

kia, at the door of a lighted ball-room, announced by the warwhoop of a recumbent Indian. But Mr. English was deficient in legitimate historical imagination and constructive power, and his editorial principles were too lax to permit his reprints to be regarded as authentic texts. He has therefore made simply one more contribution to the material for a full biography of George Rogers Clark.

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*The Trent Affair*, including a Review of English and American Relations at the Beginning of the Civil War. By THOMAS L. HARRIS, A. M. (Indianapolis and Kansas City: The Bowen-Merrill Company. 1896. Pp. 288.)

THE purpose of this book is to examine the literature of the Trent case, to review the original material, and to place in a brief and accessible shape the essential features of the discussion upon it. With this object in view Mr. Harris has collected and arranged in different chapters extracts from the speeches of public men both in this country and England, from articles in newspapers and periodicals, from contemporary letters and diaries, and from biographies, reminiscences and other publications of a later date. In some he has quoted exactly, in others he has paraphrased, and in others given a summary of the passages on which he relies. He devotes two chapters to "The Effect in America" of the seizure of Mason and Slidell and to the "Consideration of the British Demand." So far as these chapters are chronicles of the time, disclosing the state of public opinion, they have a certain historical importance; so far as they attempt to describe the attitude and conduct of the President or of any member of his cabinet, they are personal and biographical rather than historical. These are matters upon which there has been a certain amount of partisan writing since the deaths of both Lincoln and Seward, and if anything was to be said about them the quotations and authorities should have been so arranged that the reader would at once distinguish between contemporary accounts and reminiscences or impressions first written out long afterwards and when the principal actors were dead. Mr. Harris, however, has thrown together promiscuously the inconsistent and sometimes contradictory statements of different writers as to what the President or Secretary thought or said, often with nothing to show when these statements were made, and with no attempt on his part to distinguish between authentic contemporary statements of fact and those deceiving narratives which are really only expositions of opinion, or even the less trustworthy conjectures of a biographer or eulogist. If he had on this point followed a chronological order in his quotations and authorities it would have appeared that, at the time, Seward was held alone responsible for the decision and for the reasons assigned for it, and that the cabinet as well as the press so treated it. Mr. Harris's extracts from the speeches in Congress after the surrender was

known exhibit the spirit of some of our public men. The letters from France and Prussia which he also prints show that, if we had kept the men and war had followed, we should have had no sympathy in Europe; his authorities hardly justify the conclusion that in case of war it is well-nigh certain we should have had the Czar as an ally, still less that a Russian admiral would have reported to the President for duty. Lord Russell's reply to Mr. Seward is an integral part of the case of the Trent; and Mr. Harris's comments on the course of the British government make a suitable close to his book. His preceding criticisms on Mr. Seward's despatch are not to be accepted without a more thorough examination than is here possible, and his general conclusions (p. 265) are certainly open to question as statements of the results of this case. (See Dana's *Wheaton*, pp. 644-661, note.)

*Mosby's Rangers: A Record of the Operations of the Forty-third Battalion Virginia Cavalry, from its Organization to the Surrender, from the Diary of a Private, supplemented and verified with Official Reports, etc.* By JAMES J. WILLIAMSON, of Company A. (New York: Ralph B. Kenyon. 1896. Pp. xii, 510.)

NONE of the brave men who fought through our civil war is qualified to write its final history; yet whoever is able should deem it a duty to jot down the facts which alone can lend local color to the work of the future historian. With characteristic national patience, the German general-staff has compiled an unprejudiced narrative of the War of 1870; but in America we are not so fortunate. Though there is no lack of even-handed treatment of the subject, the majority of our war-books lean markedly to one or the other side; and despite the glamour environing Mosby, the volume before us is somewhat marred by its unconscious bias. War on the large scale is a universally engrossing topic; the operations of small war must be narrated with exceptional dash to ensure an audience beyond the immediate personal circle; and this book will be chiefly read by those who served on the outskirts of the Virginian armies.

John Singleton Mosby was a born partisan. In 1861 he was twenty-eight years old, a college-bred lawyer, a man of quiet character, gentle though firm, cool and daring, and an unusual judge of men. Our author describes him as "a rather slender, but wiry-looking young man of medium height, with keen eyes and pleasant expression." During the first two years of the war he played but a modest part, awhile in the Old Capitol prison; nor until June, 1863, does he appear in a masterful rôle on the Virginia theatre of operations. His habitat, "Mosby's Confederacy," was a quadrangle between the Blue Ridge and Bull Run Mountains, whose debouches lay at the four corners—Manassas, Thoroughfare, Snicker's and Aldie Gaps. His troops were farmers, many of whom had