

Biography and History

- *Heroes and Heroines of English History.* Alice S. Hoffman. Illustrated by Gordon Browne. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.
- The English History Story-Book.* Albert F. Blaisdell and Francis K. Ball. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 75 cents.
- *Froissart's Chronicles for Young People.* M. G. Edgar. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.50.
- Sir Walter Raleigh.* John Buchan. New York: Henry Holt & Co.
- The Story of Nelson.* Harold F. B. Wheeler. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$1.50.
- Through Great Britain and Ireland with Cromwell.* H. E. Marshall. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- Through Europe and Egypt with Napoleon.* H. E. Marshall. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- *Story-Lives of Our Great Artists.* Francis Jameson. Rowbotham. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$1.35.
- Ten Girls from History.* Kate Dickinson Sweetser. New York: Duffield & Co. \$2.
- Brave Deeds of American Sailors.* Robert B. Duncan. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co. \$1.50.
- True Tales of Arctic Heroism in the New World.* Maj.-Gen. A. W. Greely. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.
- Studies from Italian History.* G. E. Troutbeck. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$1.30.
- *Little-Known Sisters of Well-Known Men.* Sarah G. Pomeroy. Boston: Dana Estes & Co. \$1.25.
- Life Stories for Young People.* Translated from the German by George P. Upton. [Gods and Heroes; Achilles; The Argonautic Expedition and the Labors of Hercules; Ulysses of Ithaca; General "Chinese" Gordon; David Livingstone; Stanley's Journey through the Dark Continent; Emin Pasha.] Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 50 cents each.
- Noted Braggas of Webster, Calhoun and Clay.* Lilian M. Briggs. New York: Moffat, Yard & Co. 75 cents.
- The Boy's Parkman.* Louise S. Hasbrouck. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$1.
- South Africa's Story.* H. E. Marshall. New York: F. A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- Australia's Story.* H. E. Marshall. New York: F. A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- India's Story.* H. E. Marshall. New York: F. A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- Canada's Story.* H. E. Marshall. New York: F. A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.
- John and Betty's Scotch History Visit.* Margaret Williamson. Boston: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co. \$1.25.

A royal cover invites one to look inside of *Heroes and Heroines of English History*, and there is a long list of brilliant characters written about, from Caradoc to General Gordon and Florence Nightingale. Were we writing a book of this sort, we should at the end of each section tell the young reader where to turn for further matter on the same subject. Do we ever forget our first reading of "Scottish Chiefs" or "The Last Days of Bruce"? Is there any treatment of the Maid equal to Mark

Twain's "Joan of Arc"? The present volume, however, is an excellent gift for the tenth year mind, and we need to praise the pen drawings in preference to the color plates, of Gordon Browne. Of a simple and more class-room type is *The English History Story-Book*, which the authors intend as a supplementary reader for the fourth and fifth grades.

Froissart's Chronicles are prepared for young readers by M. G. Edgar, based on Lord Berner's translation. There is a satisfactory introduction, which furnishes the proper historical setting. This is a very worthy book, but in preference we would take Lanier. A peculiar treatment of biography is that in John Buchan's *Sir Walter Raleigh*, a life told in eleven stories. As the author states in his preface, "tho I have invented some of the characters, all that they tell us really happened, and most of the little incidents and speeches will be found recorded in old books." Is not this in a way a perversion of a form which should not be perverted? We are warm for the historical romance, but we are also intent on finding some worthy biographies for children. This is neither one nor the other.

The Story of Nelson, on the other hand, is a dignified treatment of a great man. In a foreword, the author places himself as a careful and thoro student of the period, and the book contains much that will interest older readers, as well as much—for instance the intercourse between Nelson and Lady Hamilton—that the young reader should not know. The book is copiously illustrated.

The two small stories of Cromwell and Napoleon are concise and inclusive. The treatment will do much to further the youthful student's interest in special periods. The books contain pictures and maps.

There is no more fascinating volume than Rowbotham's *Story Lives of Our Great Artists*. Each biography is carefully developed and presents a most graphic canvas of the social atmosphere surrounding the individual men. The section on "Sir Joshua Reynolds" is deeply entertaining; and when one has read thru Gainsborough, Romney, Morland, Turner, Constable, Landseer and Watts, one has obtained a very satisfac-

tory stretch of the history of English art. All these men were constantly in touch with the most brilliant figures of the day. Following her plan in former volumes, Kate Sweetser's *Ten Girls from History* contains striking anecdote, especially in the account of Queen Victoria. Did you ever hear of Afachique, or Eliza Lucas, or Madeleine de Verchères, or Adrienne de Lafayette? These are some of the girls she writes about, together with some more familiar.

A graphic way of illustrating the growth of the navy and of emphasizing the chief characteristics of the American attitude is to read such a survey as Duncan's *Brave Deeds of American Sailors*. For fortitude, courage and daring no better stories can be selected than those dealing with Paul Jones, Captain Lawrence, to say nothing of Hobson and Dewey.

The hardships of Arctic exploration are breathlessly described by Maj.-Gen. A. W. Greely in his book on the subject. The author claims that these tales "are neither figments of the fancy nor embellished exaggerations of ordinary occurrences. They are exact accounts of unusual episodes of Arctic service, drawn from official relations and other accurate sources." Franklin, Kane, Sonntag, Tyson and others are the Arctic heroes; not Peary or Cook.

The author who last year described Westminster Abbey for children this year has a book of *Stories from Italian History*, and claims that it is nothing more than desultory reading on the subject, as a means of opening the doors for further reading of Italian history. The book is well illustrated. And we recommend *Little-Known Sisters of Well-Known Men* as an ideal series of biographical studies for the girl of fifteen or sixteen. Literature becomes here a *live* subject.

We can but mention the scope of the *Life Stories for Young People*, trans-

lated from the German by George P. Upton. Each year we are sent a batch of these small green books, and every year we marvel at the conciseness of their contents; there are forty-four volumes now ready—divided into four sections, American explorers, historical and biographical, musical and legendary. The eight new subjects for this season are of varied interest.

American history in literature is represented in a collection of noted speeches by Webster, Clay and Calhoun; each statesman is given a biographical sketch, and each oratorical selection is representative of a crucial period in the Union's struggle in the early days of slavery. Of course Webster's Bunker Hill Monument Address is included. Four volumes will constitute a series which the publishers have planned.

Louise Hasbrouck has very judiciously made selections from Parkman's historical works and put them in a serviceable volume for boy readers. Notes are plentiful, and the material deals with Indians, Marquette, La Salle, Montcalm, Wolfe and Frontenac.

Another series of concise histories from the pen of H. A. Marshall is that which includes the story of Canada, India, Australasia and South Africa. In each instance the treatment of the narrative is thoro, while the pictures and maps add much of value.

John and Betty's Scotch History Visit is one of those ambitious attempts to sugar-coat an historical pill, but we are of the opinion that it is much easier to study out of a real study book than to be given such a sugar-coated nothing as this.



FROM "HEROES AND HEROINES OF ENGLISH HISTORY" (DUTTON)