

the high wages which have been paid to American labor now referred to as the great argument for the protective tariff.

Almost Fourteen, by Mortimer A. Warren, is a small book dealing with a great subject. It is an attempt to convey, or to aid parents in conveying, to boys and girls the knowledge of those fundamental facts relating to the physical nature which the author rightly regards as a matter of prime importance for both physical and moral health. He has prepared this book with the hope that it will forestall the underground and illegitimate ways in which this knowledge is often conveyed, to the lasting detriment of the purity and health of the child. Those who believe that these matters should not be discussed with children will find nothing to commend in this book. Those, on the other hand, who believe that there is nothing concerning which more judicious and thorough education is essential than the matter of sexual health and purity will regard this book as an honest attempt to serve a very high purpose. In that spirit we interpret it. Nothing but a false sentimentality, ignorance of the most important functions of life, or radical misconception of their dignity and nobility, can explain the attitude of those who would keep these great mysteries out of the field of intelligent study and instruction. No one who reads this book dispassionately can question for a moment the purity of spirit in which it is written. Its defects arise from the fact that the man who wrote it does not understand how generally these matters are regarded from a morbid and unhealthy standpoint, and how difficult it is for people to look at them with absolute purity of vision. The book shows marked defects of taste in the introduction of incidents, by way of illustration, which ought to have no place in such a volume. It was a mistake, too, in our judgment, to go so much into physiological detail. There is no necessity for this kind of detailed instruction in such a book. The essential thing in conveying these facts is not to destroy the mystery which surrounds them by dwelling upon them too much in detail. If they are conveyed in large outline and with constant reference to their universality throughout nature, their spiritual significance is more likely to be preserved than if they are conveyed in too great detail. There are things in this book which, from their very frankness, would shock the instinct of children. It was also a mistake to introduce pictures. If these defects of judgment and taste are remedied, as we hope they will be in a future edition, this little book is calculated to serve a noble purpose. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.)

State Papers and Speeches on the Tariff. With an Introduction by Professor Taussig. (Published by Harvard University.) To all students of the history of American taxation this volume is one of exceptional value. It contains Alexander Hamilton's "Report on Manufactures" in 1801; Gallatin's "Memorial of the Free-Trade Convention" in 1831; Walker's "Treasury Report" of 1845; and the great speeches of Clay and Webster on the tariff question in 1824. The papers could not have been better selected. They present with much compactness and no miscoloring the history of the tariff discussion in this country down to the Civil War. It is a history which throws a clear and strong light on the discussions of the present day. In some respects the contentions of protectionists are to-day the exact opposite of their contentions in the times of Hamilton and Clay. Then it was protection of infant industries, now it is protection of established industries; then the argument was that the United States must have protection because England had protection, now the argument is more nearly that the United States must have protection because England has free trade; then the argument was that we must have protection in spite of the high wages of American labor, now the argument is that we have high wages for American labor because we have protection. This last point is worth illustrating. Mr. Clay said in his speech of 1824 that the cost of labor was an unimportant element in manufacturing industries. Webster, on the other hand, arguing for free trade, said that the high wages of American labor ought to prevent our competing with Europe in industries where high wages could not be earned. The fact that Sweden could manufacture iron cheaper than Pennsylvania was explained, he said, by the different prices of labor. In the iron mines in Sweden laborers "do not earn more than seven cents a day. Let me ask the gentleman whether we have any labor in this country that cannot be better employed than in a business which does not yield the laborer more than seven cents a day?" It certainly brings out strikingly the change in the position of the protectionist argument to find

Direct Legislation by the People. By Nathan Cree. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.) This little volume presents a strong argument in behalf of the introduction into America of the Swiss system of referring all important public questions to a direct vote of the people. The author brings out the fact that under party government party leaders and not the people control our politics. Only once in two years do the people have the opportunity to express their opinions upon public questions, and the most they can do then is to express their opinion upon a single question. If all important questions, upon the petition of a certain number of voters, had to be submitted directly to the people, we should have popular government in truth. The devotion to party instead of country would, in a large measure, disappear, and the whole people would be educated in public affairs. The author of this volume is not a radical but a conservative, and he argues that the *referendum* would be a conservative institution. No innovation can be introduced until a majority of the people have been persuaded to accept it. He shows how the *referendum* is gradually being introduced by the direct vote of the people on constitutional amendments, license questions, etc. In England, as well as here, the Swiss system is meeting with more and more favor, and this volume will deservedly help to bring this important reform to the front. At the beginning of his book the author inscribes these forcible words of Goldwin Smith: "Parliaments are losing much of their importance because the real deliberation is being transferred by them to the press and the general organs of discussion. . . . If monarchy is primeval, parliaments are the offspring of the Middle Ages, and for them too the sand in the hour-glass of history runs."

Mr. William S. Walsh has compiled a book of over a thousand pages of fine type which is called a *Handy Book of Literary Curiosities*. As it is in its intention and scope a gathering up of miscellaneous trifles, it is not easy to describe its contents accurately. Here are a few consecutive titles which may give some idea of what Mr. Walsh includes in his literary curiosity shop: Bull (John), Bullet (every bullet has its billet), Bulls, Irish and not Irish (eight pages), Bummer, Bumper, Bunco-steerer, Buncombe, Buridan's Ass, Burnt Child Fears the Fire, But Me No Buts, Buttons (a soul above). The compiler's primary object is to entertain, and certainly there is a deal of fun and a vast quantity of quips and oddities here inclosed. The indefiniteness of scope makes it quite impossible to form the slightest idea as to whether a given subject is or is not treated in these pages; but this is a necessary drawback. There is no encyclo-

pedic dryness in the treatment; indeed, this work's fault as a reference-book is that it is too discursive and facetious. It is really an alphabetized collection of "Notes and Queries" from all sorts of sources—other books, magazines, and newspapers. Much and free use has been made of other collections, and credit is given them by name in a wholesale way in the preface. That the volume will be useful in certain ways to delvers into the quaint and curious is certain; that it will afford many odd minutes of amusing reading to the general reader is still more certain. Its notes and talks may well give an occasional zest to more serious reading. (The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.)

Dr. W. Sanday is a progressive but not a radical thinker. His temperament is conservative, but he is not timid nor bound by traditionalism. In *Two Present-Day Questions—I. Biblical Criticism; II. The Social Movement* (Longmans, Green & Co., New York), these characteristics are strikingly illustrated. He recognizes the value of the higher criticism, and urges, or rather assumes, the absolute right of the scholar to make use of it, but he also urges the student not to express himself too confidently, nor to hesitate to suspend his judgment, upon critical questions until they are more fully considered and more fully settled. In a similar manner, in his treatment of the Social Movement, he urges that "the Christian teacher is called upon to enforce duties as duties; he is *not* called upon to claim or defend or champion rights as rights." He thinks, therefore, that the attitude of the clergy on specific industrial questions should be one of reserve rather than one of dogmatic assertion, and he presents this conclusion in a spirit of moderation and reserve which befits it. Neither of the sermons appears to us to throw much light on the questions indicated by the title, but both of them will have the effect to infuse into the discussion of those questions a very healthful spirit of moderation.

The appearance of another edition of *John G. Paton, Missionary to the New Hebrides; an Autobiography, Edited by His Brother: Parts First and Second* (F. H. Revell Company, New York), gives occasion for fresh words of welcome for what has become a Christian classic since its earliest issue in 1889. These remarkable volumes easily take rank with the *Life* of Bishop Hannington, and with that of Mackay of Uganda, as having elements of instant and permanent attractiveness and value; and as pictures of missionary endurance and missionary triumph they are essentially *instar omnium* among books of their class. Moreover, tried by canons of literary art, these books have very high place in the long line of English biographical writing. We can hardly do a better service to very many readers than by commending their perusal, for few of current publications that are sold by thousands upon thousands have in their pages the import and the fascination that stamp nearly every page in these. So long as the Gospel and spirit of Jesus Christ make men like the hero here commemorated, they prove their own best attestation in tangible and visible results.

Few volumes of miscellaneous essays have won more hearty friends and drawn out a wider personal feeling from their readers than Dr. John Brown's *Spare Hours*. The simplicity, sincerity, warmth of feeling, keen observation of life, and genial humor which characterize these essays have given them a very great charm, and are likely to keep them long in the memory and hearts of a large circle of readers. They belong to a class of books of which little is said by the critics, but of which much is thought by readers who love to find in works of literature a pronounced human quality. A new edition of these essays, in three tasteful and substantial volumes, has recently come from the press of the original American publishers, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (\$3)

Mr. Walter Besant's latest novel, *The Ivory Gate*, deals with a case of double consciousness, whose subject passes from the character and personality of a hard, old-fashioned lawyer to those of a socialist and philanthropic agitator. It is all very improbable from the view of the art of fiction, though no doubt medical science records nearly as strange double lives among the phenomena of nervous disease. The story interest is injured by the fact that the reader unavoidably sees through the mystery from the outset. As a contribution to the social problem there is too strong a mingling of irony about actual humanitarian effort with the vivid presentation of the needs of the poor and unhappy. On the whole, the novel will not rank with Mr. Besant's best work. (Harper & Brothers, New York.)

The taste for subtle analysis of character and keen psychological study grows apace in this end-of-the-century period. Nowhere are these analyses and studies found in their perfection as in the literature of America. Perhaps this taste is a symptom of a morbid condition of our intellectual life. Nevertheless it is a fact from the days of the "Scarlet Letter" and the

"House of Seven Gables." Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's book *Characteristics* is a series of such studies of character and of states of the nerves strung together on the line of a slender story. The studies are good, curious, ingenious, and narrated in charming style. They are worth reading over more than once, if only for their wit. (Century Company, New York.)

Mrs. Burton Harrison's *Crow's-Nest and Belhaven Tales*, and Viola Roseboro's *Old Ways and New*, both published by The Century Company of this city, and both having an extremely pretty form in binding and typography, are also alike to some degree in literary touch and in subject. The tales by both writers are delicate in style and have a graceful touch and a delicate flavor. Both writers, too, linger with loving pen over the dignity and pomp of the old-time Southern days. Few collections of short stories have a more distinct charm than that of these two little volumes.

Julian Sturgis delights in telling stories to disprove pet theories of heredity, education, and the like. The idea of these stories seems to be a return to the simpler, less analytic way of studying human character. The *Philosopher's Baby*, which delighted many, leads the line of eight stories in the volume *After Twenty Years, and Other Stories*. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York.) The titular story is new; the others have appeared at one time and another in English magazines. They are quite of their own sort in conception, and clever in phrase and form.

A Girl's Winter in India, by Mary Thorn Carpenter, with illustrations (A. D. F. Randolph & Co., New York), is a little book of travel by a writer with charming capability of perception and of description. Taking it for merely what its title indicates, and assuming it to be a first venture in publication, we do not hesitate to say that, for excellence in the above qualities, as well as for its judgment in the choice of material, it evinces unusual merit, and rewards perusal.

We heartily recommend the new edition of the Rev. Dr. George W. Clark's *Harmony of the Four Gospels in English*. It is a work of thorough scholarship and at the same time adapted to popular use. It is clear in its arrangement and comprehensive in its introductions and notes. A synopsis, an index, a table of contents, and a table for finding any passage in the *Harmony*, make the usefulness of this book complete. (American Baptist Union, Philadelphia.)