

Mrs. Wilfrid Jackson has translated M. Anatole France's ironic masterpiece "*La Rôtisserie de la Reine Pédauque*," and the work is published by John Lane Co. in their library edition of the author's works. Mr. W. J. Locke contributes an introduction, which seems to afford a felicitous conjunction of wits.

A sense of filial obligation has led Miss Helen Nicolay to carry out a plan long cherished by her father of supplementing his great history of Lincoln and his times by a small and more intimate volume portraying the man as Nicolay knew him in the close association of many years. He had collected a great mass of anecdotes and incidents illustrating Lincoln's personal traits; but the work was not done, and now the daughter has fulfilled her father's unfinished task in the volume entitled "*Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln*" (Century). No new light is thrown on Lincoln's career or character, but the work is valuable in that as far as may be it separates the man from the times and shows him as he was in his daily life and personal relations. Such chapters as those on "Lincoln's Attitude toward Money," "President Lincoln, his Wife and Children," "Daily Receptions of the Plain People," "Life at the White House," and "His Reason and his Heart" give the reader a new and clear insight into the character of Lincoln.

Miss H. A. Guerber, the author of various manuals of legends and stories, is now making her industrious way through Shakespeare, her latest production being a volume of "*Stories of Shakespeare's English History Plays*" (Dodd, Mead & Co.). That Shakespeare can be retold with delight and edification, Charles Lamb proved once for all; and though one hesitates to commend this method of making the dramatist's acquaintance, doubtless there are times when a short cut may serve a useful purpose. There may be readers, too, who cannot relish such language, for example, as that of the angry Douglas, seeking out the king among those who are furnished like him,— "I'll murder all his wardrobe, piece by piece!"—but would really prefer to be told that "Douglas hastens away, vowing he will kill all the kings on the battle-field, since a number of knights are incased in royal armor." For all such, Miss Guerber's book is to be commended. Its method brings out, with considerable emphasis, the instructive value of this epic cycle of plays.