

ONE REALLY must keep himself informed about the country he lives in and of which he is a part. Yet we cannot in conscience recommend to the average busy breadwinner the systematic study of atlases, geographies and gazetteers and columns of statistics. Happily for us, there are travellers who have eyes for seeing, tongues for asking questions, years that have brought the philosophic mind, and pens which can prepare for us the knowledge we need. One can enjoy dainty meals thrice daily, though Washington Market might appall by its abundance.

Our literary cook (not a 'Cook's tourist'!) whom we nominate worthy to serve the great American sovereign—the individual voter—is Mr. Charles Dudley Warner. He has gone, seen, conquered for us. He has reduced whole encyclopædias and long columns in yesterday's paper to pulp, and after talking with an endless variety of characters on the spot, has given us 'the pith of the palaver.' The pulp and pith aforesaid have been further transmuted into a toothsome literary feast. Served under handsome covers, on the elegant service of paper and print of Harpers', we can now partake delightedly of the nutriment we need. We are taken into the tobacco and cotton belts in 1885, twenty years after the War, and are introduced to the society of the New South; and we confess we like it. We walk through New Orleans, a relic of the old French empire in America, yet full of Yankee ideas; and 'a voodoo dance' reveals the inner nature of the generation third or fourth from interior Africa.

Again we revisit the South in 1887, and roam thence into Minnesota and Wisconsin, where French names still abound. In conformity to the dignity of the subject, we are treated to two chapters on Chicago. The leading cities of the States bordering the Ohio are then described, and we behold the magic work of civilization in St. Louis and Kansas City. At the history and present condition of Kentucky we glance, and find here especially the author's brilliant powers of generalization. In comment on Canada, we read not of the romantic land of Dollier and La Salle, but of the subjects of Victoria busy with the problems of the age of electricity and free schools. To have read this book is in itself a liberal education, and to young people's reading-clubs especially we commend it. The brilliant author has hurt his work by leaving out an index. Was modesty, or laziness, or haste the cause? Ephemeral as such writing must be in our country of quick growth, it is a superb picture Mr. Warner has given us, and many a detail would be recalled and made doubly useful, if an index were furnished for ready grip.

\* Studies in the South and West, with Comments on Canada. By Charles Dudley Warner. \$1.75. New York: Harper & Bros.