

to the period at the end of 1899 when Roberts superseded Buller upon the heels of the disaster at Colenso. In many respects this criticism is profitable to the American patriot, as offering a parallel to the attitude of our political managers towards a scientific preparation for war in time of peace. Witness our mortification at the beginning of the war with Spain, when the only evidence our nation was able to present of its readiness for the belligerency into which the Jingoism precipitated us, was the resourceful body of regular troops who had been so long accustomed to fight under adverse conditions that no neglect of civil functionaries could prevent them from carrying off the only laurels won in our land operations.

The editor of this history recognizes that the British army had made a long stride towards reform of its ancient deficiencies when, after 1875, purchase of commissions was displaced by competitive examination, a bureau of military intelligence was established, and field manoeuvres were systematically undertaken. But there improvement practically ended. The Staff Intelligence Department was limited to an entirely insufficient number of officers, with an annual appropriation for its maintenance of about £11,000 as contrasted with some £270,000 a year devoted by the German Empire. Little encouragement was given to officers to widen their professional knowledge and to fit themselves for emergencies. Most of their time was thrown away upon foolish ceremonies, petty accounting, and like routine bookkeeping.

The periods of service of the rank and file were so ill-suited to the taste and peculiarities of the British people, that the standard of recruiting had to be several times lowered to meet the impossibility of securing first-class material, and the ranks became a nursery for "lower-class wastrels." Under fairly good treatment, this inferior stuff was converted into a pretty well-disciplined force for show or for the old-time methods of attack in close column. But there was scarcely any drill in marksmanship, no spirit of personal initiative in critical moments, and so intimate a dependence upon the leadership of the officers that when these failed (and for the new warfare they were almost as ignorant as their men), the regiments were as flocks without a shepherd assailed by wolves. "Many of the generals were nothing more than aged regimental officers, with brains, and will power atrophied by a long life spent in unmilitary routine; incapable alike of devising a plan or carrying it into execution."

On the other hand, the apparent disgrace of a necessity of putting into the field more than 200,000 British troops to bring to terms less than 60,000 Boers is reduced when it is considered that the latter were in truth trained warriors, habituated to all manner of self-reliance and courage by constant battle, not alone with wild men armed with bows and spears, but with organized natives equipped with modern firearms and often proving themselves a formidable adversary for any fighting troop of white soldiers. In short, the Boers were amply prepared for the sort of warfare which they were required to wage, with the added vigor always given to defenders of their own firesides; while the British carried to strange, unwonted sit-

uations the traditions of European highways and fortified towns, or of warfare with Asiatics whose prowess they not illegitimately held in contempt. Happily for their final fortune, the school of calamity was for the British an effective instructor.

The unmilitary student of such volumes as these may draw from their discussions the lesson, which Americans ought to have learned from dear-bought experience, that a democratic government, whether in England or the United States, is, of all political systems under the sun, the least suited to wage warfare, if economy and prompt efficiency are to be taken into reckoning.

Seven Roman Statesmen of the Later Republic.

By Charles Oman, M. A. With portraits and illustrations. Longmans, Green, & Co. 1902.

Midway between history and biography, Professor Oman has written one of the most readable books which have recently appeared on the subject of the later Roman Republic. Whether one can always agree with his estimates of the statesmen concerned or not, those estimates are definitely conceived and clearly presented. As a sample of his effective characterization, Tiberius Gracchus is described as having "enough brains to see that the times were out of joint, enough heart to feel for the misfortunes of his countrymen, enough conscience to refuse to leave things alone and take the easy path to success that lay before him, and enough self-confidence to think that he was foreordained to set all to rights." But he failed as a leader because of his emotional temperament, his impatience of opposition, and his utter inability to appreciate an opponent's point of view as well as his own. After all the honors which have fallen to the lot of Cornelia down through the centuries, it makes one gasp to hear her son described as "cursed with a mother who was always reminding him that he was the grandson of Scipio the elder." The various schemes for agrarian reform were doomed to failure, Professor Oman thinks, because the statesmen of the time were not sufficiently trained to see where the roots of economic distress really lay. After the Gracchi, are considered, in turn Sulla, Crassus, Cato, Pompey, and Cæsar, and along with their personal fortunes one gets a fairly connected sketch of the development of Roman politics for the period covered. Joined with the gross personal vices of Sulla our author finds enough of the old Roman political virtues to bracket him with Cato as unselfish in aim, looking for no personal profit, and devoting his life to his party and his theory of the Constitution. His reformed Constitution failed in the end for lack of motive power, not from flaws in the mechanism. The clock could not go on ticking without the repairer's hand to give the pendulum an occasional push. Cato is energetically defended against Mommsen's ridicule. (Who does not dare an occasional hostile sally into Mommsen's territory now?) Cato was "a thoroughly successful minister of finance, and an excellent and practical soldier." But for the way in which he was followed by mean and petty spirits, his efforts at reform might have had large and permanent results to their credit. Cæsar is lashed severely for his "Anti-Cato," a

rather discreditable post-mortem revenge upon "the one man whom he could not bend" while living.

Mommsen's idealized Cæsar of course comes in for radical rectification. Pompey is held up as his superior, both directly and by implication, in many qualities of personal character which are rightly sought in a really great nature. The level of Pompey's life was above Cæsar's debauchery, above his cruelty, though he failed in the great crisis because he could not read the signs of the times, and did not quite know what it was that he was blindly groping after. Cæsar was a brilliant opportunist, cruel or clement as his policy might demand, dealing sanely and practically with problems as they arose, but without a single trace of real unselfishness or idealism. "Cæsar the altruist is a fiction of the nineteenth century." The Dictator of B. C. 45 "was but the debauched young demagogue of B. C. 70, grown older, riper, and more wary." Even at the age of fifty-four he was "ready to lapse into undignified amours with a clever and worthless little Egyptian princess." Here again one gasps. Surely the dignity of Horace's great ode, "Nunc est bibendum," is more in accord with the real significance of Cleopatra than this flippancy.

Professor Oman regards the Empire as the inevitable outcome of the Republic as it existed during its last century, but not at all an ideal solution of the problems which the decaying Republic had set. Cæsarism conferred countless practical benefits, especially in improving the hard lot of the provincials, but its gifts were purely material. To an age of lost ideals its founder could give no new moral impulse, for he had himself lived down, or had never possessed, any controlling enthusiasm save personal ambition. The Stoic philosophy was the only moral force in existence, and it influenced only the few choice spirits, not the mass. Even a vigorous national patriotism was impossible, despite the efforts to stimulate its growth. The conclusion of it all is that, but for the attacks from without and the new influence of Christian ideals within—both forces for which Cæsarism did not provide—the Empire must gradually have sunk into some such stagnant civilization as that of the Chinese.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Abbott, E. H. Religious Life in America: A Record of Personal Observation. The Outlook Co. \$1.
 Anti-Slavery Papers of James Russell Lowell. 2 vols. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 Blashfield, E. H., and Blashfield, E. W. Italian Cities. 2 volumes. New edition. Charles Scribner's Sons.
 Cervantes, Miguel. The Adventures of Don Quixote of La Mancha. London: J. M. Dent & Co.; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.
 Cesaresco, Evelyn M. Lombard Studies. Scribners. \$3.50.
 Collie, J. N. Climbing on the Himalaya and Other Mountain Ranges. Edinburgh: David Douglas; New York: Scribners. \$5.
 Creighton, Mandell. Historical Essays and Reviews. (Edited by Louise Creighton.) Longmans, Green & Co. \$2.
 Davidson, A. B. The Called of God. (Edited by J. A. Paterson.) Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; New York: Scribners. \$2.
 Day, L. F. Windows: A Book about Stained and Painted Glass. London: B. T. Batsford; New York: Scribners. \$10.50.
 Dobson, Austin. William Hogarth. With an Introduction on Hogarth's Workmanship by Sir Walter Armstrong. London: William Heinemann; New York: McClure, Phillips & Co.
 Earle, Alice M. Sundials and Roses of Yesterday. Macmillan. \$2.50.
 Janvier, T. A. The Christmas Kalends of Provence, and Some Other Provence Festivals. Harper & Bros.
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Johnson, Rossiter. *Morning Lights and Evening Shadows. The Marion Press.*
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 Letters of Daniel Webster. Edited by C. H. Van Tyne. McClure, Phillips & Co.
 Letters of Dorothea, Princess Lieven, during her Residence in London, 1812-1834. Edited by L. G. Robinson. Longmans, Green & Co. \$5.
 MacColl, D. S. *Nineteenth Century Art: With a Chapter on Early Art Objects by Sir T. D. Gibson-Carmichael.* Glasgow: James Maclehose & Sons; New York: Macmillan. \$16.
 Marriott, Charles. *Love with Honour.* John Lane.
 Morse, Frances C. *Furniture of the Olden Time.* Macmillan.
 Pancoast, Henry S. *Standard English Prose.* Henry Holt & Co.
 Paton, James. *Scottish History and Life.* Glasgow: James Maclehose; New York: The Macmillan Co. \$14.
 Phelps, Elizabeth Stuart. *Avery.* Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
 Pitman, Benn. *Life and Letters of Sir Isaac Pitman.* Cincinnati: Phonographic Institute. \$1.00.
 Podmore, Frank. *Modern Spiritualism: A History and a Criticism.* 2 vols. London: Methuen & Co.; New York: Scribners. \$5.
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 Prettyman, C. W. *Der Dreissigjährige Krieg.* Drittes Buch. Boston: D. O. Heath & Co.

Remington, Frederic. *John Ermine of the Yellowstone.* The Macmillan Co.
 Rennie, Elizabeth W. *A Fiery Sword.* The Abbey Press. \$1.50.
 Savage, Rev. Minot J. *Men and Women.* Boston: American Unitarian Association.
 Schierbrand, Wolf von. *Germany.* Doubleday, Page & Co. \$2.40.
 Schmidt, Alexander. *Shakespeare-Lexicon: A Complete Dictionary of all the English Words, Phrases, and Constructions in the Works of the Poet.* New ed. 2 vols. Berlin: George Reimer; New York: G. E. Stechert; also, Lemcke & Buechner. \$8.
 Scott, Sir Walter. *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.* Edited by T. F. Henderson. 4 vols. London: William Blackwood & Sons; New York: Scribners.
 Sing a Song of Sixpence: *Another Lost Legend.* With 8 illustrations by Edward Lear. Boston: George H. Ellis & Co.
 Singleton, Esther. *Social New York under the Georges, 1714-1776.* D. Appleton & Co.
 Stone, W. and Cram, W. E. *American Animals: A Popular Guide to the Mammals of North America North of Mexico, with Intimate Biographies of the More Familiar Species.* Doubleday, Page & Co. \$3.00.
 Threlton-Dyer, T. F. *Royalty in All Ages.* London: John C. Nimmo; New York: Scribners. \$3.
 Thoreau, Henry D. *Life Without Principle.* New edition. Crockham Hill, Kent: The Sign of the Hop-Pole.
 Thwaites, Reuben G. *Daniel Boone.* D. Appleton & Co.

Triggs, H. I. *Formal Gardens in England and Scotland, Part III.* London: B. T. Batsford; New York: Scribners.
 Vacaresco, Hélène. *The Bard of the Dimbovitza: Rumanian Folk-Songs, Collected from the Peasants.* (Translated by Carmen Sylva and Alma Strettel.) Scribners. \$1.50.
 Van Pelt, John V. *A Discussion of Composition as Applied to Art.* The Macmillan Co.
 Van Tyne, Claude Halstead. *The Loyalists in the American Revolution.* The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.
 Waterman, Nixon. *In Merry Mood.* Boston: Forbes & Co.
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 Webster, H. K. *Roger Drake, Captain of Industry.* Macmillan. \$1.50.
 Wells, A. R. *Rolling Rhymes for Youngsters.* Fleming H. Revell Co.
 Wells, Carolyn. *A Nonsense Anthology.* Scribners.
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 Willett, Herbert Lockwood. *The Ruling Quality.* Fleming H. Revell Co.
 Williams, Jesse Lynch. *New York Sketches.* Charles Scribner's Sons.

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