

fall Markham defended St. Vincent successfully against parliamentary attacks of those who had suffered by the commission's exposures. The present selection is confined to Markham's four and a half years at the Admiralty. It is drawn from originals in the family's possession, and consists of letters, dealing almost exclusively with service details, from St. Vincent, Keith, Saumarez, and others of more or less distinction. An interesting section of fifty-seven letters from Admiral George Murray describes his share in the expedition to La Plata in 1806-1807.

*Reminiscences of Peace and War.* By Mrs. Roger A. Pryor. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1904, pp. xv, 402.) This volume opens with a chapter on "Washington in the Fifties" and closes with "Starting Life Anew". The whole gamut of experience of a woman who lived in the midst of trying and exciting times is run. In addition to this rich experience Mrs. Pryor is a woman of exceptional gifts; and her residence in Washington, her glimpse of things in the neighborhood of Richmond and Norfolk during the war, with her forlorn position in 1864 and 1865, only sharpened her vision. And no one who reads her book will deny that the story is well told.

From a historical point of view Mrs. Pryor's book is valuable for its pictures of social life and manners in Washington and Virginia just prior to secession; and again it adds to our knowledge of conditions in Richmond during the war by giving pictures here and there of President Davis and his many embarrassments (e. g., p. 250). The note of complaint in the Pryor circle against Davis and his management of the war is strong. General D. H. Hill is quoted (p. 284) as saying angrily at Mrs. Pryor's table: "I could forgive mistakes! I cannot forgive lies! I could get along if we could *only, only* ever learn the truth, the real truth." The writer then adds, "he was very personal and used much stronger words than these." A lurking suspicion somehow or other comes into the reader's mind that the Pryors were not satisfied with the tardy promotion which the Confederate authorities gave, and this counteracts the effect of the criticism aimed at Mr. Davis.

What adds again to the value of these reminiscences is the unconventional offhand sketches of Southern and Northern leaders, though they in the main confirm and complete former knowledge. The picture of General Sheridan in Petersburg is rather an exception—his conduct as seen by Mrs. Pryor was certainly unworthy of his high station. The chapter headed "A Winter of Want" (pp. 319-337) is a pathetic picture of a brave woman fighting manfully against insurmountable obstacles. It is an unsurpassed arraignment of war and of men who, excusing themselves with the old fallacy that "all's fair in love and war", wantonly commit crime against the innocent and the helpless.

A not less interesting and comforting feature of the story is the account (all too short) of Roger A. Pryor's reception in New York city after the war, his ready success among men against whom he had

fought for four long years, and his final elevation to the position of chief justice of the greatest state in the north. It is a proof that, despite many facts of a contrary nature, we are not so vindictive as some have thought.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

*Autobiography of Andrew Dickson White.* (New York, The Century Company, 1905, two vols., pp. xxi, 601; xix, 606.) An autobiography of a man who has played a conspicuous rôle in American life for two generations is of great service to the historian, as well as of general interest. Especially is this the case if, as in this instance, the story is told with candor and simplicity and with a knowledge of the importance of things, if it is written by one who has sane views of life and a deep appreciation of its meaning. Full of entertaining anecdotes and reminiscences, the volumes contain little that the reader can consider trivial. Personal characterizations, references to political issues, discussions of educational, social, and religious questions, are given entertainingly, but are set down without malice, without straining after unnatural effect, and without wearisome iteration. It would be difficult to obtain anywhere else a wiser and more helpful account of American movements during the last fifty years than one gets from these volumes. Even such an episode as the Cardiff Giant imposition, which the author tells with some detail, is seen to have its significance in the history of American life in the last half of the nineteenth century. It is needless to recount the activities of Mr. White's career or to comment at length upon the narrative. A teacher of history at the University of Michigan, president of Cornell, state senator in New York, minister to Russia, and ambassador in Germany, a man of wide learning and a thoughtful student, he saw much, knew many men, and was able to understand his experiences. Some portions—the portrayal of the best Northern sentiment during the Civil War, the work for the Hague Tribunal, the effort to found Cornell University—will be of lasting historical importance. The value of the volumes seems chiefly to arise from the charmingly simple tale of personal experience told by a man of wisdom and insight, a tale told with considerable literary skill. For only unusual talent allows one to write with this utter clearness and air of perfect ease, and to discuss, without appearance of labor, problems of education, protection, and finance, traits of character, and the deeper questionings of the heart. It is withal hard to write of one's life truthfully; even if one's vision does not make distorted images, it is hard to be so thoroughly a master of words that style at no time obscures the exact outline of what one would say. Mr. White seems to have been able to tell his story without even the refraction of ill-chosen words and free from the control of an artificial, impersonal style.

*Forty Years of Active Service.* By Colonel Charles T. O'Ferrall. (New York and Washington, The Neale Company, 1904, pp. 367.) The author of this volume was an honest soldier and capable officer on the