

THE WEEK.

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FACTS AND MR. FROUDE.

An article in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century* by a New Zealander on Mr. Froude's "Oceana," raised our opinion of Mr. Froude's honesty as a historian. Before we read it, our charity had been sorely tasked in trying to believe that the misrepresentations, perversions, suppressions, and misquotations with which his history swarms were nothing worse than blunders. Especially was this the case when the sufferers by his peculiar habits were the objects of his antipathy, such as the Catholic martyrs, or Mary Queen of Scots. But to take the more lenient view of the case becomes much easier when we find that Mr. Froude is capable of the most extraordinary misstatements with regard to things which are actually before his eyes, and which he had no assignable motive for misrepresenting. "The broad Murray," says Mr. Froude in "Oceana," "falls into the sea at no great distance to the westward of Adelaide." "The Murray," replies the Australasian, "reaches the sea sixty miles to the eastward of Adelaide, and when Mr. Froude was there its mouth had been blocked by sand for two months." "Port Adelaide," says Mr. Froude, "was full of ships, great steamers, great liners, coasting schooners, ships of all sorts." "Port Adelaide," replies the Australasian, is not accessible by large vessels; the ocean steamers lie many miles off." In the port Mr. Froude saw "a frigate newly painted," which he avers was described to him with a growl by a port official as the harbour defence ship, for which the British Government made the colony pay £25,000 a year. But the Australasian declares that there is not, and never was, a frigate at Port Adelaide. The climax, however, is capped by this:

We rose slightly from the sea, and at the end of seven miles we saw below us in a basin, with a river winding through it, a city (Adelaide) of a hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, not one of whom has ever known, or will know, a moment's anxiety as to the recurring regularity of his three meals a day.

Now the Australasian declares (1) that Adelaide is not in a basin, but on the highest land in the neighbourhood; (2) that there is no river winding through it, the little river Torrens having been long since dammed up and converted into a lake in the park lands; (3) that the population, with all the suburbs, never exceeded 75,000; and (4) that at the time of Mr. Froude's visit great numbers were leaving daily, starved out by the failure of the harvest, the drought, and the commercial depression. After this, we feel little surprise on learning that Mr. Froude gives the most ludicrously false descriptions of Australian birds and their habits, or that he fancies that the Colonists are forbidden to fly the British flag when a Colonist sees it flying all round him every day. The worst of Mr. Froude is his utter callousness to exposure. When his statements are disproved, as they have over and over again been, he simply takes no notice, but trusts, as he too safely may, to the attractiveness of his style and the ignorance of the public. Some day, it is to be hoped, his huge romance

will be set aside by a true history of the Reformation period. In the meantime, let those who read his aspersions on the memory of More, Fisher, and Pole, or his worse than malignant version of the story of the hapless Queen of Scots, bear in mind how he has treated the River Murray and the Port and City of Adelaide. Perhaps the same measure of justice may be due to the shade of Carlyle.

MR. BLAINE'S "TWENTY YEARS OF CONGRESS."

THE second volume of Mr. Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress" is, like the first volume, an interesting and important book. There is no doubt about Mr. Blaine's ability, whatever may be thought as to his integrity. He has not much literary power, his narrative is not well constructed, nor is there any grace in his style; but he writes sufficiently well, and an account of important events by one who has taken part in them never fails to have great value. The volume extends from the close of the Civil War to the death of Garfield, and its principal subject is Reconstruction. In dealing with this, and with the struggle between President Andrew Johnson and Congress, he shows not only intimate knowledge of events and a sagacious judgment, but as much impartiality as could be expected from a party leader. On questions of party strategy he is of course a first-rate authority. The political aspirant may glean from him much wisdom. His remarks on character are also often very shrewd. No doubt he is right in attributing Andrew Johnson's conduct largely to the feeling of social deference which lurked in the Tennessean tailor's heart toward the slave-owning grandees of his native State. The portrait of Ben Butler is a good specimen of Mr. Blaine's power. It is, however, very apparent in certain portions of the volume that Mr. Blaine is a party politician and a candidate for the Presidency. He rails at England with the recklessness of truth and justice inspired by a very strong and very patent desire of the Irish vote. His pretended delineations of the characters of Karl Schurtz, the leader of the "Mugwumps," and of Mr. Bayard, are simply bitter and slanderous attacks on honourable opponents. The attempt to create prejudice against Karl Schurtz as a foreigner is utterly mean; and not less mean is the attempt to revive, in the case of Mr. Bayard, the prejudice created by a speech made twenty-five years ago against coercion of the South. Is hatred of civil war so criminal a feeling that a man whose patriotism is as unquestionable as his integrity should be hounded down through his whole life for having expressed it? When Mr. Blaine assails the character of Mr. Bayard he provokes a comparison by no means to his own advantage.

WE are not concerned to defend the acts of Lord Salisbury and the Southern Club, for which England paid dearly in the end. But it was perfectly natural that sentiment in England should be divided, as it was in the United States themselves, and that while the British democracy sympathised, as they did, with the democracy of the North, the British aristocracy should sympathise with the aristocracy of the South. It was natural also that the constant denunciation and bullying of England by the Americans, and especially their irritating obstruction of British efforts to put down slavery and the slave trade, should have left a bad impression on the minds of Englishmen generally, and that the English people should not be distinctly aware that the Government, of the conduct and language of which they had reason to complain, had been in the hands of Southern, not of Northern, statesmen. Of the assertion that the North had taken up arms against slavery and, for that reason, was entitled to the sympathy of the great emancipating nation, the refutation is to be found in Mr. Blaine's first volume, where it is clearly set forth that the Legislature was ready to grant increased securities to slavery if the South would have come back into the Union. So far was the House of Commons from being inclined to intervention that no motion in favour of it was ever carried to a division, while the Government steadfastly resisted the solicitations of the French Emperor. Mr. Blaine has undertaken the charitable work of collecting all the utterances of British statesmen or notables at the time of the war which he thinks calculated to revive ill-feeling. Among them he includes those of such men as Lord Campbell, Lord Donoughmore, Alderman Rose, and Mr. Bentinck, whose opinions were of no more significance than that of anybody on the street. The fact that the mass of the people, as soon as it understood the case, sided