

describe in print. The omission is now made good by a chapter written by himself, and which appears in its proper place in Mr. Hitchman's work. It is a very lively, amusing, and vigorous piece of autobiography, but plain-spoken to a degree. In Burton's deliberate opinion, there was not a prominent man, French or English, connected with this war, who was not knave or fool, except in those rarer cases where he was a combination of both. It may be that Sir Richard is right, but this contemptuous estimate of the men placed in authority over him has been, we fancy, a characteristic of his through life; and when this happens, the superiors, naturally enough, fail to perceive the merits of their too free-thinking critic. Conventionality in all its phases has, through life, been abhorrent to Mr. Hitchman's hero. He has, in all times and places, said what he thought, and done what he wished to do, regardless of the susceptibilities of others or the consequences to himself. This indifference to others' opinions, this disregard of consequence, has made him a great and successful explorer, but are not the qualities which lead to prosperity and promotion in a State department.

The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844. With appendix, written in 1886, and preface, 1887. By Frederick Engels. John W. Lovell Co.

Arcady. For Better for Worse: A Study of Rural Life in England. By Augustus Jessop, D.D. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1887.

As the Roman Emperor in his triumphal procession was accompanied by a slave to remind him that he was mortal, so to the prosperous and comfortable citizen of to-day there comes from time to time a wail out of the depth of poverty and misery, saddening his enjoyment with the consciousness of terrible suffering among his fellow-creatures, which yet he is powerless to relieve. The success of Mr. George's 'Progress and Poverty' was less owing to the actual merits of the book than to the fact that, after rehearsing in tones of deep compassion the pitiful story, he announced himself as the prophet of a new gospel, and promised a specific which would at least open the way to ultimate relief from the heavy burden of the world. It was not only the poor who caught eagerly at the flattering hope, but thousands upon thousands of those who, themselves beyond fear of want, find their lives darkened by despairing sympathy.

Mr. Engels is not less confident than Mr. George that the universe would be all right enough if only he could have the ordering of it. He is a Socialist, pure and simple. "Now the Socialists of the school of Marx, too, demand the resumption by society of the land, and not only of the land, but of all other means of production likewise." Mr. Engels is not disturbed by the vast development of machine-power and factory life. He dwells with all the glee of an economist upon the number of spindles, the pounds of cotton yarn, and the yards of goods, the output of coal, and the increase of population of towns. The trouble is, that the advantage accrues to the capitalist, by whom the laborer is ground down. All would be well if only the State would manage the factories, and mines, and railroads, and distribute the proceeds equitably among all concerned. And then follows, through two hundred pages of fine print, a catalogue of past horrors so awful as to form a pretty hard strain upon credulity. And yet, after all this demonstration of the need of some prompt and decisive interference, the reader finds the main problem still unsolv-

ed, whether such action by the State, even if possible, would not do more harm than good.

It is a comfort to turn from such a picture to the cheery and practical narrative of Dr. Jessop. Having held a curacy in the east of England for seven years, and then lived in a city for twenty-five years, in 1879 he was again presented to a benefice in Norfolk. He sets himself to compare the present condition of the agricultural population with that which he knew in years gone by. After speaking of the classes above, he finds that "the laborer of to-day is a great deal better off than his father was, with one notable and shameful exception. His children are cleaner, better taught, better looked after, better dressed than they were; his wife is no longer the poor drudge she almost invariably became after her fourth or fifth child; she has her perambulator, and, in many instances, her sewing-machine; she even talks to you of her dressmaker." The exception referred to is in the matter of lodging, of which he gives a melancholy picture, and, as a consequence, of the decline in female purity. Another gain is, that whereas the laborer used to be always in debt, he now has more money, is much sharper about it, and as a rule pays his way. On the other hand, the laborer's life has had the joy taken out of it:

"There are scores, perhaps hundreds, of villages where the inhabitants have absolutely no amusements of any kind outside the public house, where cricket or bowls or even skittles are as unknown as bear-baiting, where the children play at marbles in the gutter in bodily fear lest the road surveyor should come down upon them."

These two evils, bad lodging and absence of occupation, drive off the young men; and all who can, either emigrate or go to the towns, leaving agricultural labor both scarce and of poor quality. Another change is, that while the laborer of fifty years ago drank a good deal of beer and cider at the farmhouses, he never tasted gin or other strong liquor. Now the facilities for drunkenness have largely increased. Dr. Jessop is no such Utopian as George and Engels, and discusses calmly and practically what can be done, though even so his views are hardly more encouraging. His book is very readable, being enlivened with anecdote and studies of character, and is especially interesting as a picture of life very different from anything in this country.

English Newspapers. Chapters on the History of Journalism. By H. R. Fox Bourne. 2 vols. London: Chatto & Windus. 1887.

MR. FOX BOURNE has long established his reputation as a diligent and successful investigator of the unfrequented byways of history. Passing by his biographies of John Locke and Sir Philip Sidney, few books of our day are fuller of quaint and instructive information than his 'English Seamen under the Tudors' and his 'British Merchants.' His "Chapters on the History of Journalism" are a capital addition to his former contributions to a like line of research. The subject is full of interest, and leads an inquirer, by way of natural necessity, down all manner of obscure passages, and into queer nooks and crannies innumerable. The history of the English press falls into two clearly defined divisions—the period of the press militant and the period of the press triumphant. It cannot be denied that the former is much the more interesting of the two. In a sense it might be maintained that the press was then even more powerful than afterwards, when it had successfully vindicated its right to existence and freedom of speech. After the Revolution of 1688, from which date

the political power of the press may be said to have begun, the constituency to which it appealed was concentrated in a single small area, to wit, "the town." The opinion of "the town" was, in fact, the public opinion of the United Kingdom. A telling article passed at once, like an electric current, through all parts of "the town," with fear of change greatly perplexing monarchs and politicians. The promptitude and certainty with which an effect was produced naturally attracted a number of powerful writers to make use of the press as an engine, and a glance through the pages of Mr. Bourne's first volume will show that no inconsiderable portion of the standard literature of Great Britain first saw the light of day in the columns of a struggling press. Defoe, Swift, Steele, Addison, "Junius," Johnson, Burke, Coleridge, are only a few of the great names closely connected with the press during this its militant period, and so attractive are the associations suggested by these names that their simple appearance in a printed page seems to invest it with interest.

Mr. Bourne has, of course, much more to do with them than merely to mention them. The particulars which he gives respecting Defoe and Coleridge are especially interesting, and he has printed almost *in extenso* the article in the *North Briton* that caused the war between John Wilkes and the constitutional authorities, in which the latter were so completely and ignominiously defeated. This period of conflict, adversity, and final triumph brings out in a very striking way the bulldog tenacity of the English character. Prosecution, fine, and imprisonment were until the beginning of the present century the normal diet, one might almost say, of an honest and independent editor. If he refused to succumb to the corrupting allurements of the authorities, he was certain to be attacked by assault and battery. Before the Whig Revolution he was even worse off. He was not infrequently hung; he was constantly placed in the pillory, and he was liable at any moment to endure excision of the ears. There is no instance, we think, of an editor being executed or mutilated after 1688, but, until the peace of 1815, and, indeed, for some time after, his calling remained a highly precarious one. Cobbett left the country and retired to America rather than face the danger of it. The brothers Hunt, so late as 1813, expiated an uncomplimentary article on "The First Gentleman in Europe" by two years' imprisonment and a fine of £1,000. The very dangers, however, which beset the profession were a testimony to its power, and this power was, in its turn, strengthened and extended by the ability of the men who wrote either as editors or contributors. True it is that when a Defoe, a Swift, a "Junius," or some other great author was not writing, the press sank very rapidly to mere scurrility and abuse; but this, so far from diminishing, greatly enhanced the effect of the powerful and thoughtful writing whenever it appeared.

It is this struggle, between the State on the one side and the press on the other, which makes the early history of English journalism as exciting as a sensational novel, and Mr. Bourne has told the story in a graphic and vigorous fashion. But when journalism, emerging victorious from the long conflict, becomes a coördinate authority in the government of the country with the Crown and the Legislature, its history becomes more prosaic and a great deal less interesting. The daily paper has now become a great commercial venture, in which every other consideration has, perforce, to be subordinated to the financial one. It is not strange, therefore,

that the latter part of Mr. Bourné's "Chapters" should not be so full of interest as the earlier. The fault lies, not with him, but in the nature of the subject. It is not in the power of mortal man to invest Mr. Delane with the interest which surrounds the author of 'Robinson Crusoe,' or to make his readers care as much for Mr. Edmund Yates and Mr. Henry Labouchere as for Mr. Addison or Sir Richard Steele. At the same time, all that portion of Mr. Bourné's book which deals with the modern London press is a perfect mine of information on the subject. Especially curious is it to note how the power of the London papers, in relation to the counties, rose with the expansion of the railways, and declined as rapidly with the rise of the electric telegraph. It is the latter discovery which has put an end to the London press setting the tone of political thought in the counties. The telegraph, by outrunning the railway, enabled the provincial press to anticipate the London press in items of news concerning which, so long as railways were the sole means of communication, the London press had anticipated them. Hence the rapid and enormous development of local papers in the great manufacturing centres and elsewhere. The British press, as an advertising and news-collecting agency, is at the present moment in the zenith of its greatness—one of the wonders of the world.

The Holy Land and the Bible. A Book of Descriptive Illustrations gathered in Palestine. By Cunningham Geikie, D.D., Vicar of St. Martin's at Palace, Norwich. 2 vols. James Pott & Co. 1888.

THE title of this work naturally reminds one of Thomson's 'The Land and the Book.' And there is also considerable resemblance in the aim, the plan, and the execution. Like Dr. Thomson, though not as often and as long as he, Dr. Geikie journeyed through Palestine "gathering illustrations of the sacred writings from its hills and valleys, its rivers and lakes, its plains and uplands, its plants and animals, its skies, its soil, and, above all, from the pictures of ancient times still presented on every side in the daily life of its people." Richness of detail, vividness of observation, and naturalness in sketching characterize both works almost alike. But there is more pious naïveté in the older writer's pages, more evidence of study and book-learning in those of the younger. Geikie's production is by far less original, but much more systematic and complete. He can justly claim that "all the country is brought before the reader in successive portions, from the extreme south to its northern limits—that is, from Beersheba to Damascus, Baalbek, and Beirut." And man and his habitations, soil and atmosphere, fauna and flora, are minutely depicted, with all their peculiarities, ancient and modern. All Bible history is illustrated, and almost repeated, in pointed analogies and contrasts. In a certain sense, the book is a Bible dictionary, made handy as such by its full index. And yet it has the freshness of a book of travels. Descriptions like the following of a spring scene in Sharon are not infrequent:

"As we rode on, many peasants were ploughing, with the plough in one hand, and in the other a long wooden goad, the sharp iron point of which was used to urge forward the lean, small oxen. The plough used was so light that it could be carried on the shoulder; indeed, asses passed carrying two ploughs and much besides. Ravens and wild doves flew hither and thither. Herds of sheep were feeding on the thin pasture, but cattle were rare. The sheep had great broad tails, and thus seemed to be the same breed as that rear-

ed by the ancient Jews, for we read that the tail of their variety was burned by the priests on the altar, in thank-offerings. . . . On the roofs of many of the mud houses grass had sprung up plentifully, thanks to the winter rain, but in the increasing heat it was doomed to 'wither before it grew up.' On every side the landscape was delightful. 'The winter was passed, the rain over and gone; the flowers were appearing on the earth; the time for the singing of birds had come, and the voice of the turtle was heard in the land; the fig tree was putting forth her green figs, and the vines, now in bloom, gave a good smell.' Not that song-birds were to be heard, except the lark; there was not enough woodland for them; nor that the turtle was to be heard on the plain, or the fragrance of vineyards inhaled. These were the attractions of rare and isolated spots, beside the villages, on the hill-slopes. The plain itself is silent, and shows very little life of any kind."

The comparing of things seen with things Biblical—sometimes also in the manner of "lucus a non lucendo"—is here and there carried to excess. Thus, speaking of the crushing loads often carried by the Eastern porters, the traveller adds: "They remind us of the heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, to which our Lord compares the spiritual slavery under which the Pharisees laid the common people. Perhaps the 'atals' of Christ's day supplied the illustration." Identifications of modern localities and characteristics with ancient ones are occasionally introduced on very flimsy grounds, as, after Guérin and Conder, on pages 48 and 52 of volume i, where the notes attached show the author's own strong doubts as to the soundness of the conjectures. That nothing calculated to put in a clearer light the correctness of Biblical statements is ever omitted, whether found in nature or in a book, need hardly be stated. Exceptionally, however, even this author's bibliolatry yields to facts, as when, speaking of the cony of Scripture, with distinct reference to Lev. xi, 5, he says (vol. ii, p. 90): "The Jews, who were not scientific, deceived by the motion of its jaws in eating, which is exactly like that of ruminant animals, fancied it chewed the cud"—in disregard of the circumstance that the Scriptural statement that "the cony . . . cheweth the cud" is given as one which "the Lord spake unto Moses." Possibly it was only an oversight which prevented Dr. Geikie from trying to identify the *shāphān* of the Hebrew text with some ruminating animal. On what authority he assumes (vol. ii, p. 404) that the name Sirion signified "the Banner," while the same word as a common noun undeniably signifies *breastplate*, we are unable to discover.

A Bibliographical Account of English Theatrical Literature, from the earliest times to the present day. By Robert W. Lowe. New York: J. W. Bouton.

WE announced Mr. Lowe's book a year or two ago with hope, and we receive it now with gratitude. It is one of the most useful volumes ever prepared for the student of stage-history; perhaps it would not be too much to say that it is the most useful of these. It takes its place at once on the shelves of the dramatic collector by the side of the 'Biographia Dramatica,' Geneste's 'History of the Stage,' and Mr. Ireland's 'Records'; it is as indispensable as any of these, and it is more exact, fortunately, than the 'Biographia Dramatica,' and more orderly in arrangement than the worthy Mr. Geneste's work. Mr. Lowe has tried to give us here a list of all the books about the stage published in England. He does not catalogue plays, and the immense mass of Shaksperiana is also omitted; but histories of the theatre, biographies and autobiographies of actors, managers, and dramatists, books of criticism and of

gossip, libellous pamphlets and satirical poems, treatises on acting and essays on the art of the stage—these Mr. Lowe has sought out and set down in strict alphabetical order, and with the utmost amplitude of cross references. Theatrical newspapers and dramatic magazines have their rise and their fall recorded in his pages. The richness of the material thus collected may be gauged by the fact that there are seventeen entries under Betty (the Infant Roscius), twenty-six under Colley Cibber, twenty-eight under Jeremy Collier, thirty-four under Foote, ninety under Garrick, eighteen under Henry Irving, twenty-eight under Edmund Kean, and twenty under Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

He was a wise man who said that "if you want to have the pride of accuracy taken out of you, print a catalogue," and we will not venture to declare that Mr. Lowe has made no erroneous omissions; we may even suggest that Mrs. Kemble's 'Notes on Some of Shakspeare's Plays' should have been included, because it contains her brilliant and aggressive lecture "On the Stage." And the rigorous exclusion of books printed in America has resulted in some strange voids: for instance, although there are two entries under Fennell, his remarkable autobiography is not one of them. In like manner, though the English publications about Junius Brutus Booth and John Howard Payne are duly catalogued, it is with regret that we mark the absence of the more abundant American matter. No doubt, the line had to be drawn somewhere, and perhaps Mr. Lowe was right in recording no book not published in the United Kingdom. After all, these criticisms seem almost hypercritical when we consider again the many solid merits of the book. To use a commonplace, Mr. Lowe has done very well what was very well worth doing; and he deserves the thanks of all who know how hard his labors have been, and who shall hereafter profit by the results of them.

A certain piquancy not often observable in bibliography is to be discovered by any one who is familiar with a very sarcastic pamphlet called the 'Fashionable Tragedian' and directed against Mr. Henry Irving. This was published anonymously ten years ago, but we find it here set down as the work of Mr. Lowe himself in collaboration with Mr. William Archer. But none the less has Mr. Lowe dedicated his book "to Henry Irving, whose genius and achievements have so powerfully promoted that revival of interest in matters dramatic to which it owes its existence."

La Guerre de Sécession. 1861-1865. Par Ernest Grasset, Inspecteur-en-chef de la Marine. Deuxième Partie. Les Hommes. Paris: L. Baudoin et Cie.; New York: Christern. 1887.

WE have here a series of very clever sketches of the principal figures in our late civil war. As a rule, they are remarkable for justness of appreciation and facility of expression. That the men are viewed from the standpoint of a Frenchman, adds to the curiosity and interest with which we turn over the pages. In the first part of his book, M. Grasset has sketched the course of events; here we have his characterization of the actors. Many of his pictures are exceedingly good; those of Grant, Farragut, Meade, Butler, Burnside, may be, perhaps, especially cited.

Not infrequently we are made to see both sides in a fashion to which we are somewhat unaccustomed. Take this, for example, from the sketch of Grant, where our author is contrasting him with Lee:

"Robert Lee . . . possessed all the virtues of private life, all the qualities of a