

ability of his class. If the class contains many poorly grounded members, he either has to go back and spend time in reviewing the elements, or, at any rate, he is forced to proceed with a slowness which needlessly keeps back the better prepared part of the class. These inequalities are particularly injurious where the class is too small to be divided into two sections.

As for the unfortunate youth himself who enters college with insufficient training, he goes through the first half of his course with, as it were, a millstone tied around his neck. In his case, how many of the professor's remarks fall on deaf ears, because he is not prepared to appreciate their force. I lost, I believe, half the benefit of the excellent instruction in Greek we received at the small college where I spent the first years of my student life. And why? It was because, although I had never been properly grounded in the elements of that language, I was yet suffered to enter college. It was no kindness to me, was it? Under such circumstances an ambitious student is likely to injure himself by overwork, while one of the ordinary sort becomes permanently discouraged, and goes through his tasks as a kind of drudgery in which he can never take any real interest.

C.

ANNANDALE, N. Y., April 15, 1888.

## A QUESTION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Mr. Seligman's answer in the *Nation*, No. 1187, to the notice of his book in No. 1185, only strengthens the impressions and conclusions of the reviewer. At the outset he admits his great obligations to Gross, and yet he devotes a later portion of his letter to a denial of this fact. "I should be sorry to under-rate my obligations in chapter i. to Dr. Gross," does not square with "It was only when the chapter had been substantially written that Dr. Gross's essay appeared." This self-same contradiction appears in Mr. Seligman's Preface, and hence the reviewer called the acknowledgments of indebtedness to Gross equivocal.

Mr. Seligman evades the issue when he denies that he blindly copied references, without consulting the works referred to; he was not accused of doing this. The real question is this: Did not Gross furnish Seligman with the clue to more of those references than the latter acknowledges? The few authorities which Mr. Seligman in his letter says are not mentioned by Gross, are, in part, actually to be found in the latter's treatise (*e. g.*, 'Historic Documents of Ireland,' Gross, p. 56); the others are, in great part, local histories substituted in Mr. Seligman's book for other, mainly superior, works cited by Gross on the same subjects. The contention of the reviewer was, that Mr. Seligman added no important references—none that advanced our knowledge of the subject by giving materials not presented by Gross. A sprinkling of new but unimportant references can be added to almost any treatise; but the former will not transform a compilation into a book of original research.

Mr. Seligman contends that the references common to the two books "are the common property of all scholars, and are mentioned almost without an exception in the works of Brady, Madox, Thompson, Stubbs, Merewether, and Stephens." The latter part of this statement we emphatically deny. In which of these authors did he find the references to the very important Southampton Gild Ordinances, the 'Historic Documents of Ireland,' Barrett's 'Bristol,' and the valuable passages relating to the gild in the 'Abbreviatio Placitorum,' 'Placita de quo Warranto,' Blomefield's 'Norfolk

(Lynn),' etc., etc.? Mr. Seligman talks as though he and Mr. Gross both exhausted the printed sources independently. But this is far from being the case. The striking sins of omission in both works are identical—another strong ground for our believing that the one was based mainly on the other. In the following printed books Mr. Seligman will find much very valuable "common property of all scholars" which both he and Mr. Gross failed to discover: 'Record of Caernarvon,' 158-198; Battely, 'Antiquitates Sancti Edmundi,' 159-160; 'Chartae, etc., Hiberniae,' *passim*; Gale, 'Inquiry into Corporate System of Ireland,' Appendix; 'History of Guildford,' *passim*; 'Rotuli Hundredorum,' i., 332-334, 461, etc.; Lascelles, 'Liber Munerum,' parti; Devon. Assoc. for Advancement of Science, etc., Trans., xi., 191-212; Wilts. Archaeol. and Nat. Hist. Soc., Magaz., iv, 160-174; and, above all, the reports of the Municipal Corporations' Commission of 1835. If Mr. Seligman will digest these references, he will be able to add some new sections to his book; and it may dawn upon his mind that in historical research the sources are like rich beds of ore—valueless until discovered and exploited. In original investigation on such a subject as the gilds, to bring together passages from widely scattered sources is half the battle; and he who does it ought to get full credit for his labors from his successors who write on the same subject and make use of his work.

Mr. Seligman's enumeration of the new arguments contained in his book is a confession of weakness. Sifted down it amounts to this: he actually differs with Gross on a single point—one which the latter advances, with much diffidence, as a conjecture. As for the relation between the gild merchant and the crafts (Seligman, pp. 58-60), that, we admit, is not given by Gross, who postponed his treatment of this subject for a future time. But the substance of it is to be found in Stubbs. Had the work of Mr. Seligman been one of exhaustive original research, he would have treated this topic in a fuller and abler manner. We reiterate that the kernel and substance of Gross's book is contained in that of Seligman, with only unimportant additions. This the latter practically admits in his letter and in the preface of his essay.

Mr. Seligman has this to learn, that if he prints an essay containing substantially the same materials and results (including many peculiar turns and ramifications of thought) as are contained in a work of original research printed four years before his own, he must be prepared to acknowledge his obligations to his predecessor fully and unequivocally. If he does not do this, he must expect either that reviewers will berate him, in most cases, more severely than did the critic in No. 1185 of the *Nation*, or that psychological societies will discuss the wondrous similarity of cerebral movement and cerebral sinuosities displayed by him and his predecessor. THE REVIEWER.

LONDON, April 6, 1888.

## Notes.

WM. R. JENKINS will shortly publish the first part of Prof. M'Fadyen's 'Comparative Anatomy of the Domesticated Animals.' He has just issued Victor Hugo's 'Quatre-vingt-treize,' uniform with his handsome reprint of 'Les Misérables,' and announces his intention to continue the series till it includes all of Hugo's novels. To his 'Théâtre Contempo-

rain" he has added Erckmann-Chatrian's 'L'Ami Fritz.'

Mr. F. W. Taussig's 'Protection to Young Industries' and 'History of the Present Tariff,' enlarged with new matter, will be consolidated into one volume of present interest and value, 'The Tariff History of the United States (1789-1888),' and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The same firm announce further 'A Sketch of the Germanic Constitution' to 1806, by Samuel Epes Turner; and 'The Present Condition of Economic Science,' by Edward C. Lunt. Their issue of Franklin's Works, edited by Mr. John Bigelow, is now nearly completed, and will be followed by a uniform edition of the 'Correspondence and Diaries of Washington,' edited by Worthington C. Ford.

Paolo Mantegazza's 'Testa; a Book for Boys,' translated by Prof. L. D. Ventura, is in the press of D. C. Heath & Co.

The fourth volume of 'Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography' has made its appearance (Lodge-Pickens).

Ticknor & Co. send us a new edition, revised, of Laurence Hutton's 'Literary Landmarks of London.' The book, though reduced in quality of manufacture as in price, is still both presentable and readable. Its arrangement is by authors in alphabetical order. The supplementary notes show what havoc time is making with the monuments extant when the first edition was published.

Mr. T. W. Knox's 'Pocket-Guide to Europe' (Putnam's) renews itself with a list of cures, baths, and springs, having their several medicinal properties indicated; and with tabulated "Travel Talk" in four languages—English, French, German, and Italian. This is rather a vocabulary than a phrase-book. There are very few complete sentences, and the editor's imagination is very meagre. Ten nouns, one adverbial phrase ("on board"), and one interrogation ("Does the train stop at intermediate stations?"), form the complete linguistic outfit for "travelling by railroad and steamboat."

The success attendant upon their large-paper edition of Dean Stanley's 'Memorials of Westminster Abbey' last autumn, has encouraged Messrs. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. to bring out the work from the same plates in a popular duodecimo form, handsomely printed and bound in green cloth. The price now asked for the three volumes is as low as would be thought possible for such excellent make. The etched frontispieces have given way to process cuts, but in the case of the Poets' Corner this will hardly be accounted a loss.

'Alden's Manifold Cyclopædia of Knowledge and Language' (New York: John B. Alden) is avowedly an abstract in the main of Chambers and of Stormonth. It includes men of the time. The form is handy, and a single column is employed. The sparse illustrations have been borrowed from Chambers and from other sources. Vol. 1 extends from A to America.

Dr. C. W. Larison of Ringoes, N. J., whose independent phonetic labors we have frequently remarked upon, has just published 'Solomon's Song, with an Introducshun and Nots,' in a type which we cannot imitate here. He has cast the Song in a dramatic form, with stage directions, as, "The Brid stats," "The corus ov attendant virjinz appruvingli ecsclam," "The Brid relates a circumstans ov inattenshun to her Bridgrum," etc. The commentary is copious. Having made the above innovations, Dr. Larison might properly have gone further, and adopted the text and the poetic arrangement of the Revised Version, instead of following the old.

Miss Nina Moore has, with no little dexter-

ity, told in an attractive way, easily intelligible by children, "the story of the planting of Plymouth and Boston" ('Pilgrims and Puritans,' Boston: Ginn & Co.) She has drawn textually more or less upon the original authorities, and, by means of plenty of maps, portraits, and views, has made the narrative impressive at every stage. Finally, the notes reserved for the end of the little volume serve for a glossary and for precise reference to the sources and to collateral reading. We have thus a very well-conceived and well-executed text-book, useful to young and old.

For aids to French instruction we can also recommend 'Florian's Fables,' selected and edited by the Rev. Charles Yeld, with illustrations; Molière's 'L'École des Femmes,' edited by Mr. G. Saintsbury; and the first three books of Thierry's 'Récits des Temps Mérovingiens,' edited by G. Masson and A. R. Ropes. The last two works bear the imprint of the Cambridge (Eng.) University Press, but all, like the first, come to us from Macmillan & Co.

An American *Notes and Queries* is to be launched in Philadelphia on May 5, under the editorship of Messrs. William S. and Henry C. Walsh. The place of publication is 619 Walnut Street.

The second number of the *Journal of Morphology* retains the high place taken by the first, and likewise fulfils the hope we expressed when speaking of the first number, that more vertebrate material would be forthcoming. Of the five pages, the illustrated three treat of the development of the lamprey, the lizard, and the opossum, respectively, and are by Professors Scott and Osborn and Mr. Orr of Princeton. The editor discusses, under the rather new term, "oökinesis," "The Kinetic Phenomena of the Egg during Maturation and Fecundation," and the number concludes with "Some Observations on the Mental Powers of Spiders," by George W. and Elizabeth G. Peckham, so interesting and instructive that it is almost ungracious to remark that the paper relates much more to the senses than to the "sense," and that Physiological-Psychology is very far from pure Morphology. The admirable "summary" of one of the papers accents the lack of that important feature with the others. Mechanically, the number is nearly perfect, but on p. 378 occurs "septæ for septa," and the contents of No. 1 has "philogetic" for phylogenetic.

The second number of Dr. Stanley Hall's *American Journal of Psychology* has three leading articles—one "On the Relation of Neurology to Psychology," by Henry H. Donaldson; the second, "Insistent and Fixed Ideas," chiefly the story of a single case of insanity, by Prof. Edward Cowles, and "A Critique of Psychophysic Methods," by Joseph Jastrow. Book reviews and notes in abundance fill out the number.

Weeks have elapsed since we ought to have acknowledged receipt of the Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research for December (Boston: Damrell & Upham). A tilt between Mr. Edmund Gurney and Prof. C. S. Peirce occupies a large space in it. Miss Alice C. Fletcher treats at length of the supernatural among the Omaha tribe. There are the usual reports of committees. Perhaps the most curious paper is that by Dr. William James on the "Consciousness of Lost Limbs."

A second series of papers has begun to be issued by the Department of Philosophy of the University of Michigan, led off by Prof. John Dewey on the "Ethics of Democracy"; Prof. Alexander Winchell on "Evolution and its Speculative and Religious Consequences," etc. (Ann Arbor: Andrews & Co.).

The interesting observation is made by Dr. Underwood, Customs Medical Officer at Kiukiang, China, that the comparative immunity of the Chinese in that region from typhoid fever, notwithstanding most of the factors favoring it are present in abundance, may be attributed to the fact that "cold, unboiled water is rarely or never used when tea can be had." This piece of practical wisdom others than Chinese might bear in mind in dangerous localities. At Seoul, Corea, more than 6,000 deaths from cholera occurred in six weeks in 1886, in a population of 150,000, but none in the European community of 56 persons. Protection was attributed by Dr. Allen to general cleanliness and the use of only boiled and filtered water for drinking, cooking, and the toilet, and the non-purchase of food in the Corean market. The number of the foreigners is too small to carry great weight, and it is probable that other differences in life contributed to their exemption. But the water lesson, so far as it goes, is as applicable at home. These memoranda occur in the Thirty-third Medical Report, published by the British Inspector-General of Maritime Customs in China.

In a reprint from the *Medical News* of September 5, 1887, Professor Leeds of the Stevens Institute describes an investigation of an epidemic of typhoid fever at Mt. Holly, N. J., which is a fresh illustration that drinking water polluted with animal putrescence is the most common cause of such outbreaks. But much more important is the apparent discovery that minute quantities of alum (a half grain to the gallon) will sterilize the water by the precipitation of the bacteria with the organic matter when of peaty nature, or with alkalies previously added, the whole precipitate being removable by filtration. If this is confirmed, and the reputation of the reporter leaves no reason to doubt it, a very important agent has been added to the resources of preventive medicine.

Mr. Francis Parkman has lately apprised the Massachusetts Historical Society of the discovery in France, by the Abbé Casgrain of Quebec, of a mass of papers collected and arranged by Gen. Lévis, Montcalm's second in command, that relate to the American campaigns in which they participated. They fill eleven volumes, and have great historical importance.

The library of the late Baron S. de la Roche La Carelle, which is to be sold in Paris from April 30 to May 5, offers an especial attraction to collectors who affect fine bindings. Accompanying the large-paper catalogue sent us by Charles Porquet, 1 Quai Voltaire, are heliogravures, in black and white and in color, of the more beautiful specimens—Bibles and prayer-books, the Latin and Greek classics, histories, belles-lettres, science, and theology. These plates are themselves a valuable possession for the connoisseur. Some of the most famous private libraries in France have, in their breaking up, contributed to M. de La Carelle's, now in its turn to be dispersed. We must add mention of the Baron's etched portrait, the frontispiece of the catalogue. A sketch of his career as a bibliophile is furnished by M. Quentin-Bauchart.

In reviewing a novel by an American author, the Milan *Perseveranza* pays homage in dubious typography to "W. D. Floyd," "Mark Zwain," and "Francis Burnett." It is both just and natural to attribute these little slips to the printer, and not to the writer (except as a bad penman).

Those who, for the sake of the man or as a landmark in the history of American book-illustration, would be glad to own a likeness of

the late Felix O. C. Darley, need seek no further than the gallery of Mr. F. Gutekunst, Philadelphia. The phototype portrait which he has just issued (in cabinet size) is both a very pleasing memorial of a genial man and artist of much individuality, and an admirable example of Mr. Gutekunst's permanent photographic process.

The Executive Committee of the Trustees of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, with Prof. Lowell at their head, make an appeal for an endowment fund of one hundred thousand dollars. It appears that Dr. Charles Waldstein's acceptance of the permanent directorship in October next depends upon the raising of this endowment before August 1. Our readers are already aware of the principal facts in regard to the comfortable housing and the brilliant field work of the School. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer, 87 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, or to Prof. Charles Eliot Norton, Cambridge, Mass.

—Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. write us that the statement in our recent review, 'Some New German Grammars,' that "Prof. Joynes . . . has once before worked over a grammar, viz., Otto's," is erroneous, "Prof. Joynes not having had to do with the revisions of 'Otto's German Grammar.'"

—To librarians desiring to extend or complete their collections of the publications of French societies we commend the 'Bibliographie des Sociétés savantes de la France,' by Eugène Lefèvre-Pontalis, recently issued in delightful typography from the Imprimerie Nationale at Paris, in a quarto volume of 142 pages. This work is published by the Department of Public Instruction, under the immediate superintendence of the Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques. From the preface we learn that there are no less than 655 societies of various kinds, exclusive of the numerous associations for the encouragement of agriculture and horticulture, which are omitted, in 197 cities of France. Paris naturally takes the lead, 142 literary, artistic, or scientific associations holding their meetings in that city. There are 12 additional societies in the French colonies, 9 in Algiers and its provinces, 2 in Cochinchina, and 1 in the island of Réunion. The publications of all these learned bodies, to the end of 1886, number about 15,000 volumes, and the present annual increase to this literature the author estimates as something like 500 volumes. An examination of the catalogue shows that the Paris societies alone have issued more than 4,700 volumes. The greater part of the institutions enumerated have come into existence in the fifty years between 1830 and 1880, but not a few of them are of considerable antiquity, no less than six dating from the seventeenth century. The Académie Française came into existence as early as 1635, but its first publication recorded, the widely known 'Dictionary,' did not appear until 1694; the seventh edition of it being published in 1878. The National Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Belles-Lettres of Caen is only seventeen years younger than the Paris Academy, having been founded in 1652. The Bordeaux Academy dates from 1662, the Paris Academy of Sciences from 1666, and the Academy of Nîmes was founded in 1682. The Académie des Jeux Floraux of Toulouse is stated to have existed in the fourteenth century under the name of "Collège du gai savoir et de la gaie science," and to have been reorganized in the fifteenth century by Clémence Isaure. In the month of September, 1694, letters patent were received from Louis XIV. under the present title, and two years



later there was published the first little volume of the series entitled, "Recueil de plusieurs pièces d'éloquence et de poésie," which extended almost without break to the year 1790, and was followed by the "Recueil de l'Académie," an unbroken series from 1806 to the present time, forming altogether a collection of 157 volumes. All six of these societies are still flourishing, but the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture of Bordeaux, which was founded in 1690, closed the first term of its existence in 1709. It was revived in 1769, but finally dissolved in 1793. Twenty-seven new societies are recorded as having been founded in 1881, twenty-one each in 1882 and 1883, twelve in 1884, four in 1885, and seven in 1886.

—This catalogue seems to be a most conscientious piece of work. Very few entries are to be discovered in which the facts aimed to be supplied are not fully and clearly set out. Care has been taken to indicate all indexes to series or parts of series of society publications, whether such indexes are separate volumes or are contained in certain volumes of the series. The peculiar arrangement of the work—primarily an alphabet of the departments of France, and under each name of a department a sub-alphabet of the towns in which societies are located—is not entirely the most convenient for a foreigner not thoroughly familiar with the geography of France, and it would have been an aid to the latter had there been added an alphabetical index of the names of the societies.

—'Auf Anlass des Volapüks' (Berlin: Robert Oppenheimer) is the title of an attractive brochure of forty-six pages, by Hugo Schuchardt, in which the author touches upon a number of linguistic questions. It was not so much Volapük itself, he tells us, that prompted him to write, as the hostility to it manifested by scientific linguists. He admits that many of the objections to Schleyer's language are reasonable, though he is not at all certain that it may not be best to let well enough alone (*das Bessere der Feind des Guten sein mag*). The root of this hostility he finds in one thing: Volapük is an artificial language. He instances as a sort of Volapük the "corrupt" Portuguese in which, 300 years ago, Chinese, Malays, Tamuls, and Hindus did business with each other, and which has maintained its existence to a considerable extent down to the present day, and that, too, in a tolerably uniform condition. This language was not gradually developed from the original Portuguese. "The Portuguese who landed on the shores of India came as Volapükists," and broke up their language for the natives, with the sole object of making themselves readily understood. From such a language Volapük is distinguished only by its broader basis and its well-laid plan. The author emphasizes the pressing need of a world-language, which he considers "the crown of all our international arrangements." Not only so, but he looks upon such a language as a scientific desideratum. Disagreeing entirely with Whitney, "who characterizes the thought of such a language as utopian, its realization as undesirable," he holds with Sayce that a world-language is "the dream of linguistic science," and holds with Sayce and Max Müller that such a language is a perfectly practicable thing. In the author's opinion, the Aryan type of language has been unduly exalted. It has come to be looked upon as "the rose among languages," but, like Milton, Schuchardt evidently feels the thorns more than he sees the rose. "Anomaly is not an accident in the Aryan languages, it is much rather a part of their very nature"; and in the discussion of these

points he touches upon many an interesting linguistic problem. The classics come in for a word; and we find a pupil of Kallimachus-Schneider, Rost, Marquardt, Ritschl, and Jahn, throwing his influence against Latin and Greek. Systematic grammars he dislikes, and longs for an Ollendorf in the Cymric, Irish, Magyar, and Basque languages, which last, by the by, is looked upon by K. Hannemann as the most perfect of languages, and as suitable to become the world-language.

—In the Preface to the second volume of 'Deutschlands Geschichtsquellen im Mittelalter' (3d ed., Berlin, 1887), Professor Ottokar Lorenz of Vienna has declared war against the whole army of learned German historians—against all who have adopted the critical canons elaborated and expounded by such leaders as Ranke and Waitz. The great focus of German historical erudition, the 'Monumenta Germaniae Historica,' is ridiculed. The choice of sources printed in that collection, their arrangement, and the critical principles employed in editing them, are vehemently assailed. Here are a few of his utterances: "In the case of many of the Italian sources, one carries away the impression, that, to be consistent, they ought to print the whole of Muratori in the 'Monumenta.'" "It is simply incredible in what haphazard sequence the sources [in the 'Monumenta'] are arranged. Neither a geographical nor a chronological clue guides us through the labyrinth. . . . North and South, Italian and Slavonic, spiritual and temporal territories are mingled, as in a kaleidoscope, in these great unwieldy folios." "I am convinced that, if the method employed [in editing these sources] were placed, for examination, before a commission of exact philologists of the present day, they would there find in great part the very reverse of what the philology of to-day requires." Professor Lorenz thinks that they would condemn most of the "useless stuff" printed in the 'Monumenta' to be thrust into a great waste-paper basket.—"As regards the critical value of any information, too much stress must not be laid upon the proof of the time of its origin. . . . In reality it makes no difference, as regards the fact, whether contemporary information concerning it exists, or not." "Looking at the matter as a whole, we must regard it as settled that the more recent informant knows a fact better [than an earlier one], or, at least, can know it better." Professor Lorenz's fire has been returned from at least three quarters: W. Wattenbach in the *Neues Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere Deutsche Geschichte*, vol. xiii. (Heft 2); L. Weiland in Sybel's *Historische Zeitschrift*, vol. lviii, pp. 310-335 (a very caustic and logical rejoinder); and, most recently, O. Holder-Egger, 'Die Monumenta Germaniae und ihr neuester Kritiker' (Hanover: Hahn'sche Buchhandlung, 1887). Every rational historian must agree with them in their conclusions, that the words of Lorenz contain very little truth, that he is fighting with windmills, that, in fact, the adoption of his views would undermine the foundations of historical learning. Some may go even further and conclude that the eminent Vienna professor is *non compos mentis*.

#### THE ORDNANCE SURVEY.

*The Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom.*  
By Lieut-Col. T. Pilkington White, R.E.,  
Executive Officer of the Survey. London:  
Wm. Blackwood & Sons. 1886.

THERE are few objects produced by what may be considered scientific labors that are more

universally used and presumably appreciated than maps, and yet the number of untechnical persons, even among the most educated, who can determine the relative value of the various maps that are published, is small indeed, especially in this country. This arises partly from an ignorance of the delicacy and minute exactitude required in surveys of large areas, and partly from the want of familiar use of the finer kinds of maps that are found in older countries. There are, roughly considered, two methods of making maps. The one which is generally employed in a new country, and is the result of individual enterprises or needs, consists in making surveys of individual parcels of land, and, when they have become sufficiently numerous, combining them together to form a map of a larger area, township, county, State, or Territory, as the case may be. The other method, which must necessarily be carried on by the general Government of the State or country involved, pursues the opposite course of first determining the larger outlines of the area to be mapped, the exact position of characteristic and evenly distributed points, and of afterwards filling in the intermediate spaces, with a detail and exactitude only limited by the amount of labor and money it may be found advisable to expend thereon.

The former method is the one generally employed in a country where land is plenty and money scarce, such as ours was a hundred years ago, and is one which for a time answers the required purposes; but it is also one which in the very nature of things involves an accumulation of errors; hence, the greater the area involved the greater these errors become. As the country becomes more thickly populated and richer, and lands consequently more valuable, the loss which accrues to the community at large from the absence of an exact definition of boundaries, both natural and artificial, increases in two-fold ratio, and it is only a question of time, and of the relative intelligence of the people as represented by its lawgivers, when the second method shall be employed, and it be legally declared the duty of the general Government to provide the very best and most exact basis of maps by a general triangulation of the whole country conducted on a uniform system.

It is in some such condition as this that the United States finds itself at the present day, and it might be well for those of our legislators who have cavilled at the time and expense involved in the general and local surveys undertaken at various times and places in this country, to study the experience of our mother country, as set forth in this little volume of Col. White's, which gives a brief and, so far as may be, a popular account of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain—a survey which has served as a model for those which have been undertaken since its inception by the various governments of Europe. Its name is in one sense a misnomer, since it has no longer even a nominal connection with the Ordnance, having always been carried on by the Royal Engineers, and having received this name because up to 1855 it was under the direction of the Board of Ordnance, a sort of quartermaster's department of the British Government, which was done away with, owing to the inefficiency it displayed during the Crimean war. Its inception is ascribed by Col. White to two engineer officers of the army, who, after the battle of Culloden, became convinced of the need, as a war measure, of a topographical map of the Scottish Highlands. It was not, however, till towards the close of the eighteenth century that the primary triangulation, the necessary substructure of any systematic survey, was ac-