

ited. A memoir of Dr. Street and the editor's preface give some account of the pains that have been taken to make the history complete and accurate and the illustrations varied and interesting. French explorations, Jesuit settlements, the visits of the Indians who were the earliest settlers to use the island as a summer resort, the warfare between New England and New France, the coming of Tory proprietors,—all make romantic chapters, full of lively interest. With the division of the island into townships, a more prosaic era begins; but Dr. Street has managed to find material for two readable chapters dealing respectively with the life of the farmers and fishermen whose peaceful ownership of the islands was disturbed by the advent of the summer colonies, and with the island's churches. The rapid development of the various summer resorts, from the simple beginnings of the sixties and seventies, is briefly chronicled. The whole history is simply and interestingly told, and is attractively illustrated with artistic views of island scenery and with portraits of explorers as old settlers. There is also an excellent map.

*In the world
of Chaucer's
pilgrims.*

In "The Canterbury Pilgrimages" (Lippincott) Mr. H. Snowden Ward has sought to accomplish a double purpose: first, to discuss the history of the martyrdom and cult of St. Thomas of Canterbury; secondly, to describe the pilgrims to his shrine and the routes taken by them. His first task is performed in about a third of the book. The volume contains little that is new; but the author tells well the tragic story of Becket, and portrays vividly the pilgrims to his shrine and their diversions, in the form of a running commentary on the Prologue and the framework of the "Canterbury Tales." Some of the etymologies and translations are open to question (e. g., *thumb of gold*, p. 182; *yeddings*, p. 194); also, may Chaucer be said to have written "an astrolabe" (p. 147)? A large number of good illustrations much enhance the value of the book, which will doubtless serve to make the world of Chaucer's pilgrims more real, especially to the younger readers of to-day.

*A romantic
island history.*

Frequenter of Mount Desert, who know it only as a cool and salubrious summer resort on the Atlantic coast, will enjoy reading its quaint traditions and stirring history in the volume entitled "Mount Desert: A History" (Houghton), for which Dr. George E. Street gathered the material, and which, since Dr. Street's death, another enthusiastic Mount Deserter has ed-