

this: Mr. Zangwill deliberately names his volume *Italian Fantasies*; he wishes the world to understand that it is after this fashion that the land and the people, the whole *milieu* reacts upon him. And in doing so, he goes far to prove that, like Dickens and a limited number of other distinguished literary travellers, he moves abroad so thickly surrounded by his own atmosphere that he scarcely comes in contact with the vital things of the foreign environment. Mr. Zangwill's book has much in it that is frankly delightful, but it will be read for a dozen other reasons sooner than for the sake of its Italian atmosphere.

Italian Fantasies, by Israel Zangwill, is not strictly speaking a book of travel

at all. It is simply a volume in which Mr. Zangwill is pleased to talk about himself, his tastes, his views, his philosophy of life, apropos of Sicily or Naples, Lucrezia Borgia or St. Francis of Assisi. Surrounded by the most wonderful relics that the world possesses of classicism and the Renaissance, beneath the bluest and sunniest of skies, Mr. Zangwill's Italian fantasies largely run off into the form of irrelevant literary criticisms as, for instance:

To accept Art for Art's sake, to divorce it from life, would be to pigeonhole our souls, as most people put their religion into Sundays. . . . Moreover, it is only by their relation to human realities that imaginative creation like Goethe's Mephistopheles or Swift's Lilliputians, the Prometheus of Æschylus, the Caliban of Shakespeare, or the Jungle-Beasts of Kipling, have power to hold us. It may give us a useful distinction between Imagination and Fancy to connect the one with invention along the lines of life and born of insight into its essence—as in the creation of Hamlet; the other with artificial invention—as in the creation of Alice's Wonderland. Whether Hamlet existed or not, or that Prince Hal did exist, is irrelevant to Art. The transient reality has been replaced by permanent creation.

Now no one can say that observations of this type, of which the present volume is full, are not mentally stimulating. But the point that seems worth making is just