

only easy, but pleasant to read; for it is in every way handsome. Eleven portraits are given; their number and quality are unusual in these degenerate days, some of the reproductions being very beautiful. Lord Ashbourne prints numerous letters ranging over the whole of Pitt's life, which he has selected from various collections, notably that at Orwell Park, containing all the MSS. of Dr. Pretyman (afterwards Bishop Tomline), one of Pitt's tutors, and his life-long friend. Of these the most amusing are the Bishop's correspondence with his wife about Mr. Pitt's criticism on a draught sermon (pp. 345-350). Eliza had evidently inspired, if not written the discourse, for she seems to know it by heart, and is rather nettled at the great man's quibbles. "*His suggestions have, as they ought, very, very great weight with me; but I cannot implicitly bend my mind (though I should my vote) to his judgment.*" The selections from the letters of Pitt's mother to her son and his tutor Wilson (now in Earl Stanhope's possession) are disappointing. One would have expected Temple's sister to write a better letter. But she is merely fussy, sprightly in a small way, and entirely without distinction. Whether writing about Master William's cough, or, twenty years later, the Prime Minister's gout, the excellent Baroness fails to dazzle. The chapters on Pitt's youth give many new facts, but I think none of them are worth remembering. Chapter IV. is really important, as it contains certain very valuable letters on the Commercial Resolutions, and throws some new light on that vexed point in Pitt's career. That on Fitzwilliam is also important, some of the letters being conclusive. It is curious how fatally the tide is turning, as fresh documents are published, against that pitiful stalking horse of the Foxites. Pert, vain, weak and untrustworthy—his character is stamped on his portrait. It was indeed so well understood as to be taken as a sufficient excuse for the astounding impudence, the base treachery, and the monkey tricks he flaunted during his short reign in Ireland. However, nothing can excuse Pitt's weakness in appointing him. We find some strong, characteristic letters from the great Earl of Clare, but the chapter devoted to him tells us but a fraction of what we would like to know about the greatest statesman and truest patriot Ireland has produced—whose statue, by the way, was destroyed not so many years ago by his grateful countrymen.

PITT: Some Chapters of His Life and Times. By the Right Hon. Edward Gibson, Lord Ashbourne. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. \$6.00.

This is one of the tantalising books which, once begun, have to be finished. It is not