

A SAILOR'S SONG.

OUR gallant barque glides swiftly on,
The crested waves are all a lee;
And every hour that dies away
But brings me closer love to thee.

The crescent moon that gleams above,
And silvers all the heaving sea,
Speaks to my heart of love and hope
As onward still I speed to thee.

The sailor answers from his post,
Each hail I send him, loud and free,
"All's well," he cries, "all's well," say I,
For I am flying on to thee.

The night is past; the grey clouds burst;
The sun shines out; the land I see,—
Glad leaps my heart, the end is near,
My arms are open wide for thee.

The pier is reached, the voyage o'er,
Blow wind, rock ship, beat on oh! sea,
No more thy wild alarms I fear,
My love is waiting here for me!

A. D. STEWART.

THE GENESIS OF THE UNITED STATES.*

THESE magnificent volumes are another welcome evidence of the resolution of the American people that no part of their early history which can by any means be recovered shall be allowed to perish. Hardly has the monumental work of Mr. Justin Winsor, dealing with the whole extent of American history been brought to a completion, when this worthy successor, dealing much more minutely with a limited portion of the same, has followed from the office of the same publisher. Those who possess the larger work will gladly embrace the opportunity of adding to their collection of historical material; and many who may feel less interest in other parts of the eventful narrative will be glad to know all that can be known of a period which must be called, in the highest sense, critical, since it greatly determined the future occupancy of the Western continent.

As will be seen from the contents of the title page given below, these documents extend from the year 1605, just after the accession of King James I., down to the year 1616, or four years before the landing of the pilgrim fathers. It will, therefore, be apparent that these volumes deal with a period which is perhaps the least known of any part of the early history of the American settlement. Every one knows something of the original explorers, every one has heard the story of the Puritan immigrants of New England; but few indeed have any knowledge whatever of the few critical years in which it was being determined that not the Spaniard but the Englishman was to be the maker of the future in North America.

As the editor remarks, "this was the period of 'the first foundation' . . . It saw the greatest difficulties overcome, and it closed with the inevitable establishment of the English race on American soil. It was the crucial period of English occupancy of North America; if the enterprise had then resulted in failure the United States would not now be in existence . . . We have long been 'a great nation,' and yet a full and fair account of our very beginning has never been accessible to us. The object of this work is to supply (at least in part) this national deficiency."

As regards the need there can be no question. It is a period, as we have said, almost entirely unknown to the general reader, and the information here supplied is of the most satisfactory character in itself and in the manner of its presentation. The editor's method is first to give an introductory sketch of what had been done by Englishmen in the way of discovery and colonization prior to 1606, "for the purpose of showing the motives and the guides which governed the Virginia companies when they first undertook to plant colonies in America." This task is accomplished by the presentation of documents of all kinds, letters, pamphlets, broadsides and sermons, printed at the time to which they refer. These documents are drawn from many sources, from the records of the Virginia companies, from the Spanish archives, from the library of the British Museum and from every other available quarter.

These documents are of various degrees of interest, and some of them will be attractive only to the Dryasdust; but they are all of importance to the subject in hand, and Mr. Brown has done all that is necessary to make them intelligible by historical introductions and illustrative notes. Any one who will carefully follow the thread on which all the incidents here recorded are hung, will not only understand the grimness of the struggle, sometimes almost silent, sometimes otherwise, which was going on between the two nations who were contending for this great possession. Naturally the principal interest of the period

* The Genesis of the United States: a narrative of the movement in England, 1605-1616, which resulted in the plantation of North America by Englishmen, disclosing the contest between England and Spain for the possession of the soil now occupied by the United States of America, set forth through a series of historical manuscripts now first printed, together with a reissue of rare contemporaneous tracts, accompanied by Biblical memoranda, notes and brief biographies; collected, arranged and edited by Alexander Brown, with 100 portraits, maps and plans; two volumes. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1890.

centres in Virginia, but towards the end it moves toward New England.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the work of the editor. Mr. Brown has competent knowledge and ability for the work, he has spared no pains in accumulating material, and he has supplied every need in his notes and biographies, whilst he has given the most necessary element of completeness in a very full index. The copies of old maps and the photograph portraits add greatly to the value of the book.

ART NOTES.

MR. BURNE-JONES has lately been turning his attention to the Australian wombat as a subject for his brush. Three of the famous artist's sketches, in one frame, were sold the other day for 3*l*. The wombat is made to appear somewhat larger than an elephant, with a perfectly round head, one eye, and neither mouth, ears, trunk nor tail. In the first sketch, "The Wombat's Lair," the creatures are represented lying on their backs, evidently enjoying the inspiring zephyrs of the Antipodean gum forest. In the second, "The Wombat's Adventure," one animal is seen running away from the Pyramids; and in the third, "The Wombats Saved," a pair are represented walking along a plank into the Ark. Mr. Burne-Jones has succeeded in getting some genuine humour into the sketches.

Two noteworthy auction sales of collections are to take place in New York City this winter. George I. Seney's pictures will be sold at the American art galleries in February, and immediately following will come to the same place the great collections of Brayton Ives, who has been noted for giving the highest prices for anything he wanted in the course of several years past. Mr. Ives has been well advised in his buying, and whether it be porcelains, ivories, bronzes, Japanese art or pictures, the collectors have had reason to respect the judgment that has governed his purchases. This is especially the case with books and manuscripts, which are numerous and exceedingly valuable, many of them intrinsically so. His collection of Americana is extremely large, and contains rare treasures. Mr. Ives' collection is valued at half a million dollars, and is unquestionably worth it.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

MR. EDWARD FISHER, the eminently successful conductor of the Toronto Choral Society, has retired from that position. He is succeeded by Signor D'Auria, who is acknowledged by competent authority to be one of the most efficient conductors on this continent. Under his direction excellent work by this popular musical association may be confidently expected.

THE Toronto Vocal Society gave their first concert of the season in the Pavilion on the evening of the 22nd inst. The auditorium was filled by a representative Toronto audience. It is evident that this city is becoming a musical centre, and it may be taken for granted that real merit will no longer have occasion to complain of neglect. The fine performance of the Vocal Society was heartily appreciated. The opening number of the programme "God Save Canada," a new composition, was spirit-stirring and was well received. Then came a five-part song "The Rose," which was a fine illustration of the effective manner in which the training of the singers has been accomplished. The madrigal "Love's a Rogue" was given with excellent effect. No less charming was the four part-song, "Madeleine." Saint Saens' "To the Night" was brought out with appropriate beauty and force. Of Franz Abt's "Ave Maria" it can be said that the effect was rich and impressive. "The Miller's Wooing" was given in a bright and cheery fashion befitting the theme. The second part opened with a pretty lyric "You'll Never Guess," which was sung with a light and airy gracefulness. "Annie Laurie," according to Dudley Buck's arrangement, was effectively given by the gentlemen of the Society and was vigorously encored. "Uncertain Light," from Schumann, gave fine scope for effective treatment. "The Pilgrims," a four part-song, was rendered with admirable taste, and tender feeling. The closing number "A Spring Song" from Pinsuta, found a buoyant and joyous expression. The vocalist of the occasion was Mrs. Julie E. Wyman, of Boston, whose rich and finely-modulated voice evoked close and sympathetic listening. She gave an aria from Gounod's "Queen of Sheba" with fine effect, and at a later stage she sang three songs, the first "Twas April," the second "Midi au Village," and the third "Herzensfruellung," and in response to an encore she gave very sweetly "Bonne Nuit." The Society are to be congratulated on having been able to secure the services of Fraulein Adele Aus-der-Ohe as pianiste. Her marvellous perfection is the outcome of unmistakable musical genius. Her playing is of unusual excellence. She gave as her first number a nocturne, followed by a ballade, both by Chopin. They were rendered with exquisite beauty and sweetness. As an interpreter of Liszt, it may without exaggeration be said that she is unequalled. The selection she gave was "Tarantelle de Bravura," which was received with enthusiastic delight, and was encored with a persistency that would take no denial. The success of the first concert of the season will ensure to the Toronto Vocal Society, whenever they give another, a cordial welcome from the music-loving public of Toronto.

know of the sale of such a farm of fifty acres, with fair buildings, well supplied with water and fuel, at fifty-two dollars. What a paradise for the Henry George theorists!

4. Outside of the large towns and business centres the population is stationary or dwindling with greater or less rapidity, according as the district in question is more or less exclusively rural. Then the percentage of young people and children is much smaller than fifty years ago. The old-fashioned large families are the rare exception, and the young folks are early drawn away from the old homestead. In my native town the school districts have been reduced from twenty-one to eleven, and many of these enlarged districts have only a half or fourth the pupils of the original divisions. The real decline of the native stock is greater than the decrease in numbers would indicate, for there is a decided increase in the foreign element, which, with all its virtues, is not qualified to strengthen and perpetuate the old New England type of character and spirit. Nor is this state of things confined to a few obscure places among the mountains, for some of the historic towns founded by the Puritans are undergoing the same process of decline or change of population. Many of the large towns, deprived of the former stream of recruits from the country, are fast changing from Anglo-Saxon to Celtic, and from Protestant to Catholic.

5. In the last thirty years the colleges have been strengthened in endowments and appliances, and are doing a better and wider work than formerly; the larger towns have excellent high schools, and the well-endowed academies are strong and well attended. But, with the rural districts far removed from these advantages, there is no provision for secondary education. The ungraded district school, with its brief school term, is the beginning and the end of local opportunities. The unendowed academies of forty years ago, then filled with young people, are dead and have left no successors. It is true, some young people resort to the high schools and endowed academies, but secondary education here is far less general than in the former time, while many are lost to the college and higher education whom a good local academy of the old type would stimulate to an extended course of study. In one of the most picturesque districts of New Hampshire is an endowed academy that thirty-five years ago had an annual attendance of more than four hundred, and sent to college each year thirty boys, to say nothing of a dozen girls as well and widely trained for whom no college opened its doors. The same school has less than one-fourth the old number of students and graduates. It is fair to say that the decadence of this school is partly due to the larger advantages offered by better equipped rivals, but the main cause of decline is the dearth of young people in its natural region of supply, and the diminished interest in higher education.

6. Many churches have dwindled into insignificance, or have been blotted out altogether, owing to deaths and removals, with no corresponding additions. In scores of towns houses of worship are closed, to all appearance finally, or are used for non-religious purposes, while others are in the hands of Catholics, or are too far gone to decay for occupancy of any sort. In many towns enough church members in substantial doctrinal accord might be found to form one strong and influential church but for minor points of doctrine and practice, and so, divided, they live at a dying rate, of little consequence to their adherents or the community. The whole truth would not be told if it were not added that this religious desolation is also largely due to lack of sufficient interest on the part of members and outsiders to support church work and attend religious services. Not that the faith of the fathers is repudiated for newer or more liberal ideas, but that apathy on the whole subject is often the prevalent spirit. The home mission societies regard some of these towns in as much need of missionary work as the rudest frontier settlements.

7. I am told by persons who have spent their lives in these rural towns that there is a decline in public spirit, and a visible growing away from the pure democracy characteristic of primitive New England. For example, the old school district is no longer a body politic in New Hampshire. A town committee manages all school affairs.

All the statements of this paper are particularly applicable to the large extent of rougher hill country of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, but in a lesser degree and with various modifications, to other districts remote from large towns. It is possible that some of these conditions may be improved when industry and population are rearranged and adapted to the changed circumstances, but I cannot escape the conviction that the decline is permanent. Even if the late movement to attract Swedish immigrants to these abandoned farms is successful, neither we nor our successors will see here again a rural community of the old type—keen, active, intelligent, sturdy, and independent, of strong moral and religious fibre, an unrivalled capacity for popular government, and an inborn and inbred taste for hard work, plain living, and high thinking.—Professor Amos N. Cutter, in *Popular Science Monthly*.

The victory of success is half won when one gains the habit of work.—Sarah K. Bolton.

ANGER is like a ruin which, in falling on its victims, breaks itself to pieces.—Seneca.

The power of fortune is confessed only by the miserable; for the happy impute all their success to prudence and virtue.—Swift.