

terials for consideration have been exhaustively handled, and, representing slow accumulations of geology from its beginning, it is unlikely that sufficient additions will soon be gathered to necessitate revision. New discoveries will eventually call for reconsideration, but in all probability the result will, through multiplication of species and complication of affinities, resemble that in hand much as a systema of to-day would resemble that of Linnaeus. Comparative poverty in materials favors the production of a work like the present. Less prejudice in favor of Selection might have been better for the book. The use of the word Evolution is carefully avoided. On every page the bias toward Darwinism—as the author defines it, “finding a proof for the theory of descent in the hypothesis of natural selection in the struggle for existence”—is prominent. This, to any one who considers the forces that build the species of crystals in the rocks, or the species and genera of plants, as all-powerful in forming the species of animals, and who treat the idiosyncrasies of an animal as minor considerations, is something of a defect.

Prof. Schmidt's opinion of his own work is shown by the following extract from the preface, in which, as in other passages, the responsibility for the confusion of ideas must be shared by the translator:

“It will be found to contain proofs of the necessity, the truth, and the value of Darwinism as the foundation for the theory of descent, within a limited field, and is brought down to the most recent times. Within these limits the work is complete in itself; for although the student of natural history may have become acquainted with interesting fragments of the actual science, still the subject has not before been presented in so comprehensive a manner or in so convenient a form.”

There is little in the author's treatment of the position of the mammalia that is not generally accepted, except, perhaps in incidental statements. A perfectly satisfactory explanation of the occurrence of the same genera, partly of the same species, of fishes and mussels in rivers situated very far apart, he finds in the assumption that the progenitors of all purely fresh-water species could also at one time live in either kind of water. Yet many of these may date their origin near the time of the emergence of the land, when there was no difference in the waters. More weight than is usual, or than was to have been expected, is given to phenomena of convergence; whether these and those of reversion, degradation, etc., have been fully estimated, the future will determine. Among distinctive characteristics it is said of the placenta that it came into existence only with the actual mammals, and is an acquisition towards a higher degree of progress. In view of the placental attachment obtaining in *Carcharias* and other genera of sharks, this should have been modified. Palæontology since Cuvier is well brought forward. Gaudry, Filhol, Owen, Rutimeyer, Burmeister, and, in this country, Leidy and Marsh, are favored authorities. In a number of instances Cope is cited only to be discredited.

The second section of the book is devoted to special comparisons of the living mammals with what are supposed to have been their ancestors. Beginning with the lowest, the monotremes, each group is treated in succession. The conclusion that the lower groups of mammals are, of course, those which have retained the inherited qualities of their ancestors most distinctly, may or may not in future accord their present position to this group, since not a trace of any fossil discovery leads us from the present living monotremes back to the primeval world. Further, it is said that, even admitting the debatable supposition of direct alliance with the marsupials, separation must have taken place before the Trias. Marsupials are traced with some uncertainty from Microles-

tes of the Trias. Clues to the relationship between Australian and American living marsupials are not yet found among the fossils. The Didelphidae are supposed to be the earlier branch, from the lower vertebrates, and, according to Bardeleben, America was the earlier home of the group. Of the Edentata, as of the preceding, known fossils are insufficient indications of ancestry or connections between the branches. At the close of his remarks upon them, the author says: “Finally, a few remains from the Upper Eocene of Quercy corroborate what is demanded by our theory and common sense. With this division of the living world, we may be said, upon the whole, to stand utterly helpless as regards geological antiquity, in so far as the question refers to a special proof for the origin of species, and the perfectly justifiable proof of a general deduction is not accepted.”

It is among the hoofed animals that the greatest degree of success in tracing descent is attained; yet even of these the incomings are as yet lost in the same obscurity as those of the other orders, though found in various stages of development, as early as the lowest Eocene. North America is supposed to be the home of the camels, whence they migrated to the Old World. References to *Anoplotherium*, *Gelocus*, and *Diplopus*—forms which seem to answer the requirements of adaptability, in reduction of toes, etc., but yet became extinct—call out the frank admission of inability to point out the definite primary form for deer or other ruminant; but any attempt to explain the striking relation between the past and present forms, otherwise than by the theory of descent and in accordance with Darwin's principle, cannot be expected from the author. The teeth and feet receive the greatest amount of attention in the comparisons. In the horses the chain is carried further back than elsewhere, but even here it is short, and finds only conjectural connection with those leading from other quadrupeds. The origin of other groups is still more uncertain; we have no idea when or whence the whales originated, no fossil clue to the progenitors of the seals or to the lower ancestors of men. Speaking of anthropology, the Professor remarks that it has made no definite progress in the past ten years. It is no fault of the author that the lines of descent he traces are short and unsatisfactorily ended, disconnected from each other; it is due to the imperfect condition of our knowledge of the geological record.

Most of the exceptions to be taken are to the author's use of the various theories. For instance, “adaptability,” power of the animal to raise, or to accommodate itself, as the author puts it (plasticity, as we should write it), is treated as an unmixed benefit. Yet we find, among the extinct animals, forms similar to those surviving, and others so greatly differentiated that, by their very adaptability and readiness to answer the moulding influences of circumstances, they would seem to have been led to their destruction. One looks in vain for proof that the extinct American were less adaptable than the surviving European horses and camels, or that they were more able to resist exterminating causes than species of less adaptability that disappeared with them or that still survive. Accident is treated as if out of the question; yet the circumstances and masses in which the fossils are found prove the advent of occurrences out of the ordinary course. The term does not alone include sudden geological changes; a disease that might deprive us of our cattle, sheep, or hogs to-day would deserve the name as well as a cause that suddenly rendered the horse extinct in the post-Tertiary. As a consequence of imperfect record and knowledge, the author naturally indulges in a great deal of conjecture, much of which, with the advance of science, will give

way to something more certain or to guesswork having a better foundation. All things considered, however, Prof. Schmidt deserves great credit for the most compact, comprehensive, and interesting volume on evolution that has yet appeared.

Cannibals and Convicts: Notes of Personal Experiences in the Western Pacific. By Julian Thomas (“The Vagabond”). With portraits and map. Cassell & Co. 1886. Pp. xvi, 408. 8vo.

THE islands of the Western Pacific were till recently of interest chiefly to the Christian world as fields for missionary work. Twenty years ago the employment of natives on the cotton and sugar plantations of Queensland and the Fijis brought them into general notice. Now the interest in the labor traffic has given place to the question of the ownership of the remaining independent islands. Upon each of these subjects this book throws considerable light, but it deals mainly with the last, the burning question of Australian foreign politics. The author, an American by birth, is a well-known writer for the Melbourne and Sydney press, and also enjoys the distinction of being the only journalist whom the French have permitted to visit their penal settlements in the Pacific. He appears to possess the qualities essential for success in his profession of special correspondent—courage, tact in dealing with men, a keen thirst for information, together with considerable literary skill. Although confessedly viewing all subjects simply as they seem to affect Australian interests, he yet conveys the impression of describing truthfully and without exaggeration what he sees. The opening chapters on the Fijis and Norfolk Island are of interest only as they serve to contrast the condition of the British islands with New Caledonia. This island, the largest in the South Seas after New Zealand, he first visited in 1878, during an insurrection of the natives. He gives an entertaining account of his adventures while accompanying various expeditions into the interior in pursuit of the insurgents, but we cannot dwell upon it further than to say that he does not extol the efficiency or the humanity of the French soldiers in bush fighting. Among the leading officers was the novelist, M. Henri Rivière, who was killed five years later in Tonkin. He wrote a detailed account of these events in his ‘*Souvenirs de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*,’ which our author ironically styles “one of his most charming works of fiction.”

Of greater present importance is what he has to tell about the convict establishments. These are now, the Communists having all returned to France, of two kinds, the depot on an island in the harbor of the capital, Nouméa, where the worst criminals are confined, and the *penitenciers agricoles*. These are settlements of *libérés* or “good-conduct” men in places where, under certain restrictions, they cultivate the land and carry on their trades. At several of these stations Mr. Thomas stayed for some time, and says of them: “There was and is a condition of society as abominable as ever existed in the Cities of the Plain.” Bad as this is, there appears to be in the future a yet lower depth for them. “One cannot to English readers hint at the infamies,” he continues, “which are increasing. It is not many months back since I was on board a French transport, the *Dupuy de Lôme*, which lay alongside the pier at Port Melbourne. Her passengers included some sixty criminal women—young, strong, and healthy, selected on such qualifications from the prisons of France, to be sent to New Caledonia as mates for privileged convicts. That one had killed her husband, this one her lover, another her child. They were mostly murder-

esses, and one *en voyage* had thrown her baby out of the porthole to die in the sea!" And this is the Government which poses before the world as the protector of Christians in China and Tonkin. The number of convicts now in New Caledonia is variously estimated, Capt. Norman, in this 'Colonial France,' giving the last official figures as 9,334, Mr. Thomas putting them at nearly 20,000, which is probably much nearer the truth, since several thousand *récidivistes* have recently been transported thither. These "habitual criminals," persons who, in general terms, have within ten years been condemned three times to imprisonment for three months, or once to hard labor and once to a detention of three months, are to form settlements with the power of choosing their own municipal officers, and are, as we are given to understand, after a time to be permitted to leave the island, but never to return to France. Naturally Australia, only 700 miles distant, is the place to which they will go and to which a large number of the *libérés* do actually escape. This fact has led the Australians to protest, with justifiable vehemence, against the *récidiviste* bill and the annexation of the New Hebrides by France for the purpose of providing settlements for this new class of convicts.

It was in 1883, when the excitement over this question was at its height in Australia, that Mr. Thomas visited the New Hebrides to report upon the movements of the French and the present condition of the labor trade. He found the islands similar in most respects to the Fijis, but inhabited, with the exception of Aniitum, by a fierce race of savages, among whom a few white traders, planters, and missionaries live in constant fear of their lives. Several of those whom he saw at that time have since been killed. Most of the land in the possession of the whites had been bought by a French commercial house, which had absorbed nearly all the trade and was using its very powerful influence on the Government to annex the group. Mr. Thomas made it a part of his work to discover the opinions of the natives on this point, and with great courage he went alone among them to win their confidence and thus arrive at the truth. As a result of his investigations, he asserts that there is a universal and profound hatred of the French, or the *Kai-wee-wee*, as they are termed. In this conclusion he is borne out by Mr. Romilly, who, in his recent book on the Western Pacific, says that the natives do not consider the Frenchman to be a white man. Of their willingness to be annexed to Australia, which Mr. Thomas also confidently asserts, there is more reason to be sceptical.

Our traveller had equally favorable opportunities for studying the labor question. Not only did he cruise in labor vessels, but he landed in various places with the recruiters, and finally went to Australia in a ship with a cargo of natives to observe their treatment during the passage. One of the most notable men engaged in this traffic, with whom he sailed, was "the son of a Senator of Louisiana, and nephew to Gen. Beauregard," James Toutant Proctor, who lost a leg at Chancellorsville, but "served on the staff of Gen. Beauregard till the close of the war." Since then he had been a planter in the Fijis and New Hebrides, a trader, and was now a sailor in the employ of the French New Hebrides Company. The present condition of the labor trade is very different from what it was a few years ago, when this same Capt. Proctor was described by missionaries and Government officials as "being a curse wherever he went." The natives' freedom of choice is carefully guarded. Government agents go out with each vessel to see that none are taken by force, and that the ship has the legally prescribed accommodations for its living freight. According to Mr. Thomas's account, the one hundred and twenty natives on

board the *Lizzie* were happy and well cared for. They sang and danced and played "cat's cradle" with a piece of sinnet, making "most wonderful combinations, far exceeding anything a white child would dream of." He believes that they return to their homes, after a three-years' service on a Queensland plantation, improved; but in this favorable opinion Mr. Romilly, the Government Commissioner, and the missionaries generally do not agree. We have not space to dwell upon our author's observations on the work of the English missionaries, further than to say that his criticism on the comparative uselessness of translating the Scriptures into languages and dialects which are fast disappearing seems to us just. One would think that they had never heard of Eliot's Indian Bible. The French priests follow the wiser course of teaching their converts the French language. This policy of the missionaries is the more surprising from the fact that many of the natives in all the islands are able to speak a little English.

The final chapters of this very interesting book are upon New Guinea, but they add nothing new to our information about this island. We regret that the author has not valued his work highly enough to give it an index. In the map which accompanies the volume, the Caroline Islands are incorrectly ascribed to Germany instead of to Spain.

Sketches from English History. Selected and edited, with an introduction (from the Roman Conquests to the Revolution of 1688) by Arthur M. Wheeler, Professor of History in Yale College. New York: Chautauqua Press. 1886. 8vo, pp. 372.

PROF. WHEELER'S 'Sketches' consist of sixty-two selections, covering the entire field of English history, from "the Roman occupation" (Green) "to the story of Cawnpore" (Kaye). The selections are made with excellent judgment, from writers of the highest standing. A good notion of the execution, as regards both selection and completeness, will be given by the list of extracts for the reign of George II.: "Walpole as a Peace Minister" (Green); "The Preaching of Whitefield" (Lecky); "After Culloden" (Stanhope); "Pitt as a War Minister" (Macaulay). Each selection is introduced by a well-written paragraph by the editor, and he has provided also a general introduction—in too fine print, and ending, we cannot see why, at the accession of William III. One would have supposed that more abundant foot-notes would be desirable, and at any rate there should be some account of the authors and the works from which the selections are taken. An appendix contains fifteen maps, taken from Labberton's Historical Atlas. As a whole, the book is the best of its class with which we are acquainted.

The Two Spies. Nathan Hale and John André. By Benson J. Lossing, LL.D. Illustrated with pen-and-ink sketches by H. Rosa. D. Appleton & Co. 1886. Pp. 169.

IN this handsome volume Mr. Lossing relates with good taste and feeling the familiar stories of the two Revolutionary spies—stories familiar, but which will never lose their attractiveness or their pathos. There are too few materials for the life of Nathan Hale to allow it to be more than an introduction to that of the brilliant English officer; but, short as it is—barely thirty pages—this sketch makes a deeper impression upon the reader than the account of André which occupies the greater part of the volume. The publication of the book seems to have (apart from its general historical purpose) a two-fold object: partly to justify the erection, by Mr. Field, of the monument to André at Tappan, but principally

to excite interest in the projected monument to Hale. The writer's sentiment and sympathy are shown by these words of the "Fore-talk":

"The motives of the two spies were expressed by themselves. Hale said: 'I wish to be useful. If the exigencies of my country demand a peculiar service, its claims to the performance of that service are imperative.' André avowed that in the enterprise in which he was engaged all he sought was 'military glory, the applause of his King and country, and, perhaps, a brigadiership.' The last words uttered by André under the gibbet indicated that his supreme thought at that moment was of himself. He said to the American officers present, 'I request you, gentlemen, that you will bear me witness to the world that I die like a brave man.' Hale's last words upon the ladder indicated that his supreme thought at that moment was of his country. He said: 'I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.'"

This volume has an especial literary interest, as containing André's "Cow-chase" in full, and also Miss Anna Seward's "Monody on Major André"—never before published in this country; also, three letters from André to Miss Seward, written at the age of eighteen.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Andrews, C. C. Brazil: Its Condition and Prospects. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.
 Bishop, J. P. Commentaries on the Law of Contracts, upon a New and Condensed Method. (A new work superseding the author's old one.) Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co.
 Bowen, J. L. The Conflict of East and West in Egypt. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
 Conrad, G. S. Cassell's Public School French Reader. Cassell & Co. \$1.
 Daudet, A. La Belle-Nivernaise. Histoire d'un vieux bateau et de son équipage. William R. Jenkins. 25 cents.
 Dawson, E. C. James Hannington, First Bishop of Equatorial Africa. A History of his Life and Work. 1847-1885. E. & J. B. Young & Co. \$2.
 Elliot, H. R. The Common Chord: A Story of the Ninth Ward. Cassell & Co. \$1.
 Fenn, G. M. The Master of the Ceremonies: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents.
 Fischer, H. Lessing's Laokoon und die Gesetze der bildenden Kunst. Berlin: Weidmann. 3m. 60 pf.
 Fleming, Dr. G. The Practical Horse-Keeper. Cassell & Co. \$2.
 Fothergill, Jessie. Borderland: A Country-Town Chronicle. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.
 Frémont, J. C. Memoirs of My Life. Parts 4 to 10 inclusive. Belford, Clarke & Co. 50 cents each.
 Frith, I. Life of Giordano Bruno, the Nolan. London: Trübner & Co. \$2.
 Gaidoz, H. La Rage et St. Hubert. Paris: Alphonse Picard.
 Gaskell, Mrs. Cranford. Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
 Genetraye, A. L'Ombre. William R. Jenkins.
 George Washington's Fifty-seven Rules of Behavior. With a historical preface by Wm. O. Stoddard. Denver: W. H. Lawrence & Co. 40 cents.
 Greene, Belle C. A New England Idyl. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.
 Greville Memoirs. A Journal of the Reign of Queen Victoria. Vol. I. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.
 Gröber, Prof. G. Grundriss der romanischen Philologie. Part 2. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner.
 Hale, E. E., Sr. and Jun. Franklin in France. From Original Documents, most of which are now published for the first time. Boston: Roberts Brothers.
 Hodder, E. The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K. G. With Portraits. In 3 vols. Cassell & Co. \$7.50.
 Ireland, J. R. A History of the United States of America from the Monarchic Colonial Days to the Present Times. In 18 vols. Vols. III. and IV. Chicago: Fairbanks & Palmer Publishing Co.
 Longfellow, H. W. The Golden Legend. With Notes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 40 cents.
 Maxwell, W. H. Primary Lessons in Language and Composition. A. S. Barnes & Co. 35 cents.
 Memorial of James Alexander Dupee. With a Short Life. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co.
 Moor, C. R. Faith and Righteousness. A Memorial of Sumner Ellis, D.D., with an Outline of his Life and Ministry. Boston: Universalist Publishing House. \$1.
 Morison, Jeanie. The Purpose of the Ages. Macmillan & Co. \$2.50.
 Olcott, H. S. A Buddhist Catechism, according to the Sinhalese Canon. Approved and Recommended for Use in Buddhist Schools. Madras: Graves, Cookson & Co.
 Reid, T. W. Gladys Fane: A Story of Two Lives. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.
 Row, Olcott. Hinduism: the Dwaitya Philosophy of Sri Ram Madhacharyar. Compiled from original Sanskrit and other works. Madras: Popham's.
 Schroeder, S. The Fall of Maximilian's Empire. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.
 Silsbee, M. C. D. A Half Century in Salem. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
 Stapfer, Prof. P. Racine et Victor Hugo. Paris: Armand Colin & Cie.
 Taylor, J. N. Treatise on the American Law of Landlord and Tenant. Eighth ed. 2 vols. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
 Through the Gates of Gold: A Fragment of Thought. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 50 cents.
 Walker, H. E. The Lady of Dardale, and Other Poems. Manchester, N. H.: Browne & Rowe.
 Warriner, E. A. I Am that I Am: The Philosophic Basis of Christian Faith. A Metrical Essay. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co. \$1.
 Yriarte, Charles. Autour du Concile. Paris: J. Rothschild.
 Zinzendorf, H. Isaak Markus Jost und seine Freunde. Cincinnati. 75 cents.