

which of these, if any, were responsible for the earlier cultures revealed in the shell-heaps and mounds.

The work concludes with a bibliography and a summary of the localities in which investigation is especially required. The book is well written and profusely illustrated. Those interested will find it a valuable contribution.

WILLIAM CURTIS FARABEE.

The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea: Travel and Trade in the Indian Ocean by a Merchant of the First Century. Translated from the Greek and annotated by WILFRED H. SCHOFF, A.M., Secretary of the Commercial Museum, Philadelphia. (New York, London, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. 323.)

IN placing at the disposition of English readers this first-century account of the voyage down the Red Sea and coastwise to the eastern shores of India, by an unknown Egyptian merchant writing in Greek, the author has performed a valuable service. His version of the Greek, though profiting especially by the German rendering of Fabricius, is, on the whole, superior to his predecessor's. He has shown great industry in collecting the references from the widely scattered ancient and modern sources from which his copious commentary is drawn.

The *Periplus* largely consists of lists of geographical names and commercial products of the eastern world. It is an itinerary and an invoice combined. It would be impossible to discuss here the long array of highly specialized questions, which the author has been obliged to take up in his discussions. Archaeologically they occasionally fall short. To quote Pliny's childish story as a sufficient authority on the question of the origin of glass (p. 68), when we now know that glass emerged on the Nile some three thousand five hundred years before Pliny was born, will do in Wendell Phillips's lecture on the Lost Arts (where Pliny's story really does figure), but is entirely insufficient in a modern commentary on the *Periplus*. A few words from the last edition of the *Britannica* would have set this matter right if the standard treatises on glass were inaccessible to the author. Again we have Pliny quoted to show that "the method of weaving cloth with more than two threads [of different color] was invented at Alexandria". This is the art of tapestry which was practised in Egypt over a thousand years before Alexandria was founded. We have a beautiful specimen from the reign of Amenhotep II. (fifteenth century B.C.).

In the discussion of cotton (p. 71) it would be well to note that tree-cotton (*Gossypium arboreum*) was cultivated in Assyria as early as the seventh century B.C., when the importation of the trees is a matter of royal record. Sayce's statement that cotton was exported from India to Babylonia in the fourth millennium B.C. is of course based on the old and obsolete chronologies of early Babylonia. It is now evident that we know nothing of Babylonia in the fourth millennium.

The later developments in the study of Oriental history seem not to have been accessible to the author. Movers is an obsolete and dangerous source to employ for Phoenicia, while the contributions of Hommel on the history of the Orient are of very dubious standing, especially his fantastic theories of Kush, cited by the author on page 134. Similarly, to date the appearance of tin in the Mediterranean "soon after the migration of the Phoenicians to Syria" (p. 77) is simply to say that we do not know when it appeared there, for certainly we do not know when the Phoenician migration to Syria took place.

In discussing the situation of the Biblical Land of Ophir the author very properly notes and discredits the attempts of the last forty years to find it in South Africa, especially Rhodesia. It would be well to add to his remarks on this subject some notice of the appearance of Dr. Carl Peters's book, *Im Goldland des Altertums* (Munich, 1902), which places the Egyptian Land of Punt (undoubtedly the Biblical Ophir) on the Zambesi, and backs up the identification with a mortuary statuette of the Pharaoh Thutmose III., found by one of Dr. Peters's friends in northeastern Mashonaland. No less an authority than Professor Flinders Petrie has vouched for the genuineness of the statuette in writing. Nevertheless the fact that the piece is a crude modern forgery has been demonstrated by Professor Heinrich Schaefer, who has even identified the workshop from which it issued (*Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, Heft 6, pp. 896-904, Tafel X., XI., and XII., 1906).

It is unfortunate that the author's commentary (pp. 218, 270-271) has introduced further uncertainty as to the situation of this land of Punt, the earliest known source of incense. He transfers it from the African to the Asiatic mainland on the basis of a single precarious botanical identification, namely that of the trees of Punt (depicted in Egyptian reliefs) with the frankincense trees of the south Arabian Dhofar. The highly conventionalized drawings of botanical specimens by the Egyptians render such an identification, involving such serious results as the author draws, very uncertain indeed. Whether we should translate "myrrh" or "frankincense" is a difficult matter to determine, as such designations in the ancient Oriental world are notoriously unprecise. There is too much uncertainty in such terms to furnish a basis for conclusive argument. The only scientific basis for determining the situation of this earliest incense land is the entire ancient list of its flora and fauna, not *one specimen* selected at random. There is not space here to do this, but when we note that Punt furnished ebony, ivory, gold, panther skins, and giraffes, the conclusion is unavoidable that it lay in Africa. Giraffes are not found in Asia.

The author is correct in his conjecture of a Buto in the eastern desert (p. 132). He will find it mentioned on Seti I.'s march from the Delta into Palestine (see Breasted, *Ancient Records*, vol. III., par. 100).

It seems very regrettable that so valuable a book should not have

been accompanied by an adequate map. The map appended is on a scale so small that in many cases it proves entirely insufficient. It is moreover a lamentable specimen of the map-maker's art.

Finally, let it be said that these criticisms are intended in no way to reflect upon the value of a book, into which so much industry and conscientious work have gone. It will undoubtedly become, and deservedly, the standard edition in English, of this indispensable source for the study of the earliest history of commerce between the East and West.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

A History of the Eastern Roman Empire from the Fall of Irene to the Accession of Basil I. (A. D. 802–867.) By J. B. BURY, Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. (London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xv, 530.)

THIS is a continuation of the author's well-known *History of the Later Roman Empire from Arcadius to Irene*. It is on a larger scale and the history of this later period is treated more exhaustively. The first five chapters, about two-fifths of the text, deal with the reigns of the successive emperors, beginning with the fall of Irene and closing with the murder of Michael III. It is characteristic of Byzantine history that the period should be included between two palace revolutions. These chapters are largely concerned with the iconoclastic struggle, and of the remaining nine chapters, two are devoted to ecclesiastical subjects: Photius and Ignatius, and the Conversion of Slavs and Bulgarians. Five chapters treat of the relations with the Saracens, the Western Empire and Venice, Bulgaria, and the Empire of the Khazars and the Peoples of the North. The other two discuss financial and military administration, and art, learning, and education in the Amorian period.

It is scarcely necessary to state that the work is excellent; the author's fitness for the task is well known. But it is interesting to note in the bibliography a dozen titles of articles and monographs by him, dealing with such different subjects as criticism of source material, chronology, topography, and constitutional and administrative topics. There are also twelve appendixes to this volume, mainly devoted to criticism of original material or clearing up difficult points in chronology. The author's exact and minute knowledge has enabled him to correct many errors of fact in the work of his predecessors. The bibliography contains over three hundred titles of books and articles, about evenly divided between sources and secondary material, and this does not include all the titles cited in the notes. Apparently nothing of importance has been overlooked. There is an excellent English index and a Greek index.