

University has instituted a series of studies on historical and political science, under the able editorship of Mr. Herbert B. Adams. In this series have been investigated the local institutions of Virginia and Maryland; dealing with the land system, the hundred, the parish, the county, and the town. From these very important books are to be gained some most instructive lessons as to the application of the principles of the local institutions of England in the seventeenth century to an entirely new country and settlement; and it is greatly to be hoped that the University authorities, more alive to the requirements of the age than the authorities in England, will pursue these studies, until they have exhausted the rich and varied evidence which must be forthcoming" (pp. 13-14).

The prefaces to the various sections differ in value; none of them places new results before the reader, and all of them dwell too much upon the archaic aspects of the subjects discussed. A general sketch of the history of each institution would have been far better than a vague exposition of origins, with which the author's attention is almost wholly absorbed. It would have been still more relevant to have carefully indicated the relative importance of the chief authorities enumerated, so as to enable the casual reader to discriminate between them. As it is, the reader is left to grope his way through the maze as best he may. The words of explanation which the author gives are in great part misleading. From the reference on page 96, for example, to Mr. Fletcher's valuable "Statistics of the Municipal Institutions of English Towns," one might easily be misled to regard it as the best treatise on English municipal history. Nothing is said in this preface of the insidious Brady, the conscientious Madox, the ponderously learned but fallacious Merewether and Stephens, and the instructive but not very profound Thompson, who, with all their defects, are the leading authorities on the subject. Equally misleading are Mr. Gomme's words concerning the "scholarly," "important and famous" essay of Dr. Brentano, in the preface to the section on guilds (p. 152). The truth is, that Brentano has done more to falsify than to elucidate the history of guilds, though Englishmen will persist in regarding him as an infallible guide.

The bibliographical portions of Mr. Gomme's book must be regarded as valuable for the same reason that a few drops of water are highly prized by the thirsty traveller in the desert. Although the author evidently considers most of his lists "fairly complete," it may be asserted with confidence that, without at all departing from the narrow limits to which he has confined himself, the number of titles may easily be doubled. The omission of such prime authorities as the 'Rotuli Chartarum' (1837), the 'Chartae, Privilegia, etc., Hiberniae' (Record Commission), Gale's 'Inquiry into the Corporate System of Ireland' (1834), the Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland (5 vols, 1856-1885), and Norton's 'Commentaries on the History, Constitution, etc., of London' (3d edition, 1869), indicates a superficial knowledge of the subject or inexcusable negligence in the execution of the work. Subjoined is a small fraction of a long list of flagrant omissions: Corbett, 'Inquiry into Corporate Counties of England and Wales,' 1826; Maurer, 'Anglo-Saxon Mark Courts,' 1855; Rathbone, Pell, and Montague, 'Local Government,' 1885; Cruden, 'Observations on Municipal Bodies,' 1826; 'Rules, Orders, etc., of the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland,' 1672; Black, 'Privileges of the Royal Burrows,' 1707; 'Constitution of the Royal Burghs,' 1818; 'Sets or Constitutions of Royal Burghs,' 1787; 'Schedule of the Records of Bedford,' 1883; 'Charters of Ayr,' 1883; Wyatt, 'Memoirs of the Corporation of Bedford,' 1852; Cudworth, 'Corporation of Bradford,' 1881; Seyer, 'Charters of Bristol,' 1812; Ferguson, 'Carlisle and its Corporation,'

1882; Daniel-Tyssen, 'Charters, etc., of Carmarthen,' 1878; Caulfield, 'Council Books of Cork, Kinsale, and Youghal,' 1878-1879; Sheardown, 'Corporation of Doncaster,' 1862; Beatts, 'Municipal History of Dundee,' 1878; 'Municipal Constitution of Edinburgh,' 1826; 'The Domesday of Ipswich,' vol. ii of the Black Book of the Admiralty (Rolls Series); Paul, 'Origin of Leicester Corporation,' 1885; 'Civitas Lincolnia,' 1870; Earwaker, 'Court Leet Records of Manchester,' 1884-1886; Picton, 'Selections from Liverpool Archives,' 1883; Renwick, 'Stirling Charters,' 1884; 'Extracts from Edinburgh Records' (1573-1589), 1882; 'Glasgow Records' (1630-1662), 1881; Salvioni, 'Le Gilde Inglese,' 1883; Abraun, 'Rolls of the Preston Guilds Merchant,' 1884; Crawford, 'Trades-House of Glasgow,' 1858; Hill, 'Merchants-House of Glasgow,' 1866; Oliver, 'Holy Trinity Guild of Sleaford,' 1837; North, 'Accounts of Church Wardens of St. Martin's, Leicester,' 1884.

The omission of parts of works or later editions (for example, the Ninth and Tenth Reports of the Historical MS. Commission, 1883-1885; Bunce, 'Corporation of Birmingham,' vol. ii, 1885); the assertion on page viii that Gneist's 'Geschichte, etc., der englischen Communalverfassung' has been translated into English; the reduplication of a rubric, such as Kings Lynn and Lynn Regis (pp. 121, 134); the repetition of the same title almost within the bounds of a single page (Corpus Christi Guild of York, pp. 164-165), not to mention many minor errors, must be characterized as extremely shiftless workmanship. Though the book, with all its defects, is useful, it is to be regretted that an author who has made substantial contributions to the literature of municipal history and folk-lore, has not given us a better guide to the literature of the local institutions of Great Britain.

#### *The Family: An Historical and Social Study.*

By Charles Franklin Thwing and Carrie F. Butler Thwing. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1886.

PERHAPS the greatest lack of this book is a preface. This would not be denied even by one generally as impatient as Bacon of "prefaces and passages and excusations," for the merit of a compilation of this sort depends upon the end aimed at and the method followed. These are not revealed to us by the authors, and, unfortunately, the book does not speak clearly for itself. All of the historical matter of the introductory chapters is easily accessible elsewhere—has, in fact, already been popularized; the social statistics of the closing chapters can be found in other publications. Does the book exist, then, for the sake of the intermediate chapters—the hortatory and least satisfactory part of the work? Is its justification found in the bringing together under the name 'The Family' what has before been published under the general title, Sociology, or specifically under Marriage and Divorce? One may acknowledge industry in the "Study," but still he asks, Why this public recitation? There should have been a preface to tell us. A reader could also wish that the authors had made known their ideas on the proper use of authorities. We had supposed that the rule for which Niebuhr so strenuously contended was now established—the rule, namely, that citations from original authorities encountered in any writer, even if separately verified, should always be credited to the author first using them. The book before us follows this rule in two or three instances; Rev. and Mrs. Thwing should have been content to range themselves with Niebuhr in avoiding a show of cheap learning, and should have acknowledged many more of their quotations.

We note a few cases of careless writing. "Ru-

minants" and "ungulates" are used as if they were mutually exclusive terms (p. 12). "Utensils and instruments which are for use" is not a happy combination, and what is "the Semitic language" referred to in the same sentence (p. 16)? The elaborate definition of marriage on page 100 is palpably ungrammatical. A paragraph on Socialism (p. 108) has sentences which convey exactly the reverse of the meaning intended. The equality of husband and wife is argued for on the ground, among others, of the teaching of Scripture. But the witness is immediately discredited as follows: "If one holds to the literal, verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, he is forced to believe in the moral and intellectual inferiority of woman, and in her subordination to her husband in the marriage relation" (p. 117).

*Our Government: How it Grew, What it Does, and How It Does it.* By Jesse Macy, A.M., Professor of History and Political Science in Iowa College. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1886. 12mo, pp. 238.

By "our Government" Prof. Macy understands the entire political system under which we live—that part of it which lies nearest to us, as well as that which is largest and most remote; and his method of introducing the pupil to the knowledge of this system of government is by beginning with that which is nearest to him, and passing from this to what is more general. After a short introductory Part i, of two chapters, we have Part ii, "Matters chiefly local"—education, highways, care of poor, etc. Part iii treats of the administration of justice; Part iv, of Federal executive business; Part v, of Legislation; Part vi, of Constitutions; a copy of the United States Constitution coming at the end. We think it would have been well to give a compendious commentary upon the several articles of this document in systematic order; this would form a suitable supplement to the book, and need not have added much to its bulk.

We have no doubt that this is the right method for our schools. It not only affords a more intelligible introduction to the systematic study of the Constitution, but impresses upon the mind of the pupil the importance of these institutions of local self-government which the exclusive study of the Federal Constitution is apt to leave out of sight. And the freshness of treatment seen in this arrangement is carried into all parts of the book. The pupil is constantly encouraged to look at government as something that concerns him nearly and individually, and not as a distant and incomprehensible power; as a living organism of which he is a part, and not as an artificial and complicated mechanism. The work has the defect of its method—that the knowledge obtained is very vital, but not systematic enough; but this defect would be removed, without destroying its present merit, by such an addition as we have suggested. The book, in its plan and its details, deserves high commendation, and ought to come largely into use in our schools.

*The Ivory King, a Popular History of the Elephant and its Allies.* By Charles Frederick Holder. 8vo, xvi, 330 pp. Chas. Scribner's Sons. 1886. Illustrated.

THE author of this volume is familiarly known from various popular articles on the peculiarities of birds and mammals in the magazines; in which, and especially in the illustrations of which, exaggeration and fancy have played so prominent a part that it was with some apprehension we proceeded to the examination of the present more pretentious work. Fortunately, the author seems to have better realized his responsibilities, and though he has given us a treatise not

remarkable for thoroughness and precision, it is at least a fairly accurate account of the living species of elephant and some of their extinct relatives, written in a popular and easy style and tolerably well illustrated.

The elephant is so remarkable an animal as to afford abundant material for a book of this sort, and the writer has brought together a great deal which has existed in a scattered form and will be practically new to most of his readers. The most praiseworthy feature of the narrative is the full account of the use of the elephant in classical times and in the wars of Oriental nations. By giving precision to his citations through the medium of references to their source, the book would have acquired a more permanent value, and its usefulness to the casual reader would have been undiminished. As it is, there is a long but extremely imperfect and fragmentary collection of references, not even by courtesy to be called a bibliography, but which might assist a good guesser to prepare a bibliography. The author, in his preface, disclaims any scientific character for his work, but he cannot, if he would, divest himself of scientific responsibility for accuracy of statement. On the whole there is no great reason to complain. The reference to elephant sculptures at Palenque should have been omitted, as it is now definitely decided that there are none, and the figures representing them were due to a misconception of the draughtsman. It should also have been stated that the so-called "elephant pipes," whether genuine or not, have been the subject of much doubt and controversy. On page 262 we read that a party of elephants proceeded at the rate of "one or two yards an hour," which from the context is evidently an error. In spite of these and other points to which criticism might be devoted with success, if not with profit, the book contains much that will amuse and interest most readers and will not lead them greatly astray.

We have devoted a more serious criticism to this work than perhaps its character justifies, for the reason that until very recently the place in literature which Mr. Holder seems to have in view has been almost vacant. Ernest Ingersoll and one or two others have shown that graceful and attractive prose on subjects supposed to be familiar only to students and specialists may be sure of an appreciative audience, none the less because it is scientifically accurate. Every additional writer in this field will for a long time have golden opportunities, and eventually be of service to science and literature in the exact proportion in which he is faithful to both. We have thought that Mr. Holder showed signs of promise in this direction, in spite of some extravagances, and have felt that it was time he addressed himself more seriously to his work. The 'Ivory King' shows a certain step in advance. We hope that the author's next contribution to literature may be even more worthy of his abilities.

*Ben Jonson.* By John Addington Symonds. [English Worthies.] D. Appleton & Co. 1886.

MR. SYMONDS refers in a foot-note in this volume to his larger work on 'Shakspeare's Predecessor,' and says he has drawn largely upon it, and "frequently borrowed from it textually in the composition of this sketch." He has, in other words, preferred to repeat rather than to rewrite some portions of what he thinks of Jonson. The frank avowal of this method of composition forestalls objection. Certainly if a man has once criticised and placed an author, he need not be forced to paraphrase the estimate; there would be no use for such labor. The book, however, necessarily lacks freshness. The 'Life' of Ben Jonson, as Mr. Symonds conceived it, is mainly a criticism

of his works; the only new item incorporated into the narrative is the indictment, published some months ago in the *Athenæum*, which shows that Jonson pleaded his clergy to escape the gallows, and was branded upon the thumb according to the law; but the details of this duel, or assault, or whatever it was for which he was put in such grave peril, are still obscure. The remainder of his life receives no new light, and in lieu of narrative we are treated to much criticism of a rather formal kind. Mr. Symonds is perhaps too accustomed to the liberty that a writer of unlimited large octavos enjoys, to move easily within the narrow scope of a short monograph; and, besides that, is too much imbued with the historic taste, too much interested in general social movements and in types of art, to write a vivid personal sketch for its own sake. He does not, however, contribute anything specially novel, with all his elaborate analysis and ready rhetoric, even in the department of criticism of the general order. The elements of Ben Jonson's art are very simple, and so is his character. Mr. Symonds dwells very strongly on the influence of his poet on the verse of the next generation in Herrick and others; and the clearness with which he brings this out is perhaps the most valuable part of his book. But this way of writing the lives of the worthies by padding the scanty record of their actual selves and doings by means of lengthy criticism of their works, has little to recommend it.

*Familiar Talks on Some of Shakspeare's Comedies.* By Elizabeth Wormeley Latimer. Boston: Roberts Bros. 1886.

THESE essays are no more than they pretend to be—preliminary talks upon nine of Shakspeare's plays to make the understanding of them easier for a Women's Reading Club. For this purpose they were written out, and they were delivered, the authoress tells us, "to a large and appreciative class of ladies." There are touches in them, we should say, which could hardly fail to interest a more extended circle. Naturally the body of the matter is made up of description of the action, with long quotations, and of some criticism under the guiding star of Dowden, Mrs. Jameson, and other lights of the popular study of Shakspeare; but there is, too, a vein of originality in the volume, a personal element, with judgments, antipathies, and observations of a lively nature. We confess to a sensation of "pricking in the thumbs" on noticing in the preface with what an "irreverent hand" the authoress made ready to dismiss Virgil from among the six great poets, and did send Lucan, Horace, and Ovid packing without ado; and in the midst of the volume it was not without a shock that we learned that the story of "As You Like It" was taken from "a pastoral romance by one Lodge," while the whole conduct of the essay upon the "Taming of the Shrew," which is to show that *Katharina* was a saint bedevilled by "the sly Bianca" and her other kindred, and *Petruchio* the prince of gentlemen, forced us to admit privately that the authoress was not free from the modern temptation to perversity in criticism.

But the frank avowals of likes and dislikes disarmed us of the critical temper, and frequent feminine "asides" engaged our amiable interest. What a light it throws on Shakspeare's awkward masculinity (fortunately natural in this place) to know that when *Benedick* is being gulled by the *Prince*, *Claudio*, and *Leonato*, "these three men set about their work so unskillfully that any woman hidden in the arbor would have known at once that, as children say, 'they were making it up as they went along.'" How delightful must this confidence have been, apropos of *Orsino's* lax love-making—"Some of us

must have known how hard it is to spur up one who hesitates and fears, to be an active lover!" and this bit of cold wisdom, with regard to *Posthumus* and *Imogen*—"There is a proneness to jealousy even in good men which does not exist in a good woman." The paper upon "The Merchant of Venice" is, perhaps, the most variously original of all. There one is told that *Dr. Belario* probably taught *Portia* law, "at least the rudiments, which every woman who owns property ought to understand"; and that *Antonio's* sadness was occasioned "in part by a sense of mercantile responsibility"—a phrase which seems to be elucidated by the observation, "It makes one almost as sad as *Antonio* to see how rich men are 'put upon' in this country; every one who has a hobby," etc., to the end of the woes of the modern millionaire. In analysis, or insight without analysis, what Teutonic eye ever pierced deeper than this?—"I fancied I could detect Germanisms, as if Shakspeare had studied his *Shylock* from some German Jew"; and what remoulder of the world after his or her own heart ever expressed a more surprising wish than is here made for *Portia*?—"As for that sweet lady, may her married life have been a happy one; but I wish she had married *Antonio*!" These are some of the curious trifles of a volume which may serve a useful end in its own originally humble sphere.

#### BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Aster, R. Americans in Rome. A Novel. James R. Barnett & Co.  
Bancroft, H. H. The History of the Pacific Coast. Vol. xix. Oregon, vol. 1, 1834-1848. San Francisco: The History Co.  
Benjamin, S. G. W. Persia and the Persians. Illustrated. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$5.00.  
Bishop, W. H. Detmold: A Romance. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.  
Bloxam, Dr. J. R. Magdalen College and King James II. 1686-1688. A Series of Documents, collected and edited. Oxford: Clarendon Press.  
Briggs, Prof. C. A. Messianic Prophecy. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.50.  
Cameron, Com. V. L. The Cruise of the *Black Prince*. Privateer. Belford, Clarke & Co.  
Clark, Prof. J. B. The Philosophy of Wealth: Economic Principles Newly Formulated. Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.50.  
Corrie, Theodora. In Scorn of Consequence; or, My Brother's Keeper. Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.  
Donaldson, F. Jr. Two Comedies: An Ill Wind, An Abject Apology. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co. \$1.00.  
Don Valdes, A. P. The Marquis of Peñañeta: A Realistic Social Novel. Thomas Y. Crowell. \$1.50.  
Eggar, C. Man and Labor. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co.  
Elliott, H. W. The Arctic Province: Alaska and the Seat Islands. Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$4.50.  
Gilliat, E. Forest Outlaws, or Saint Hugh and the King. Illustrated. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.00.  
Gladwin, Rev. W. Applied Christianity: Moral Aspects of Social Questions. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.  
Handford, T. W. The Sands of Time: A Book of Birthday Gems. Chicago: W. H. Harrison & Co.  
Hawthorne, J. Confessions and Criticisms. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.25.  
Healy, Edith. Painters of the Italian Renaissance. Illustrated. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co. \$2.50.  
Helps to Belief. Miracles; Creation. 2 vols. Cassell & Co.  
History of the United States, in Chronological Order, from A. D. 432 to the Present Time. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co.  
James, H. The Princess Casamassima: A Novel. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.  
Keleher, C. J. Romish Priests' Recent Outrages. Chicago: Craig & Barlow.  
Larcom, Lucy. Beckonings for Every Day: A Calendar of Thought. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.  
Linton, Mrs. E. Lynn. Millionaire and Miser: A Novel. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.  
Lorimer, Dr. G. C. Studies in Social Life. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co.  
Malot, H. Zyte. B. Westermann & Co.  
Mitchell, S. W. Roland Blake. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.  
Navigation Laws of the United States. Washington: Bureau of Navigation.  
Outing: An Illustrated Monthly Magazine of Recreation. Vol. viii. April to September, 1886. The Outing Co.  
Owen, Catherine. Ten Dollars Enough: Keeping House Well on Ten Dollars a Week. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.00.  
Patterson, C. S. Railway Accident Law. The Liability of Railways for Injury to the Person. Philadelphia: T. and J. W. Johnson & Co.  
Petrarch. Rev. P. Cicero's Tusculan Disputations. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.  
Perry, T. S. The Evolution of the Snob. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.00.  
Postgate, J. W. Two Women in Black: The Marvellous Career of a Noted Forger. Chicago: Belford, Clarke & Co.  
Richie, F. English Grammar and Analysis. London: Hivingtons.  
Shorthouse, J. H. Sir Percival. Macmillan & Co. \$1.00.  
Stinde, J. The Buchholz Family: Sketches of Berlin Life. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.25.  
Swift, Dean. Gulliver's Travels. Boston: Ginn & Co. 35 cents.  
Tamm, Rev. T. De W. Shots on Sundry Targets. E. B. Treat. \$2.00.  
Tchédérine, N. Berlin et Paris. 2d ed. Paris: Louis Westhauser.