

SPEECHES OF THREE AMERICANS.*

A FIT memorial of George William Curtis, the orator and civil service reformer, we are happily to have, with Professor Norton as editor. This first volume, in uncut edges and gilt top, well typifies the elegance and refinement of Mr. Curtis' oratory. While the second will be filled with addresses and reports on the reform of the civil service, and a third with historical and literary addresses, the present volume has a wider range. Its nineteen subjects are included under the one heading "The Principles and Character of American Institutions and the Duties of American Citizens. 1856-1891." Professor Norton well says that the spirit which pervades these varied addresses "gives unity to the collection. It is the spirit of a lover of his country, firmly convinced of the validity of the fundamental principles of American democracy in its highest sense, and believing, consequently, in the indissoluble connection of morals and politics; it is the spirit of an idealist tem-

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Speeches and Addresses of William McKinley. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.00.

Speeches and Addresses of William E. Russell. Little Brown & Co. \$2.50.

pered by sound reasonableness and by experience in affairs; the spirit of an independent well aware of the limits, established by the necessity of party organization, within which independence can be usefully asserted and maintained. Of this spirit of patriotism, of fidelity to moral principles, and of manly independence, the life and character of Mr. Curtis afforded such illustration as confirmed and enforced the lesson of his words." "The Duty of the American Scholar," "The American Doctrine of Liberty," "Fair Play for Women," "The Puritan Principle," "The Leadership of Educated Men," and "The Spirit and Influence of the Higher Education" are a few of the titles of these finished, graceful, high-toned, and nobly patriotic orations. The charm and potency of the living speaker can be here only in the recollection of those who heard Mr. Curtis; but moral ardor, the glow of deep conviction, and the persuasiveness of a true lover of principle are eloquent throughout. The volume is one to make every American feel pride in his country and to nourish devotion to the great ideas for which she stands among the nations.

Governor McKinley, one notes with pleasure, adopts Mr. Curtis' picture of the Puritan for the text of his speech at a New England dinner in Philadelphia in 1890:

He was narrow, bigoted, sour, hard, intolerant; but he was the man whom God sifted three kingdoms to find, as the seed grain wherewith to plant a free republic. He has done more for human liberty than any other man in history.

Governor McKinley is, too, a thorough and consistent civil-service reformer, and it is the voice of a man honest, sincere, and convinced that we hear in the sixty-five speeches collected in this large volume. The larger part of them are devoted to the advocacy of the high protection policy with which the speaker is so prominently identified. In this advocacy Governor McKinley indorses Horace Greeley as economic authority, and prefers, he says, the utterances of the puddler to those of the college professor.

A younger governor, for three years the just pride of Massachusetts as her representative at the World's Fair and other great occasions, speaks forth as manfully and with confessed ability in a volume edited by his brother and introduced to the world by Colonel Higginson in an admiring preface. There is as little ornament here as in Governor McKinley's much larger volume and less quotation. Both speak "right straight on," belonging to a later school of oratory than Mr. Curtis' and having less of the literary man about them. Their speeches are remarkable for solidity and sobriety. Professing the most opposite doctrines as to protection, tariff reform, and free trade, both cannot be right, and one of the two, in fact, must be extremely mistaken. The question, it is evident, has a long time of discus-

sion yet before it; it is fortunate, therefore, that two such able champions have put themselves fully on record in such accessible volumes. No one can look into them and not respect the solid qualities of genuine American manhood which both display and which the portraits of their authors bear evidence to. A portrait is strangely lacking in the Curtis volume.