

in regard to the Toscanelli correspondence. On the other hand, he retells the egg story, which he characterizes (I. 257) as "a sufficiently inane story . . . ; but there is enough character in this little feat, ponderous, deliberate, pompous, ostentatious, and at bottom a trick and deceitful quibble, to make it accord with the grandiloquent public manner of Columbus, and to make it easily believable of one who chose to show himself in his speech and writings so much more meanly and pretentiously than he showed himself in the true acts and business of his life." The rejection of the incident of the egg story (first attributed to Columbus by Benzoni, a literary compiler, a half-century later, and told of Brunelleschi and his dome a half-century before the voyage of Columbus) is a sufficiently established result of criticism to have saved Mr. Young his reflections on it. In many cases the historically-minded student will be irritated by Mr. Young's flippant and journalistic comments on subjects of importance like the Demarcation Bulls.

Mr. Young devotes a page to "the work called *Libro de las Profecias*, or Book of the Prophecies, in which he wrote down such considerations as occurred to him in his stupor. . . . The manuscript of this work is in existence, although no human being has ever ventured to reprint the whole of it" (II. 145-146). It is reprinted in the *Raccolta Colombiana*, and is not at all what Mr. Young describes it to be, but mainly a collection of scripture texts supposed to relate to the recovery of Jerusalem and the end of the world. Mr. Young scornfully reproduces one of the calculations in this work, no better or no worse than would be found in any orthodox commentary on Daniel or the Apocalypse down to within a generation, and then exclaims in his favorite Carlylese: "Good Heavens! in what an entirely dark and sordid stupor is our Christopher now sunk—a veritable slough and quag of stupor out of which, if he does not manage to flounder himself, no human hand can pull him."

In conclusion, the most serious deficiency in Mr. Young's work is not its occasional errors, but its great lack of the true historical spirit of interpretation. It is the work of a clear and versatile writer, but not of a historical scholar. It will amuse and interest the general reader and not seriously mislead him as to the career of Columbus, but from it he will gain little instruction in historical interpretation.

E. G. B.

A History of the United States and its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time. By ELROY MCKENDREE AVERY. In fifteen volumes. Volume II. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company. 1905. Pp. xxxvi, 458.)

IN this second installment of the series which, according to the announcement on the title-page, is to be extended from twelve volumes to fifteen, Dr. Avery describes the projection of French, English, Dutch, and Swede on to the Atlantic seaboard, and the vicissitudes befalling them after arrival, from 1600 to 1660 approximately. Obedient to the

intimation given in the preface, the treatment of the theme is by "transverse sections rather than by longitudinal fibers". An inspection of the table of contents would imply that this means a grouping of chapters according to time, place, institutions, individuals, and episodes, in all of which the historical sequence is not always clear.

On the whole the volume is superior to its predecessor. The sense of proportion is better developed, and the transatlantic environment of the narrative affords a more adequate understanding of the truth that the colonies in North America, during the seventeenth century at least, were an expansion of certain European countries rather than the germ of future independent states on the soil of the New World. The maps, also, maintain their excellence, and the illustrations show distinct improvement in their quality. If the maps, indeed, continue throughout the series to preserve their present high standard of workmanship and usefulness, their publication in a separate volume would perform a real service to the students of American history.

The defects of the book are mainly stylistic and constructional, although misinterpretations and actual errors are not lacking. On these points the reviewer is loath to descant at length. Not only have many of them been cited in critical notices already published, but the truculent manner in which Dr. Avery in his preface bids defiance to the "professed student" of history is quite too intimidating. With malice toward persons whose "analytic and microbic Research immensely overshadows [their] co-ordinating activity", and with charity for all that much-abused community, the "general public", the author does not descend into "abyssal notes, overladen with trivial details, and told with such portentous long-windedness that only professional students, examinees, schoolmasters and their pupils really master them". Instead he draws them from the abyss, and, converting them into oracular opinions uttered by Professor This and Doctor That, pushes them into the text itself. One might venture a doubt, perhaps, whether the "general public" is so familiar with the literature of the subject that a mental salaam to the ipse dixits of the worthy scholars in question will be a necessary result.

When the thread of the story is single, Dr. Avery spins it smoothly. As its strands multiply and tighten, he is apt to let them run forward and backward until they leave the wheel and tangle themselves up in such a mesh as the treatment of the history of Massachusetts. At other times when the historical processes grow complex, and dramatic possibilities emerge, he marshals his metaphors in a manner truly imposing. Speaking of the growth of Separatism in England, Dr. Avery exclaims (p. 94): "These were days of quickening life. An English Bible and the Lollard leaven prepared the way for a revolt against the papacy. Luther sprang up in Germany, a moral volcano that shot its glare across western Europe and aroused its people to a new activity. Aided by an amorous eruption on the throne, England cut loose from Rome and snatched her crown from the shadow of the tiara." It seems hardly

fair to call Henry VIII., with all his faults, an "eruption", even if Sir Harry Vane may have been "a pretty fleck of cavalier color on a sombre Puritan canvas—a fresh-blown English rose blooming in a bed of New England immortelles" (p. 278). It should be admitted, however, that these rhetorical embellishments are not so common as in the first volume, nor do the tripping jingles in the text set the mind so oft a-dancing.

In the realm of misunderstanding and misstatement, the chapter on the "evolution of the English colonial system" needs a thorough revision. Not only does it ignore the share of Parliament in the growth of imperial administration, but it makes a large number of assertions which are either erroneous or so vague as to create impressions altogether false. Elsewhere in the volume questionable statements like the following may be found: that under the charters of 1609 and 1612 "Virginia held until the formation of the federal constitution in 1788" (p. 53); that in 1621 the "termination of the continental wars threw the services of gallant thousands upon a glutted market" (p. 73); that King James was laying plans for the marriage of his son to the sister of the Spanish monarch (p. 75), and to the daughter of that ruler (p. 76); that in 1624 Virginia "again" became a royal province (p. 77); that Spain had obtained from the New World no profits other than plunder (p. 80); that the title "king of France" borne by the English king in 1620 was "sixty-two years behind the truth" (p. 117); that the Swedish settlement on the Delaware was "the only colony ever planted by that nation" (p. 229); and that "the idea of local self-government . . . was a leading principle of the primeval polity of the Goths" (p. 343). The word "Antinomian", finally, is often used without a definition of its concrete meaning in Massachusetts history; and the typographical errors on page 273 seem quite inexcusable.

Despite all these shortcomings, the reviewer adheres to the opinion expressed in his critique of the first volume (*AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*, X. 852-856), namely, that Dr. Avery's work promises to be the best popular history of the United States which has yet appeared.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

Die Kolonisation des Mississippitalen bis zum Ausgange der französischen Herrschaft. Eine kolonialhistorische Studie von ALEXANDER FRANZ, Ph.D. (Leipzig: Georg Wigand; New York: G. E. Stechert and Company. 1906. Pp. xxiv, 464.)

As the publication of a new work on the Mississippi valley seems to require some justification, the author states with care the causes that have led him to produce this rather bulky volume. First, he has found no scientific work of a comprehensive character which deals with this particular period in the history of the valley. Among the American authors the lack of a thorough, scientific treatment is marked; among French authors, Villiers du Terrage has, indeed, covered a por-