

A new series of biographies under the title "Builders of Greater Britain"

(Longmans) includes men whose

sphere of activity has been, in the main, administrative, as well as those who have fought and explored by sea and land. The first volume of the series, by Mr. Martin A. S. Hume, is devoted to Sir Walter Raleigh, — and fittingly so, for to Raleigh and his brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, belongs the honor of first undertaking exploration with the distinct purpose of founding colonies, and not merely for the sake of treasure. Raleigh's life at court, his unceasing activity in every branch of learning, and his ability as soldier, statesman, and admiral, are discussed clearly and entertainingly. Aside from Mr. Hume's discovery of some letters of the Spanish ambassador Gondomar, the work has little that is new either in subject-matter or treatment. Mr. Hume, in these letters, which were discovered at Simoneas and in the Palace Library at Madrid, finds fresh proof of Gondomar's agency in securing Raleigh's execution. Extracts from them and from the other Spanish papers utilized show that "it was no private revenge, it was no desire to inflict punishment for the injury actually done on the last Guiana voyage, that led Gondomar to hound Raleigh to death, for he was practically condemned before he sailed, but to serve as an object lesson to England that all South America, at least, belonged to Spain." Much is made of this new material, nearly a fourth of the book being given up to the last Guiana voyage and the Spanish intrigues relating to it. Upon the whole, the author, while devoting much space to details of home and court life, has fulfilled the purpose of the series by emphasizing Raleigh's share in the development of England's colonies. — The subject of the second volume of the series is Sir Thomas Maitland, a forgotten organizer, though an important contributor to England's colonial greatness. The author, Mr. Walter Frewen Lord, speaking of his hero's family, credits it with "predatory political" instincts, and makes this family characteristic a partial explanation or excuse for his earlier political inconsistencies. Maitland, indeed, during the first years of his parliamentary experiences, made bitter speeches against colonial expansion and the increase of the navy. This attitude, it would seem, was assumed that his silence might be bought by the government. His political position, however, became totally changed in 1802. During the debates on the Treaty of Amiens, and soon afterward, he began those administrative labors which constituted his real life-work. His success as Governor of Ceylon led to his appointment as Governor of Malta, carrying with it a general direction of English interests in the Mediterranean. Here his

rough and sometimes brutal methods succeeded in giving to England more complete control in the Mediterranean than she had ever exercised, a control which, since that time, has never been recovered. Maitland possessed great diplomatic ability as well as strong common sense, and the arbitrariness which gained for him the name of "King Tom" was often assumed, or used as a last resort. Mr. Lord, in spite of some vulgarisms, has written a book of great interest; a book which will give to the American reader a clearer understanding of certain staunch British characteristics, and a more intelligent appreciation of the men who have helped to make England's naval supremacy and her magnificent empire. The style is everywhere forcible and the characterization excellent. Unfortunately, careless proofreading has resulted in numerous typographical errors in both of these books.