

bate; but the classical leanings of the author's criticism show themselves again in his treatment of the later Elizabethan dramatists. We are accordingly astonished to find Chapman singled out for especial praise—partly, no doubt, because he depicts Frenchmen with seriousness and dignity instead of with the crude and outrageous chauvinism of Shakespeare's history-plays. But the very wildness and improbability of the plots of Beaumont and Fletcher, Massinger, and the rest, which are a stumbling-block to M. Jusserand, will always obtain more readers for these dramatists than for their more regularly disposed contemporary. Altogether in his reaction from the excessive laudation which it has long been the habit to bestow upon the minor dramatists of this age—a habit which has increased especially since the establishment of dissertation-factories in our modern universities—M. Jusserand, it seems to us, has gone too far to the other extreme. Their characterization may be crude, their plots may frequently represent a threadbare romanticism or even confuse by imperfect construction, the touch of blood and lust may be too often on their work; some of the most important of them, *e. g.*, Webster and Middleton, may be destitute of any real rhythmical charm, yet they are practically all of them endowed with no inconsiderable share of vital energy, and they are nearly all able, even in otherwise unsatisfactory plays, to throw off with varying profusion beautiful fancies and images.

The present volume is better translated than the last, being free, especially, from the irritating inversions which gave that part of the English translation a strongly Teutonic flavor. A few Gallicisms, however, have crept in, such as "politics" for "politicians," "ignore" for "to be ignorant of," "expose" for "expound." *Anglia*, moreover, is a review, not a learned society, and it is singular in a book printed in this country to find the institution at New Haven called the "University of Yale."

*The True History of the Conquest of New Spain.* By Bernal Díaz del Castillo; edited by Genaro García. Translated into English by Alfred Percival Maudslay. London: Printed for the Hakluyt Society.

The Hakluyt Society continues to perform its chosen task of publishing English editions of rare works on early geography, conquest, and exploration, in such a manner as to command our warmest admiration. Its latest product is an accurate and carefully annotated translation of the first part of one of the four accounts by eye-witnesses of the discovery and conquest of Mexico by Hernando Cortés; and the remainder of this interesting narrative will doubtless soon be put forth in a subsequent

volume. The original manuscript has always been kept at Guatemala, where it remains to-day; and the only exact copy ever made from it, which was edited and published in Mexico a few years since, by Genaro García, forms the basis for the present translation. A garbled version, compiled in 1632 by Friar Alonzo Remón of the Order of Mercy from a sixteenth-century copy of the original document, was, in the course of the nineteenth century, translated into English, French, German, and Hungarian; so that Bernal's story has not been by any means unknown hitherto. The untrustworthiness of Father Remón's work was, however, such as to make the appearance of the present accurate edition almost as valuable as an entirely new discovery.

Bernal Díaz del Castillo was born in 1492, in the famous town of Medina del Campo, in Old Castile, and emigrated to America in 1514 in search of adventures and riches. Most of his first three years there were spent in Cuba; in 1517 and 1518, however, he accompanied Capt. Francisco Hernández de Córdova and Juan de Grijalva in their preliminary explorations on the mainland; and in 1519 he joined the memorable expedition of Hernando Cortés. With Cortés he remained through the defeat of the army of Narvaez and the capture of Mexico in 1521; and though he found, like many others, that his share of the rich booty fell far short of what he had a right to expect, he did not desert his leader, but commanded various minor expeditions for the subjection of remote parts of the country. The superseding of Cortés, by the Audiencia of 1528 and subsequently by the first Mexican viceroy, Mendoza, in 1535, failed to better Bernal's fortunes, and finally, in 1540, he departed for Spain to seek justice at the hands of the Council of Castile. After the usual delays, he returned to America in 1541, armed with a couple of decrees which resulted in gaining for him "three towns of little worth" in Guatemala, where, save for one brief journey to Spain in 1550, he remained, poor but respected and beloved, till the day of his death in 1581.

Bernal was above seventy years of age when he began the writing of his "True History," and the story tells of the conquest of the mainland from 1514 to 1568. It consists of 214 chapters, the first 81—which take the account down through Cortés's dealings with the Tlascalans in the autumn of 1519—being translated in the present volume. Bernal did not pretend to be a man of letters; he confesses his slight knowledge of literature, and humbly begs his readers' indulgence. But his account is valuable as the simple, unaffected, straightforward narrative of a vain but honest, splendidly courageous, and thoroughly lovable old soldier. It only remains to add that editor and

translator have done their work uniformly well, and that an excellent introduction and appendix, maps, illustrations, a glossary of Mexican, Spanish, and other foreign words, and a very complete bibliography, enhance greatly the value of the "History."

*Marcus Whitman, Pathfinder and Patriot.* By the Rev. Myron Eells, D.D. Seattle: Alice Harriman Co.

A zealous disciple and follower of the sturdy pioneer and martyr-missionary of Oregon recounts in this book the story of Marcus Whitman. The hero was a man of the John Brown and Stonewall Jackson type, of the sternest evangelical piety, great force of character, pursuing his aim with a singleness of purpose so narrow that he became quite blind to considerations which would have been obvious had his mind been broader. This is the latest deliverance in the long and acrimonious controversy as to whether or not Marcus Whitman saved Oregon to the United States. We think that no one man saved Oregon. The Northwest came to the United States because the American people poured into it overwhelmingly, England meanwhile being powerless to offer any counteracting tide. In the influx Whitman was no doubt a notable figure; but so, too, were the merchant-adventurers like Astor, the Methodist missionaries of the Willamette Valley, the captains of the emigrant trains, like Wyeth; chief of all, perhaps, Robert Gray, who carried his ship, in 1792, into the Columbia River, and thus established the first hold.

We think Dr. Eells makes clear by much testimony what has been denied—namely, that Whitman, in undertaking his famous winter journey across the continent in 1842-3, had prominently in mind the prevention of England, which at that time, through the Hudson's Bay Company, was seeking to secure herself in that region, and that his work to this end was effective. A main argument of the opposers of this view has been that for full twenty years after the journey no such claim was advanced as to Whitman's purpose. This objection Dr. Eells meets as follows: Whitman's mission-station was in close contact with the Hudson's Bay Company's posts, from which it obtained supplies and received protection. It was necessary, therefore, to be reticent about a plan to subvert their jurisdiction and turn the country over to the United States. Again, Whitman had been sent to the Columbia by the American Board of Foreign Missions to save souls for Christ. Critics said it was a departure from his proper work for him to give time and strength to a political scheme (much to his material advantage if it succeeded) however patriotic. It was wise therefore

to keep the facts in the background. Good worldly reasons for reticence, perhaps, but are such transactions fair and above board? In England the Oregon missionaries were accused of being tricky and treacherous, of abusing the hospitality and kindness of the Hudson's Bay factors (shown notably by John McLoughlin at Vancouver). Dr. Eells's pages give evidence that the officials of the American Board, and others, felt that Whitman was doing other work than that to which he had been assigned. Dr. Eells states his case naïvely, not appearing to see that the situation he describes suggests serious questions. Whitman possessed manly virtues, and had a hand in the saving of Oregon, and it is ardently to be wished that his course in the matter, and that of his friends, should be cleared of all suspicion of duplicity and unfaithfulness to their proper engagements.

## Notes.

Through the Columbia University Press will be published a complete edition of the English and Latin works of John Milton, in verse and in prose. The editorship of this work is to be held by Prof. W. P. Trent, who has previously published a study of Milton, and whose biography and bibliography of Defoe, in three volumes, is promised for early issue. The Columbia University edition of Milton will run to at least eight large octavo volumes. It will be adequately illustrated and furnished with facsimiles of manuscripts and title-pages. Besides the standard library edition of the new Milton, there will be a limited large-paper edition.

Brentano's offer an edition of Oscar Wilde's poems in a volume uniform with their issue of his other works. It contains a biographical introduction by Temple Scott.

"Modernity and the Churches," a contribution by Dr. Percy Gardner to the Putnams' Crown Theological Library, is announced for early issue. The essay which gives its title to the volume was delivered before the Hibbert Summer School of Liberal Theology in Oxford, England, last autumn.

The Putnams are the publishers, also, of a forthcoming book for boys by Frederick Stanhope Hill (author of "Twenty-six Historic Ships") entitled, "The Romance of the American Navy." An historical work for grown-ups, to be issued by the same publishers, is "Britain at Bay," by Spencer Wilkinson, Chichele professor of military history at Oxford University.

During January and February, the Cochran Publishing Company will issue, among other books, "Ideals and Conduct," by Uriel Buchanan, the exponent of the "new thought," and author of "The Mind's Attainment," and various books on Yogi philosophy.

The authorship of the story, "Margarita's

Soul," has just been disclosed. The book is by Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the kingdom of Italy, Leo S. Olschki, the Florentine publisher and bookseller, will issue a monumental edition of the "Divina Commedia," which it is aimed to make worthy, in scholarship and beauty, of the anniversary it memorializes. A new life of the poet by Gabriele D'Annunzio will precede the text. Count Passerini, editor of Olschki's *Giornale Dantesco*, will supply the commentary, which aims at comprehensiveness, and is printed on each page, parallel with the text; and the editorial revision of the text itself promises to be thorough. The book will be printed on hand-made paper especially manufactured by Miliani of Fabriano, with the watermark of Dante's head. It will be a royal folio, of about 600 pages, with broad margins. The leather binding, with bronze hinges, etc., is described as of the finest Italian craftsmanship. The edition is limited to 300 copies, and the subscriber's name will be printed on the flyleaf. The subscription price (prior to January 31, 1910) is 500 lire. Six additional copies, printed on parchment, with illuminations by Prof. Amedeo Nesi, and other embellishments, will be 3,000 lire each. Lemcke & Buechner of New York are the American agents, and it is announced that the work will be ready for delivery next autumn.

A plan was announced some time since for the erection of a statue of Ralph Waldo Emerson in the town of Concord. A committee was appointed to procure and erect such a statue, the members being George A. King, John S. Keyes, Moorfield Storey, Henry L. Higginson, Charles Francis Adams, 2d, Woodward Hudson, Edward J. Bartlett, George S. Keyes. The sculptor, Daniel C. French, who was, in youth, Emerson's neighbor and friend, undertook the work, and about \$7,000 had been raised, out of the required \$20,000, when the San Francisco earthquake diverted subscriptions to a more pressing cause. The committee is now earnestly desirous of completing the work, and asks every friend of Emerson to send what he or she can, no matter how little, to Lee, Higginson & Co., No. 50 State Street, Boston, who will acknowledge all contributions.

The award of two Parisian literary prizes is announced. That of the *Annales* (3,000 francs) goes to Pierre Grasset, an earlier prize-winner with his "Conte Bleu." That of the Association des Critiques Littéraires (1,000 francs) is divided between Georges Grappe, author of "Dans le Jardin de Sainte-Beuve" and of the very recently translated study of Degas, and Alphonse Séché, the biographer, who has published an anthology, in two volumes, under the title, "Muses Françaises."

For their standard sets of novelists, Charles Scribner's Sons are now preparing a Memorial Edition of George Meredith, to be completed, according to the present estimate, in twenty-seven volumes. Two of these volumes, "The Shaving of Shagpat" and "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel," are now before us. They are well printed, and the binding is in silk, uniform with the Outward Bound Kipling, the Thistle Stevenson, and the New York James. The illus-

trations include photographs taken for the edition by Frederick Evans, showing scenes identified by Meredith with his stories; they are to include also reproductions of the drawings made by Millais, Du Maurier, and others for the original publications. A considerable amount of new material is promised, of which we shall have occasion to speak when it appears. We have, in sooth, grown rather to dread this resuscitation of an author's ephemeral work, but in the case of Meredith the process may justify itself. One volume of this new material, containing the unfinished novel "Celt and Saxon," will certainly be welcome. Students of Meredith will also be glad to know that the concluding volume is to collect the various changes and deletions made by the author in the different editions of his works, together with a complete bibliography. Altogether the publishers are no doubt right in calling this the definitive edition of Meredith.

Helen Archibald Clarke is one of the writers who follow the trail of the poet. Having written of Browning's Italy and England, she turns now with a will to "Longfellow's Country" (Baker & Taylor Co.). Here she joins to æsthetic fervor something of our modern nature cult and love of out-of-doors. These fine traits, blended with enthusiasm for the life and character of her poet, readily suggest writing of a superlative sort; and yet enthusiasm is always worth the contemplating. On occasion, the author of "Longfellow's Country" makes much of little, it seems to us; perhaps the pains she takes to quote some passages from the poet's journal are unnecessary—as in the case of a commonplace note like this, of the view from Milton Hill, near Boston:

Commands a grand prospect over villages, fields, forests, and the city, to the great sea itself, stretching blue and vapory beyond.

The comment is not felicitous: "We know that Longfellow loved the sea, not only because of his frequent references to it in his poetry, but because he speaks of this love more than once, *when clothed and in his right mind*, in his journal."

Not that this book lacks interest. For those who are curious as to the making of a poem there are reproduced, for example, newspaper accounts of the wreck of the *Hesperus* (not at Norman's Woe, but off Rowe's wharf, Boston), and a passage from Longfellow's diary (December 17, 1839):

News of shipwreck horrible on the coast. Twenty bodies washed ashore near Gloucester, one lashed to a piece of the wreck.

Readable chapters about Gloucester—both the poet's and ours—about Newport and "The Skeleton in Armor," and about "Hiawatha" and the material for that poem—all these matters are here. And there are photographic illustrations of such places as figure in the various poems.

Rabbi Edvard N. Calisch has attempted in a volume of 277 pages, including index and bibliographical appendices, to write the history of "The Jew in English Literature," as author and as subject from the earliest times to the present day (Richmond: The Bell Book and Stationery Co.). It is to be regretted that the scholarship he has brought to this ambitious task is quite unequal to the zeal displayed. In dealing with some of the famous repre-