

IN the whole history of kindred undertakings there is nothing more impressive, and in its moral effect more far-reaching and conclusive, than the great westerly voyage of Ferdinand Magellan. The voyages of Columbus and De Gama, though richer in material results, in other respects dwindle away in comparison; and it is a curious circumstance that we have had, up to the present time, no English life of the Portuguese sailor who first circumnavigated the globe, who named the greater part of its surface, and stamped his own name indelibly on the earth and sky. This biographical gap is acceptably filled by Prof. F. H. H. Guillemard's "Ferdinand Magellan" in the "World's Great Explorers" series (Dodd). Prof. Guillemard has evidently written *con amore*, and with the aim of furnishing an accurate and, so far as possible within his space limits, thorough life of the great explorer. The narrative of Magellan's final voyage is extremely interesting. Upon one phase of his subject—the intellectual results of the circumnavigation of the globe—we think the author might profitably have laid more stress. Before Magellan, an infallible church had declared *ex cathedra* the doctrine of the globular form of the earth to be impious and heretical. To assert it was to incur the *odium theologicum*, with its attendant penalties. "It is impossible," St. Augustine had said, "there should be inhabitants on the opposite side of the earth, since no such race is recorded by Scripture among the descendants of Adam." "It is impossible," urged a kindred cosmographer, "because in the day of judgment, men on the other side of a globe could not see the Lord descending through the air." But even the authority of Lactantius and Augustine paled before the stubborn fact that Magellan's ship sailing from St. Lucar constantly to the westward had again dropped anchor at St. Lucar. The "Life of Magellan" is liberally supplied with maps, charts, and illustrations, and will be found quite as absorbing and infinitely more profitable than the ever popular tales of "hair-breadth 'scapes" which owe their origin to fancy.