

—*Christopher Columbus*, and How he Received and Imparted the Spirit of Discovery. By Justin Winsor. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., pp. 674, \$4. Printing had been invented before the New World was discovered. The relation of the one fact to the other was not accidental. Printed books set the old world, that is Europe, to thinking, and had begun to widen the thoughts of men. Columbus is known to have been an eager, and for his time, a wide reader of books. The *Imago Mundi*, by Cardinal Pierre d'Ailly, gave shape to the dreams of Columbus. Columbus was not so much in advance of his time; only he caught pre-eminently the spirit of his time, embodied it, and venturesomely, actualized it. The story of the life of Columbus can never lose its interest. Certain French and other Roman Catholics have labored to make him out a saint, for the church to canonize. For any such use of his name, they could hardly have selected a less hopeful subject. Irving and Prescott have, in their amiable enthusiasm for their hero, tried to paint lilies over his faults and his crimes. Readers of history to-day demand to have shown them the facts, whatever they are. Probably no American possesses in a higher degree the instinct for historic research, than Mr. Justin Winsor, of Boston. He certainly does not write history to glorify a hero. Possibly he has too little of that kind of enthusiasm. At any rate it is a severely searching narrative and characterization which the reader finds in this strong piece of historic biography. The first part of the book is taken up with an account of the bibliography and other sources of information pertaining to the subject. The narrative of events is clear, but is somewhat wanting in color and graphic vividness. And yet it is a signally valuable service which Mr. Winsor has rendered to the cause of the truth of history. He has a wholesome impatience with "pious frauds" of every sort. He is no adulatory biographer. We quote a few sentences as indicating the author's estimate of Columbus: "No man craves more than Columbus to be judged with all the palliations demanded of a difference of his own age and ours. No child of any age ever did less to improve his contemporaries, and few ever did more to prepare the way for such improvement." "The age created him and the age left him. There is no more conspicuous example in history of a man showing the path and losing it." "It is extremely doubtful if any instance can be found of a great idea changing the world's history, which has been created by any single man. None such was created by Columbus." "This was just the destiny of the intuition which began with Aristotle and came down to Columbus." "Columbus had no defect of character and no worldly quality," it is said, but the saying is void of sense. He is believed to have abandoned one wife in Portugal and to have abandoned another, who was not his wife, but was the mother of his son, with similar heartlessness, though in his will he confesses that it "weighed heavily on his conscience." His selfish greed for money and for titles was as phenomenal as anything about him. If he may be said to have found America, it must also be said that he founded the American slave trade. And this he did despite the protests of Queen Isabella, who suggested that there might be a better way of converting the heathen. "The very first words that he used, in conveying to expectant Europe the wonders of his discovery, suggested a scheme of enslaving the strange people." "When one sees the utter annihilation of the whole race of the Atilles, a thing clearly assured at the date of the death of Columbus, one wishes that that dismal death-bed in Valladolid could have had its gloom illumined by a consciousness that the hand which lifted the banner of Spain and of Christ at San Salvador had done something to stay the misery which cupidity and perverted piety had put in course." A single other quotation: "We have seen a pitiable man meet a pitiable death. Hardly a name in profane history is more august than his. Hardly another character in the world's record has made so little of its opportunities." His discovery was a blunder; his blunder was a new world, the new world is his monument. Its discoverer might have been its father; he proved to be its despoiler. He might have given its young days such a benignity as the world likes to associate with a maker; he left it a legacy of devastation and crime. He might have been an unselfish promoter of geographical science; he proved a rabid seeker for gold and a vice-royalty. He might have won converts to the fold of Christ by the kindness of his spirit; he gained the execrations of the good angels. He might, like Las Casas, have rebuked the fiendishness of his contemporaries; he set them an example of perverted belief. The triumph of Barcelona led down to the ignominy of Valladolid, with every step in the degradation palpable and resultant."

The volume, which is admirably issued, is

amply enriched by portraits, ancient maps and other illustrations. An Appendix of more than one hundred pages is given to the subject of geographical results from the time of Columbus, with many exceedingly curious and interesting maps and charts, showing what strange conceptions the most enlightened men of ancient times had of the world, while the most adventurous men were doing what they could to discover the lands which had been so long hidden in the "Sea of Darkness."

—A exquisite book in every way is William Hamilton Gibson's *Sharp Eyes*, a series of the most delightful talks upon the natural objects one sees all around him. Seeds, buds, leaves, flowers, insects, birds, small animals, anything and everything that one may come across in the commonest ramble, are transformed by Mr. Gibson's magic pen into something new, strange and wonderful. As he goes along he opens his reader's eyes—as his own seem always open—to see the beauties and the uses of everything about him; and the reader who anoints his eyes with Mr. Gibson's eye-salve will find himself living in a new world. The readers of *Harper's Young People* had the pleasure of the first sight of these chapters; but older persons will find in them just as keen a pleasure. Of the illustrations it is sufficient to say that they are Mr. Gibson's. (New York: Harper & Brothers. Chicago: McClurg, \$5.)

—Mr. Harrison S. Morris has made a collection of sea-songs and pastoral lays from the works of such poets as Browning, Tennyson, Shakespeare, Keats, Shelley, Wordsworth and others and made them into an attractive volume under the title of *Where Meadows meet the Sea*. There are twelve delicate full-page illustrations by F. & F. English. It is bound in green and silver, with gilt edges and printed on heavy paper. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. Chicago: McClurg, \$3 50.)

—Messrs. Dodd & Mead reprint George Sand's *Haunted Pool*, translated by Frank Hunter Potter, and illustrated with fourteen etchings by Rudaux. It is a pure, sweet story of peasant life among the French, and the beautiful pictures add much to its attractiveness. (Chicago: J. H. Tewksbury.)

—The papers which have been running in the *Century* for some time on the *Women of the French Salons*, by Amelia G. Mason, have been put into book form, making a sumptuous volume, both in text and illustrations. The famous women of the French court and salons, from Madame de Rambouillet to Madame Recamier, pass in review before us. Their characters are sketched with a light and graceful hand, and satisfactory portraits are given of most of them, among them the strong, determined face of Mother Angélique Arnauld. Incidentally it is a book which throws much light upon the history of that period in France. (New York: Century Co. \$6.)

—The articles which Leander S. Keyser has contributed the past year to the *ADVANCE* and other periodicals upon out-door subjects, and particularly upon life among the birds, have been gathered into an attractive book under the title of *Bird-dom*. Mr. Keyser is an enthusiastic lover and careful observer of birds in their native haunts; with opera-glass in hand he has studied them at close range, and found out more about them than ordinary people find out in a lifetime; and in these chapters he has written down the results of his studies with a very graceful pen. Not bird-lovers alone, but everyone who enjoys a whiff of fresh country air, will like the book. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. \$1.)

—We wish that Mr. F. Marion Crawford would leave the subjects which he has lately taken up and return to this earlier and more pleasing scenes. *The Witch of Prague*, like its predecessor "Khaled," is verily, as it professes to be, "a fantastic tale" and wearies the reader with spirits, spooks and hypnotic spells. We are not by any means a convert to the realism of Howells; but we nevertheless think Mr. Howells's *Marches* and *Colvilles* much more satisfying than Mr. Crawford's witches. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.)

—*A Group of Noble Dames*, by Thomas Hardy, is a collection of short stories, purporting to be related to one another by a group of friends after the fashion of the *Tales of a Wayside Inn*. These noble dames are a queer set, and do all sorts of queer things, and their husbands are like-minded, so it can be safely inferred beforehand that their domestic life was as peculiar as themselves. The First Countess of Wessex is the best of the stories, though this contains a marriage at twelve years of age, an elopement, desertion and other such things, but it is less gruesome than some of the others. Still they are told with much of Mr. Hardy's skill and charm. (New York: Harper & Bros. Chicago: A. C. McClurg, \$1.25.)

—One of the daintiest of Calendars is entitled *All the Year Round*, and consists of twelve leaves of heavy cardboard, with the calendar for the month on each, and beautiful colored

designs of children in all sorts of graceful attitudes, by Pauline Sunter. It is furnished with rings and chain, and is altogether charming. (Boston: Lee & Shepard. 50 cts.)

—The six dainty little volumes of the Third Series of Putnam's Literary Gems comprise *Lyrics* from Browning; Irving's *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Ruskin's *Pre-Raphaelism*, Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Bright's *America*, and Montaigne's *Education of Children*. They are little pocket volumes, bound in morocco, printed on fine paper, and each volume enclosed in a separate box. (75 cts. apiece, \$4 50 for the set.)

—Carlyle's *Heroes and Hero-Worship* is issued in a convenient and handsomely printed edition by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. (\$1.)

—*With the Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Charles P. MacKie is another volume from the same publishers, giving a detailed account of the first voyage of Columbus. The narrative is drawn mainly from the diary of Columbus, but takes considerable liberty in reproducing conversations between the Admiral and his sailor and other incidents which are outlined or hinted at in old documents. The aim is to give a picturesque and essentially truthful outline of this momentous voyage, filling in the bare outline of events with some of the coloring of hopes and fears, anxieties, discussions and disputes which are known to have taken place in substantially the form presented. The variations, if any, are merely verbal and the reproduction of this piece of almost forgotten history is very successfully done. (\$1.75.)

—Charles S. Seeley's story, *The Spanish Galleon*, is also from the McClurg press. It tells of the search for an old galleon loaded with treasure sunk in the days of the old buccaneers. The search is finally rewarded with success after some two hundred pages of the most thrilling adventures. (\$1.25.)

—*Literary Landmarks* of Edinburgh. By Lawrence Hutton, with illustrations. New York: Harper & Bros. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1. This book is precisely what its title indicates and will be found particularly helpful in giving one a clearer understanding of the local conditions and results of such literary personages as Johnson, Hume, Smalley, Adam Smith, Stewart, Burns, Scott, Jeffrey, Sidney Smith, Carlyle, etc.

—A sweet and comforting little book is that by Rose Porter, entitled, *Gain by Loss; or the Garment of Praise*, in which the author addresses herself to invalids; helps them to find the silver lining to the cloud; encourages and strengthens them under their trials; shows them how they may make their sick-room a gateway to heaven; and leads them out into the sunshine of God's love. It is tastefully bound in gold and white, and would make a lovely present for a shut-in friend. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. 75 cts.)

—*Daily Light on the Daily Path* is a devotional text book for every day in the year, in which a number of texts of the same general tenor are brought together upon the page. It is specially designed for evening reading and meditation. It is printed in large type, and daintily bound in white and gold. (New York and Chicago: American Tract Society. \$1.)

—*Studies in the Wagnerian Drama*. By Henry Edward Krehbiel. New York: Harper & Bros. Chicago: A. C. McClurg. \$1 25. This is a philosophical analysis of the great German composer's work, sympathetic yet critical. Wagner is ranked with the Greek tragedy writers; first, because he is poet as well as musical composer; second, because he sees in the drama the highest form of art, and third, because like the Greek tragedians, he holds that the fittest subjects for dramatic treatment are to be found in the legends and mythologies. At the same time he is as distinctly a German dramatist as Æschylus was a Greek or Shakespeare an English. The book will be found of interest not only to musicians, but to those who seek to understand the literature and history of music, especially music in connection with the lyric drama.

—The *Popular Science Monthly* for December is a remarkably interesting and variously instructive number. Of especial interest is the series of papers on the Development of American Industries since Columbus. The one in this number is on The Rise of the Pottery Industry, with illustrations. The list of other topics, as Progress and Perfectability in the Lower Animals, Religious Dress, Training of Dogs, Lost Volcanoes of Connecticut, Silk Dresses and Eight Hours Work, indicate something of the wealth of popular scientific information there is in this monthly, now in its fourteenth volume.