

vian library. The moral question here involved is a complex one, for very generally the beneficiary institutions have had no voice in the framing of the bequest. They have had usually simply the option of accepting the bequest under its conditions or foregoing it entirely. Practically, the moral sense of a corporation, even of a university, is very weak before so crucial a test.

If to be caught in such a moral dilemma is unfortunate, the resultant harm from these apparent perversions of trusts is more apparent than real. It must fairly be assumed that a testator intends primarily to aid the institution in which he creates a foundation. It certainly must be taken for granted that he would not insist upon literal fulfillment of the terms of his will, to the detriment of its beneficiary. But the weighing of the subtle question of relative good, with its infinite possibilities of casuistry, should not, it seems to us, be thrown wholly upon the tender consciences of presidents and trustees. When a specific trust has plainly outlived its usefulness, or, again, if its terms are originally detrimental, it should be possible to obtain from the law-makers an order converting a specific into a general trust, or, when feasible, authorizing a new disposition of the fund which shall be germane to the intention of the founder. So much deference, it seems to us, trustees owe to those from whom they derive their powers. We need hardly add that if donors generally had, like Mr. Carnegie, held the view that if a man is competent to frame a trust wisely, his representatives in future times will be wise enough to change it judiciously, a very pretty question in casuistry, and an occasional stumbling-block in morals, would never have arisen. In this matter Mr. Carnegie has set most gracefully an example which is worthy of general imitation.

#### JOHN RICHARD GREEN.

In these days the historian inclines to disdain the general reader, but historian and general reader alike may turn for amusement and profit to the Letters of J. R. Green. The one can hardly pass by a correspondence in which Mr. Bryce is affectionately nicknamed the "Holy Roman," and Freeman is told that his "strenuous" prose is "neither prose nor poetry, but like some one holloaing." The other will find that the fun is not confined to mere historical allusion. After collapsing physically in East London, Green is ordered to a "Cockney Patmos" at Margate, whence he writes: "I only came yesterday, and so have no bulletin of health to forward, save that I am taking more kindly to cod-liver oil. Why cods—so exquisite in all else—should concentrate nastiness in their liver, Science may explain." But there is more in these letters than good-humored chaff. They keep touching upon matters of the utmost moment to the historian and of the liveliest interest to every one. They are the outpourings of a man who loved

history so intensely because he entered with such dramatic feeling into all the situations of life.

Mr. Leslie Stephen, the editor of the Letters, likens the success of Green's 'Short History' to that which Macaulay's 'History' had met with twenty-five years before. He recalls, however, Macaulay's two advantages in being already famous, and in writing upon a scale which admitted of pictorial treatment; "whereas Green had the difficult problem of combining the greatest possible condensation with undiminished animation of narrative." Regarding the immediate popularity of the book in both hemispheres there can be no doubt. It only remains to ask whether or not the success was deserved. Apart from the damnable articles in *Fraser's Magazine*, with their long list of inaccuracies, a good many historians feel about the 'Short History' as art critics feel about "the picture of the year," which may be good enough for the Tate Gallery, but is of itself condemned because the multitude like it. What the artists have to say on their own behalf need not concern us. In Green's case the question is important, inasmuch as his attitude towards historical study and composition was extremely pronounced. Although in strict logic the worth or worthlessness of his general views need not be imperilled upon the success or failure of the works wherein he illustrates them, the two things are, as a matter of fact, very likely to be connected.

If it came to an issue of compurgation, Green could collect a great weight of testimony. The writer in *Fraser's Magazine* (September and December, 1875), maintained that the large sale of the 'Short History' was due to the puffing it got from the Free-*manites*. This allegation was far from being true, as the event has shown, and it rested upon a false foundation. Green was comparatively weak in verbal memory, and the misfortune of ill-health compelled him to do his writing at places where he was beyond the reach of books. Thus, while he took the utmost pains in the revision of his proofs, mistakes of names and dates were bound sometimes to slip in. The hostile reviewer inferred from these that he was superficial, and merely worked up in picturesque form the results of others. On the contrary, Green's learning was wide and solid. Stubbs has said of him:

"All his work was real and original work; few people besides those who knew him well would see, under the charming ease and vivacity of his style, the deep research and sustained industry of the laborious student. But it was so; there was no department of our national records that he had not studied, and I think I may say mastered. Hence, I think, the unity of his dramatic scenes, and the cogency of his historical arguments. Like other people, he made mistakes sometimes; but scarcely ever does the correction of his mistakes affect either the essence of the picture or the force of the argument."

We shall not carry the discussion of Green's accuracy or inaccuracy any further, because for present purposes it is not the essential point. He knew the sources of English history at first hand, and worked with incredible energy to gain the information which his task demanded. He was not in any sense a dilettante. His letters prove this past all doubt, and the story of his methods adds testimony to the letters. Concerning the 'Making of England,' Mr.

Stephen says: "This extraordinary achievement had tried his strength to the utmost." And well it might have done. Long before the work was finished, Sir Andrew Clark had said that Green could not live for six weeks. Yet he kept alive by dint of will power, and spared no exertion to make his book perfect. "For many weeks, he could not sit up or take solid food. He was unable to hold a pen, or even to make pencil corrections on a proof. At intervals he could dictate for a short time or go through references with his wife's help. He dictated, as he talked, very rapidly, and with perfect clearness and precision." In spite of this facility in composition, much of the book was wholly rewritten five times, and for parts of it there were eight or ten different proofs. "When the last proof had been corrected, a discovery was made about a certain Aethelwald. Wearied as he was, Green spent two more days in work rather than leave the incorrect statement."

With Green a *tour de force* like this did not represent the feverish excitement of a dying man so much as the unflinching enthusiasm of the born historian. Unlike 'Vathek,' for instance, the 'Making of England' was less a spasmodic effort than the fruit of deliberate and steady purpose. Green was always full of ideas, full of sympathy, full of eagerness. He was a brilliant talker, a ready and effective speaker. Whomsoever he met, his intense vitality and directness left their effect upon the hearer. Mr. Bryce heard him preach for the first time when he was at St. Philip's, Stepney. "I shall never forget the impression made on me by the impassioned, fiery little figure in the pulpit, with its thin face and bright black eyes." His paper on Dunstan, delivered in 1862 before the Somersetshire Archaeological Society, carried Freeman by storm. After a visit to Hampden in 1895, Sir M. E. Grant Duff wrote in his diary: "Green, whom the more I see of him, the more I think likely to be, if he lives, the greatest English historian who has yet been, with the exception of Gibbon." Mrs. Humphry Ward has written: "There was in him a perpetual eagerness, an inexhaustible power of knowledge, that were ever putting idler or emptier minds to shame."

We have collected these passages about Green by those who knew him, partly because they are sincere tributes to the memory of a remarkable man, and partly because they describe in terser form the qualities which are expressed with living reality throughout the whole course of his letters. Here undoubtedly was one whom nature destined to be an historian as she destined another to be a painter, and a third to be a musician. He had the power, so rarely given to historical writers, of realizing the past by a true poetic sense. Sir M. E. Grant Duff says he never had it so much brought home "that the real historian is an animal different from and of a superior order to ordinary human beings who possess the power of narration," as when he saw the effect produced on Green by the view from Whiteleaf Cross. If you call an historian imaginative, some people will think you mean that he draws on his imagination for his facts. Green had power, and his power was due to the fervor of his imagination, working, as it did, harmoniously with his warmth of heart and his interest in human life.

Can the historian who lacks these gifts

ever be more than a collector of facts and a master of logic? The scientific age had come even in Green's time. It is just twenty-five years since he wrote to Macmillan that he must decline to be editor of the proposed *English Historical Review*:

"I shall be looked upon by the bulk of historic scholars as a person imposed on the review by the unhappy necessity of securing a publisher and a popular circulation, and as the representative not of the scientific, but of the non-scientific, elements in it. The justice of this is not to the purpose here; but I must own that, for my own part, I feel my historic tendencies to be sufficiently at variance with the general tendency of historic research just now to give such sentiments a certain color of truth."

Perhaps the strongest praise which Green has received from Stubbs is contained in the following words: "In him the desire of stating and pointing the truth of history was as strong as the wish to make both his pictures and his arguments strong and forcible. He never treated an opposing view with intolerance and contumely; his handling of controversial matter was exemplary." So it was when he faced the difference between his conception of history and Mr. Gardiner's. He did not think the "pragmatic" historians unjust for attacking his view. "It is very natural that, working as they do to bring out the actual political facts and clear away loose talk, they should look jealously at what is, in effect, a protest against their whole conception of history, and what must look to many of them like an attempt to bring the loose talk back again." Nevertheless, his conviction was plain. He felt that, however imperfect, his work was "on the old traditional lines of English historians." He was a liberal to the tips of his fingers, he accepted the scientific method, and science swept him away from the church whose ministry he had entered; but in a scientific age he felt himself to be a *vox clamantis*, whose business it was to protest against mere pragmatism. Every word he writes goes to the same point—"to a protest, that is, against the tendency to a merely external political view of human affairs, and to a belief that political history, to be intelligible, must be based on social history in its largest sense."

Among historians the scientific method, which began long ago as a heresy, tends in the days of its triumph to harden into a superstition. Above all things, a good historian is never narrow. Green's principles run counter to the present tendency on this continent, as they clashed with the principles of his leading contemporaries in England. Yet there is much in his letters that historians should read and weigh. While every one will be impressed by the spectacle which they afford of high-minded enthusiasm, of devotion to friends, of intellectual honesty, and of an intrepidity almost surpassing belief, the teacher and writer of history may well ponder these words: "We English folk live in free human air, and it is impossible to us to sink into mere paper-chasers." And so I don't doubt that the English ideal of history will in the long run be what Gibbon made it in his day, the first in the world; because it can alone combine the love of accuracy and external facts with the sense that government and outer facts are but the outcome of individual men, and men what body, mind, and spirit make them."

#### CONDITIONS IN PORTO RICO.

SAN JUAN, January, 1902.

One of the most prominent members of President Roosevelt's Cabinet lately said the Government at Washington was so well satisfied with the conditions in Porto Rico that it gave no more thought to that island than it gave to the State of New Jersey. While this attitude of the authorities at Washington is sufficiently complimentary to the insular Government, there still remain unsettled a few questions of moment relating to Porto Rico, which it would be well if the Washington officials did not so readily dismiss from their minds.

While in a political sense the island and its affairs, the system of insular government, including the system of taxation, of revenues, and of public schools, have been set going to the entire satisfaction of the President and his advisers, and have ceased to be a source of doubt and anxiety, in a commercial sense the island and its possibilities are just on the verge of discovery by the people of the United States. The newspapers in "the States," the title by which the islanders distinguish the home country from its new possessions, have just recorded certain experiments made in Connecticut in the direction of producing a cigar-wrapper like the Sumatra wrapper by growing the leaf under shade. More than two months ago a representative of the Tobacco Trust went to Porto Rico prepared to grow a tobacco crop under the shelter of canvas or wooden slats. He selected a field in the Cayey district, and by this time his crop should be well under way. Unless high winds, which are more frequent in Porto Rico than in Connecticut, should destroy the shelter, there can be little doubt of the success of this early and important experiment in thinning the Porto Rican leaf and growing for the United States market what is considered by Americans a more attractive wrapper than this leaf in its natural state produces. The removal, last summer, of the United States tariff on Porto Rican tobacco caused so sudden and enormous a growth of the market in the States for Porto Rican cigars that some manufacturers were unable to supply the demand for their product.

The coffee industry is in a less flourishing state. The hurricane of two years ago did great damage to the coffee plantations, and from it they have not recovered. Moreover, the Spanish duty on Porto Rican coffee has had the effect of closing this important transatlantic market, and the people of the United States are not yet aware of the great superiority of the island coffee in richness of body and flavor over the thinner Brazilian coffees, which are so largely consumed in the States, where the latter coffees are bought by consumers for the Java and Mocha product; the Mocha being readily supplied by sorting the round berries from the flat ones growing in the same pod. The influences named, together with the desire of Spanish owners to withdraw from the island since it has come under American rule, have resulted in placing coffee plantations in the market at much less than their former value.

The future prospects of the sugar industry are indicated by the erection by the American Sugar Trust of what is believed to be the most complete plant in the world for crushing the cane. In the extraordinary

depth and richness of the soil, and in the climate, to which frost is unknown, and which permits one crop to succeed another as fast as the first matures, is found the certainty of a great agricultural development in the future, to which the agricultural schools started by Dr. Brumbaugh, the former capable Commissioner of Education, will also in turn contribute. With a population of nearly one million inhabitants, in an island some ninety miles in length and forty in width, but one-fifth of the land is at present cultivated, and thousands of the natives suffer from anæmia, the most common disease of the island, largely because of an unvaried diet of a few fruits obtainable without labor.

As a winter resort for Americans, the development of Porto Rico will probably wait upon the building of roads and the introduction of means to vary the monotony of life. A few miles from Coamo, which is on the military road within an easy drive from Ponce, at Coamo Springs, the Spaniards maintained a resort which is well worth a visit. The hot waters gush from the hillside into the stone baths, whose size, huge stoppers and faucets excite the visitor's curiosity. The grounds have an interesting collection of tropical vegetation, and the rooms, beds, and cuisine are not only safe—which is a high recommendation in a hot climate—they would be unusually attractive in the United States or Europe. The same thing may be said of the French hotel in Ponce. But at San Juan, the capital, a good hotel, clean in all its appointments, is needed.

The most marked progress in Porto Rico has been made in the school work under Dr. Brumbaugh. The new frame schoolhouses met with in all parts of the island, or the old Spanish buildings of stone altered into schoolhouses, all with American flags waving over them, are, of course, more visible evidences of work accomplished than are the results of other governmental work on the part of Gov. Hunt and his subordinates. But even allowing for this, the chief hope for the future of Porto Rico seems to lie in the school work. At Ponce there is a school of some 400 children in which no Spanish is used. Even in the "shack" school on the mountain top the native teacher, clad in her simple but clean gown, her stockingless feet covered with slippers, is day by day teaching the English equivalents of Spanish words. Everywhere American patriotic songs are sung by the children, often in English, and the dedications of new schoolhouses exhibit the hospitality of the local Porto Rican authorities and their enthusiasm in the cause of education as well as the ardor of the children. With what spirit these last sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and wave their tiny American flags! These occasions were always used by Dr. Brumbaugh to impress upon the large gatherings of adults and children that opportunity for all to learn to work and to develop followed the flag, and everywhere the eager faces showed appreciation of the new doctrine. Perhaps not much can be expected of the ignorant adult population of mixed blood; but the 50,000 cleanly dressed, bright-looking children now cared for by the public-school system, which includes a normal school, are destined to lead the native population of the island from the shiftless shack life which has endured so long.