wall Street collapse must be accounted as one of the most grievous in the history of finance. Hardly a day passes without adding at least one to the long list of panic victims driven to self-destruction. In many, if not most, instances, these seekers of oblivion are bankers who have used or have permitted others to use depositors' funds for speculative purposes. The self-inflicted punishment of death, so common, not to say general in such cases, does not seem to deter criminal bank officials from following each other in the same monotonous round of dereliction, betrayal of trust and embezzlement, ending in ruin, disgrace, and the grave. The theory that heavy penalties tend to prevent the commission of crimes seems to be invalidated by the dreadful succession of self-murders occurring during periods of financial disturbance.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

### KEEP THE DOLLAR HUSTLING

Keep the dollar at work! Every man with a dollar contributes so much to his own security and the country's strength when he lets his dollar work. It is useless when hoarded. It is so much strength withdrawn from the body politic. The working dollar is the only one that has value. When it is in the bank it works, and gives rise to more work. When it is hoarded it is idle, and has only the value of waste paper, or metal scrap. Keep it working.—Boston Herald.

### President Roosevelt and the Coinage

"From ministers' meetings, including the Protestant Episcopal diocesan convention of New York, and from individuals in many parts of the United States, protests have been sent to the president against dropping the words 'In God we trust' from the new gold eagle," says the Literary Digest. In a letter on the subject Mr. Roosevelt explains that "my own feeling in the matter is due to my very firm conviction that to put such a motto on coins, or to use it in any kindred manner, not only does no good, but does positive harm, and is in effect irreverence which comes dangerously close to the sacrilegious. A beautiful and solemn sentence such as the one in question should be treated and uttered only with that fine reverence which necessarily implies a certain exaltation of spirit; and any use which tends to cheapen it, and above all, any use which tends to secure its being treated with a spirit of levity, is from every standpoint profoundly to be regretted."

## Social Happiness of Future

HE World's Calendar was altered by an event which took place on that first Christmas Day, 1908 years ago, and men are wont as Christmas comes round to measure up the progress they have made and to look out on the future and to repeat the world-old question—Whither? and How?

Men at these seasons contrast the ideal and the real; the possible and the actual; men as they are and men as they might be. They seek to discover how far the spiritual tide has risen, or whether it is ebbing to the sea. They yearn to know whether it is easier for men to live and to realize themselves, or whether life has added burdens. Who shall tell us these things? By what measure shall they be measured?

### The New Spirit Abroad

No one can doubt that there is a quickening spirit abroad among the peoples of the world, which cannot leave things unchanged, and this implies that there has been growth, and that the growth has been in the self-consciousness of the mass of the people. The great problems that lie in the lap of history are those which concern the many rather than the few. And therefore no Christmas has ever come when the right leadership of the people and of public opinion was of more importance than it is at this Christmas of 1907.

Christmas is not generally devoted to the study of economics, but here we propose to summarise some of the arresting conclusions to which Professor Alfred Marshall has come with regard to the problems of the hour. This distinguished economist, who is Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge university, is one of the most enlightened observers of social phenomena. A new edition of his "Principles of Economics" has just been published (Macmillan & Co., 12s. 6d. net), and a careful study of this extraordinarily interesting volume will give to those who care for the well-being of society some real answers to the probing questions which the turn of the year suggests.

### If Men Were Perfectly Virtuous

It is certain that Professor Marshall is no pessimist. "In every age," he says, "poets and social reformers have tried to stimulate the people of their own time to a nobler life by enchanting stories of the virtues of the heroes of old. But neither the records of history nor the contemporary observation of backward races, when carefully studied, give any support to the doctrine that man is on the whole harder and harsher than he was, or that he was ever more willing than he is now to sacrifice his own happiness for the benefit of others in cases where custom and law have left him free to choose his own course."

"In a world in which all men were perfectly

virtuous," he points out, "competition would be out of place; but so also would be private property and every form of private right. Men would think only of their duties; and no one would desire to have a larger share of the comforts and luxuries of life than his neighbors. Strong producers could easily bear a touch of hardship; so they would wish that their weaker neighbors, while producing less, should consume more. Happy in this thought, they would work for the general good with all the energy, the inventiveness, and the eager initiative that belonged to them; and mankind would be victorious in contests with nature at every turn. Such is the Golden Age to which poets and dreamers may look forward. But in the responsible conduct of affairs it is worse than folly to ignore the imperfections which still cling to human nature."

"No doubt," adds the Professor, "men even now are capable of much more unselfish service than they generally render; and the supreme aim of the economist is to discover how this latent social asset can be developed most quickly and turned to account most wisely. But he must not decry competition in general, without analysis; he is bound to retain a neutral attitude towards any particular manifestation of it until he is sure that human nature being what it is, the restraint of competition would not be more anti-social in its working than the competition itself."

### A Study of Man

In pointing out that economics is not only a study of wealth but a study of man, Professor Marshall says that "man's character has been moulded by his everyday work and the material resources which he thereby procures more than by any other influence, unless it be that of his religious ideals, and the two great forming agencies in the world's history have been the religious and the economic. . . . Religious motives are more intense than economic; but their direct action seldom extends over so large a part of life. For the business by which a person earns his livelihood generally fills his thought during by far the greater part of those hours in which his mind is at its best; during them his character is being formed by the way in which he uses his faculties in his work, by the thoughts and the feelings which it suggests, and by his relations to his associates in work, his employers, or his employees. And very often the influence exerted on a person's character by the amount of his income is hardly less, if it is less, than that exerted by the way in which it is earned."

### How Poverty Deadens Higher Faculties

Professor Marshall is keenly alive to the evil conditions in which too many people live, and he is optimist enough to ask: "May we not outgrow the belief that poverty is necessary?" Here are some of his statements which present social conditions and their effects:

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