



CARL SCHURZ.
From "Reminiscences of Carl Schurz."

History

- The Inquisition of Spain.* By Henry Charles Lea. 4 vols. Macmillan. \$10.00.
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Reminiscences of Carl Schurz. 2 vols. McClure. \$6.00.
Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard. 2 vols. Baker & Taylor. \$5.00.
Letters of Queen Victoria. 3 vols. Longmans. \$15.00.

Mr. Henry Charles Lea, thru the completion of his *History of the Inquisition of Spain*, has at once gained for himself the headship in the historical production of the past year, and for American scholarship one of its proudest honors for all time. That an American gentleman, a scholar by inclination rather than profession, and a Protestant, should lead European historians in the history of Europe, and Catholic historians in the history of the Church, is a triumph of which much can legitimately be made. No other work of the year approaches this in significance, altho in the general

field of European history there have been some notable contributions. An American jurist has continued his work on the diplomacy of Europe; Mr. Beazley has completed his brilliant inventory of the geographic stock-in-trade of the Renaissance; a deplorable gap in the history of the papacy has been filled, and the Cambridge Modern History has extended into two more fields. More notable than this last work, as a memorial to Lord Acton, who conceived and planned it, is a volume of his lectures which will be nearly the whole literary output of one who was probably the greatest English historical scholar of his generation. Allied closely, in general interest, to the history of Europe, is the field of archaeological exploration and report. Here, in three directions, the year has recorded research and discovery. Babylonia, Sinai and Egypt have all been brought a little closer to us as the result. McClurg has published two parts in four volumes of an excellent edition and translation of Molmenti's authoritative history of Venice.

The co-operative works on England, which we have noted in earlier surveys, continue to publish and to receive, in general, the approval of the public. The Methuen series, with its excellent critical apparatus and its chapters on the history of civilization, has added one volume; the Longmans series has advanced, in four volumes, from 1216 to 1660, with a single gap covering the period 1547-1603, upon which Mr. Pollard is still at work. As these works advance, covering the same ground, we begin to feel that we shall have at last a complete, detailed, well-balanced history of England. And this we have long desired. In a later period, Mr. Paul has completed his journalistic account of modern England, giving always a picturesque and interesting narrative of contemporary events, not always, it is true, without prejudice and bias, but possessing all the virtues of an honest account by an intelligent participant. The general works on England have not stopped or obscured the development of detailed narrative and institutional history. It is a source of gratification that before her death Mary Bateson had completed another of the tasks to which she was accustomed to apply her discerning

judgment and enormous industry, and that a second of the more useful of these contributions is the work of an American woman.

In European biography the most interesting product is the attempt of Sir Clements R. Markham to rehabilitate that arch stage villain, Richard III. It is clear that much of the odium cast upon Richard was a part of the public policy of his successors, and eminently unjust. But Sir Clements has done his work of whitewashing so well that it invites suspicion. Lord Rosebery's Churchill is another attempt to reconstruct a character of doubtful significance, and is the more interesting because it follows the filial effort of Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill. American relations in the eighteenth century are made more clear by the publication of the correspondence of William Pitt by an American patriotic society, while nineteenth century Canadian affairs are much illumined by the needed biography of the Earl of Durham. On the continent of Europe the excitement caused by the diplomatic revelations of the memoirs of Prince von Hohenlohe-Schillingsfuerst is only just now subsiding.

American history continues, as usual, to invite writers and interest publishers. The series of *Narratives of Early American History*, which Mr. Jameson is editing with the approval of the American Historical Association, has given out four volumes and now announces a fifth on the Virginia settlements. The narratives in question are of common use and have never been as accessible as they now become. Colonial history in general has received full attention. Professor Osgood has completed his institutional survey of the seventeenth century, while the late John A. Doyle lived long enough to reach the end of his task. There is no fairer view of American colonial development than that contained in the five bulky volumes of Mr. Doyle. The third volume of Mr. Avery's ambitious history has been distributed. In more recent periods, Professor Hart's co-operative work has issued its volumes from XVI to XXII, and has now reached the years of reconstruction. The general average of the series continues high, while Professor Dunning's volume

"Reconstruction" is probably the best brief discussion of the subject that we have. More recent still, Mr. Peck's *Twenty Years of the Republic* has been rescued from the magazines and carries a narrative down to 1905.

The flood of material on local history and special periods shows no sign of subsiding. Its average, happily, seems to be improving, so that when the next era of general histories shall come the task of the writer will be made easier than it now is or has been. The bright star among the local books is Mr. Lincoln's five-volume constitutional history of New York. Very slight deliberation will convince any one that American history can never be understood without a precedent understanding of the development of its constituent elements. But almost no serious effort has been given to the local task. Its rewards are slight. Its glory is insignificant. And so we give honor to this author and hope that he may be the precursor of a long line of devoted and laborious investigators of local constitutional history. Other important books on local topics are too numerous for this brief survey. They generally have strong inclination to the sumptuous in form, and often try to stimulate the purchaser's interest by appearing in limited edition. The interest in Captain John Smith has been revived by the Jamestown Exposition, and we find his *General Historie* among the reprints of the year. Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe has been recalled by a new translation of Pigafetta's journal of the voyage. The geographic discoveries of Cabeza de Vaca, Champlain and La Salle have been made more accessible, while Mr. Hulbert has continued his study of routes of travel. This last task, that of assembling the sources of information upon individual routes within the United States, is of exceeding importance in the explanation of the physical course of American development. Migration always follows the line of least resistance, and the settlement of the Western frontier until 1850 was almost exclusively controlled by the natural routes of the river valleys. Mr. A. B. Hulbert has already pre-empted a large portion of this field. His new volume on the Ohio River comes near to being a model of what such a book

ought to be. The *Grafton Historical Series*, volumes of informal sketches of early life in Eastern towns and States, serve a useful purpose in arousing popular interest in their homes and ancestors.

Speaking broadly, there is now more interest in local history than in chronological periods of general history. Yet we are glad to record a few useful works of the latter sort. The Civil War and reconstruction years have not been overlooked. Indeed, our rapidly changing understanding of the causes and nature of secession, which is already far advanced among scholars, altho only begun among the public, will keep alive the scholarly investigation of this period for a long time. Professor Fleming has now issued the second volume of his *Documentary History of Reconstruction*, completing his work and affording material for the illustration of most of the points raised by law and economic fact in the South in the years after the war. Another writer has described the nature of government in war time, in both Federal and State administrations. He has shown how the power of the President expands when the necessities of war bring into existence his authority as commander-in-chief, and how the executives of the States are able to co-operate in the general work. An excellent English narrative of the military events of the Civil War has made it possible for us to revise some of our judgments in the light of recent dispassionate research.

Like Miss Bateson and Mr. Doyle, the late Albert H. Smyth had completed an important task before his death. His edition of the *Writings of Benjamin Franklin* is the leading contribution of the year to American biography. Mr. Smyth's work as editor was dignified and suitable, while the new papers which he unearthed were of considerable number and importance. Among the younger contemporaries of Franklin, Alexander Hamilton has received a new biography by a careful Scotch writer. Mr. Oliver has not, however, added to our knowledge of Hamilton, and his work is chiefly interesting because of its British point of view. More recent still, useful accounts of Robert E. Lee and Judah P. Benjamin have been published, and the interesting memoirs of Gen.

E. P. Alexander. In the field of autobiography three important contributions must be mentioned, altho they have been received too recently to have been reviewed; two of them, the reminiscences of General Howard and Carl Schurz, bearing especially on the Civil War period, and the third, the letters of



QUEEN VICTORIA IN 1855.
From "Letters of Queen Victoria."

Queen Victoria, having a double interest in its domesticity and diplomacy.

The historical works of the last year have invaded all the usual fields of interest. Of the unexpected and surprising there has been almost nothing. But one or two really great works have been completed, and the sum total makes the past year worthy, if not memorable.