

its thoroughness of preparation, soberness of judgment, and interesting style, is well worthy of a place in its series. The reigns of the first two Tudors do not possess any such marked unity and individuality as to qualify them especially for being selected as an "epoch." But the period, from the point of view of European history, is especially interesting as being that of transition from the mediæval to the modern dynastic system. That series of international events which introduced the great wars for the balance of power, as well as that series of moral and intellectual events which were the true beginning of modern history, all fell in these two reigns. The period is divisible into two quite independent ones, the line being, one might almost say, the moment when Anne Boleyn captured the heart of the susceptible King. From this moment the history of England was changed; all the worst elements of the King's character came to the front, and his policy and purpose were made new.

This is not to say that, because Henry became a worse man, his policy was necessarily worse for his country. His motives were one thing, the work he wrought was another. Whatever his shortcomings, intellectually and morally, there was one quality which distinguished Henry and his daughter Elizabeth perhaps more than any other English sovereigns—*tact*: the capacity of seeing what the people needed, what they desired, and how far it was safe to reckon upon their compliance. Still less, therefore, would we say that this new policy was the work of the King alone and his selfish and sensual passions. It is hardly possible that England should not have followed the same path with the other northern nations, even if her King had not forced her into it.

Mr. Moberly's judgment of Henry VIII. appears to be intermediate between the high estimate of his intellect and his masterful character expressed by Bishop Stubbs, and the exceedingly low estimate placed upon them by Mr. Friedmann. The judgment passed upon him in the closing paragraph of the book is temperate, and, we should think, just. It is only fair to remember that he was always popular with his subjects as a whole, and that, if he had died after a reign of twenty years, he would have come down to us with a reputation certainly not as a bad King.

The history of the fifteenth century, the last reigns of the Plantagenets and the succession of the Tudors, depends more than that of any other period of English history upon questions of title. Mr. Moberly regards the title of Henry VII. to represent the line of Lancaster as sound, for the reason (p. 15) that the words *excepta dignitate regia* were omitted from the authoritative copy of the act legitimating the family of Beaufort. In regard to Henry IV., he speaks (p. 10) of his "defective title." But—apart from the fact that the hereditary rule of succession was far from being fully defined in this age—it is plain that the title of the house of Lancaster was fully as good as that of the house of Hanôver. Neither was worth a straw according to the strict rule of hereditary succession; both alike rested on the will of the people, as expressed by Parliament—in each case a transfer of dynasty having taken place in order to put an end to gross misgovernment. In 1399 it was well agreed that the arbitrary and vacillating rule of Richard II. must come to an end, and it would have been an act of folly to give the throne to the child, Edmund Mortimer. At such a crisis in earlier times there was no question what should be done—the mature Edred was chosen King instead of the infant Edgar. There was no such formal decision in the present case; but when Henry seized the power, as being the

one man of the royal family who was able to exercise it, the nation acquiesced.

In 1455 there came a similar crisis, and again the nation decided for the strong man, against the incapable King. But not so wisely in the results. As Mr. Moberly shows (p. 12), the house of York set aside the constitutional limitations of royal power which the Lancastrian kings had recognized, and a régime of arbitrary and tyrannical rule ensued, which was interrupted by the retransfer of the crown to a branch of the house of Lancaster, and again because the nation was tired of misgovernment. It is true the Tudor kings were as absolute as Edward IV.; but their authority rested on that of Parliament, and Parliament, under their rule, continued to be an integral part of the machinery of government.

We find on page 7 the statement that Charles the Bold "was on the point of excluding France from all communication with the rest of Europe except through his States, by seizing the Provençal dominions of René of Anjou"—a curiously incorrect statement. How could the possession of the *Provençal* territories cut off France from any part of Europe? It was not Provence but Lorraine that Charles seized; and the possession of Lorraine, forming a connecting link between his Burgundian and Netherland possessions, did block up the communication between France and the north of Europe. Moreover, this was not the possession of René of Anjou at this time—he had ceased for a number of years to govern Lorraine (which belonged to his wife), and this province was now the property of his grandson, René II. of Lorraine, ancestor of the Guises and Lorraines of the sixteenth century.

Shores and Alps of Alaska. By H. W. Seton Karr. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1887. 8vo, xvi, 248 pp. Maps and illustrations.

THIS volume is as far as possible from containing the record of a properly trained explorer in a new field, the investigation of a scientific geographer, or the enthusiastic tale of an ardent sportsman. Yet all three may find some grains of wheat scattered through the chaffy chronicle of the Author (with a large A), his doings and opinions.

Lieut. Karr crossed the continent by the Canadian Pacific, and took the Alaska steamer at Victoria. The chapter in which he describes some of the chief features of interest along the new railway is not uninteresting, and is enlivened with several effective, if somewhat exaggerated, illustrations of bits of scenery. His journey to Sitka is remarkable only for the fact that he met and joined the New York Times expedition under Schwatka, with a view of scaling Mt. St. Elias. The incidents of that excursion have been too fully set forth in the daily papers to need recapitulation. So far as this book is concerned, the expedition is viewed in the light of the action and reaction between the author and his environment, and not as an organic whole. It may be noted that the position of the peak of St. Elias has been well determined by the United States Coast Survey to be in latitude 60° 20', with a limit of error probably less than one mile. Although this expedition had no instrument of precision more efficient than a prismatic compass, which is occasionally referred to with a kind of awe, by making a wholly unwarrantable assumption as to the position of the landing-place, the mountain on the map of the expedition's route (p. 86) has been placed about sixteen and a half geographical miles too far north and several miles too far east. For the purposes of the narrative this does not much matter, but it is only fair that map-makers should be warned of the discrepancy.

After returning to Yakutat, Lieut. Karr left

the Schwatka party and took passage on a small trading vessel for Kaiak Island, with the view of reaching Nuchek, and eventually Kadiak Island. Although the supposition of the author (p. 7) that he was the first explorer in the footsteps of Cook "to make the circuit of the coast northward from Cape Spencer, or the canoe journey from Kaiak to Prince William Sound," is ludicrously inaccurate, yet, as those who have preceded him have published little or nothing on their observations, this journey was really the grand opportunity of Lieut. Karr's whole voyage. Unfortunately he gives comparatively little information useful to geographers or ethnologists, though the prismatic compass might well have been brought into service. Still, what little in the way of observation and illustration he does give, is the most valuable part of the book. After his arrival at Nuchek, some time was passed there, and chapter x is devoted to the diary of John Bremner, a prospector who spent a winter on the Atna or Copper River. This is chiefly remarkable for its bad spelling and the absence of any really valuable information notwithstanding its length. Though the people of that region are the least known of Alaskan tribes, and any trustworthy data in regard to them would have been invaluable, this diary is as empty of facts worth noting as is possible to conceive. After some delay the author reached Kadiak, and soon after sailed for San Francisco, witnessing meanwhile the shocking murder of the Alaska Company's agent at St. Paul by a Russian maniac.

In minor matters there is much inaccuracy. Names of places are generally misspelled. Sir Thomas Hesketh's yacht, *Lancashire Witch*, which explored Cook's Inlet in 1880, is referred to as the *Paladine*. With regard to previous explorations of the region visited, the author preserves a pretty consistent silence. Nevertheless, those who have paid little attention to the subject of Alaska will find the book not without interest. It has a good index, and the publishers have done their part well.

Cucumber Chronicles. A Book to be taken in Slices. By J. Ashby-Sterry. Scribner & Welford. 1887.

THIS collection of light sketches is an English summer book of an agreeable literary and outdoor flavor. Dickens and Thackeray, with a touch of Hogarth, are the *belles-lettres* ingredient, and the rambling inn, the seashore resort, and walks across country afford the nature- tonic. It must be acknowledged that much of the writer's thought is as frivolous as one can well endure even to pass the time, and sometimes his sentiment has the lightness of thistledown, with but a modicum of its grace. But for all that there are three or four papers worth liking for the half-hour they will live in the interest and memory of the hammock-lounger. "Tubbleton's" is as frowsy and stuffy a bit of Dickens's London as one would pick up in a twelvemonth outside of the novelist's own broad acre of our literature; the "Christmas Visitors" on the train—the old Admiral, his very girlish daughters eagerly scanning the platform for "Snackleton" and "Charlie," home from Egypt with his arm in a sling—make a party so natural and charming that one regrets breaking off their acquaintance; and the "Haunted Precinct" is a capital Temple reverie from a literary bachelor. But when this is said, though it would perhaps be too much to say that all is said, yet we must leave the indolent reader to seek for the plums himself in the rest of the volume, or for whatever special delicacy a slice of cucumber may have for his palate. We observe only that nothing in the book suggests that cold, unripe, and indigestible

thing, and that in the sauce of the author there is nothing acid or hot, neither pepper nor vinegar. The only analogy between these pleasant essays and that singularly heavy and ungraceful fruit is probably that the author is fond of both.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Abbott, Dr. C. C. A Naturalist's Rambles about Home. 2d ed., revised. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
A Modern Circus. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 50 cents. New York: Geo. Munro. 20 cents.
Autobiography of Samuel D. Gross, M.D. Edited by his Sons. 2 vols. Philadelphia: George Barrie.
Barrows, C. M. Facts and Fictions of Mental Healing. Boston: B. H. Carter & Karkick.
Bottomley, J. T. Four-Figure Mathematical Tables. Macmillan & Co. 70 cents.
Bary, Prof. A. de. Comparative Morphology and Biology of the Fungi Mycetozoa and Bacteria. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co. \$5.50.
Chauvenet's Treatise on Elementary Geometry, revised by Prof. W. E. Byerly. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.20.
Cohen, J. B. The Owens College Course of Practical Organic Chemistry. Macmillan & Co. 70 cents.
Cotterill, H. B. Schiller's Wallenstein's Lager. Macmillan & Co. 50 cents.
Dettmann, F. O. Complete Text-book of Phono-Stenography. F. O. Dettmann. \$2.
Fasnacht, G. E. Schiller's Wilhelm Tell. Macmillan & Co. 60 cents.
Franklin, B. Complete Works. Edited by John Bigelow. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.

Grasset, E. La Guerre de Sécession. 2e partie. Les Hommes. Paris: L. Baudoin & Cie.; New York: Christern.
Guiley, Prof. F. A. First Lessons in Agriculture. Starkville, Miss.: F. A. Guiley. 75 cents.
Hall, H. S., and Knight, S. R. Higher Algebra. Macmillan & Co. \$1.90.
Kirk, Eleanor. Beecher as a Humorist. Fords, Howard & Hulbert. \$1.
Kunhardt, C. P. Steam Yachts and Launches: their Machinery and Management. Forest and Stream Publishing Co.
Lubbock, Sir J. The Pleasures of Life. D. Appleton & Co.
Lyall, Edna. The Autobiography of a Slander. D. Appleton & Co. 25 cents.
Lytton, Sir E. B. Poems and Ballads of Schiller. Frederick Warne & Co. \$1.
Maconald, G. God's Words to His Children: Sermons. Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.50.
Macmillan, Prof. M. Milton's Paradise Lost. Books I., II. Macmillan & Co. 60 cents.
McKay, G. G. Elements of Scientific and Practical Agriculture. Baltimore.
Morris, C. The Detective's Crime. Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
Murray, C. A. The Prairie-Bird: A Novel. Frederick Warne & Co. \$1.
Peard, Frances M. Scapegrace Dick. Thos. Whittaker. \$1.05.
Philadelphia and its Environs. New ed. J. B. Lippincott Co. 50 cents.
Phillips's Life Directory. W. Phillips & Co. \$6.
Platt, Mrs. S. M. B. Child's-World Ballads. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co. \$1.
Poor's Directory of Railroad Officials. 1887. New York, 70 Wall Street. \$2.
Rand, E. A. Fighting the Sea: or, Winter at the Life-Saving Station. Thos. Whittaker. \$1.25.

Robertson, F. W. In Bad Hands, and Other Stories. Harper & Brothers. 20 cents.
Robertson, W. Pocahontas and her Descendants. Richmond: J. W. Randolph & English. \$1.50.
Sachs, J. von. Lectures on the Physiology of Plants. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co. \$8.
Scott, Sir W. St. Ronan's Well. Redgauntlet. (Vols. 17, 18, Library Edition, Waverley Novels.) Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
Shillaber, Lydia. Cook-Book. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
Spyri, Mme. J. Swiss Stories for Children. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. \$1.
Street, J. C. The Hidden Way Across the Threshold. Boston: Lee & Shepard. \$3.50.
Stretzell, A. Spanish and Italian Folk Songs. Macmillan & Co. \$4.
Sturgis, J. Thraldom: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents.
Thackeray, W. M. The Book of Snobs, etc. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 50 cents.
The Critic. Vol. 7. The Critic Co.
The West Church, Boston. Fiftieth Anniversary of its Present Ministry. Boston: Darnell & Upham. \$1.50.
Toistol, Count L. N. My Confession, and the Spirit of Christ's Teaching. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.
Transactions and Reports of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Vol. II. Lincoln, Neb.
Verne, J. Texas's Vengeance. Part I. Geo. Munro. 20 cents.
Vincent, J. H. The Home Book, for Little People, etc. Phillips & Hunt.
W. H. B. The Order of Words in the Ancient Languages Compared with that of the Modern Languages. Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.25.
Westbury, H. Frederick Hazzleden: A Novel. Macmillan & Co. \$1.
Wynkoop, R. Vessels and Voyages, as regulated by Federal Statutes, etc. D. Van Nostrand.

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