

era. So far as it is possible to know an ancient people without an understanding of their own written records, we may now be said to know the ancient Cretans really well, for we have the material setting of life among them in uncommon completeness. There has come to light also the fact that for above a thousand years an evolution in the art of writing was going on. The characters used show a change from conventionalized pictorial forms to those of earlier and later linear types. Moreover, the most advanced type of linear script (Evans's Class B) reaches a high stage of development, while even the latest manifestations of it are considerably earlier than the earliest records of Phœnician writing. When one remembers that only a short time ago the consideration of the antiquity of writing played an important part in discussions of the Homeric question, it is possible to realize how greatly in this respect the present point of view has changed. Furthermore, with these Cretan discoveries, the source whence the Greeks took the characters of their alphabet becomes comparatively a less simple matter to explain. Has not the part the Phœnicians played in the transmission of the letters been too exclusively emphasized? Is there not a large element of truth in the old traditions given by Diodorus that letters were invented in Crete, and that the Phœnicians merely modified them and passed them on, or may it not be that some knowledge of the Cretan script was transmitted directly to the Greek settlers there?

It would indeed be difficult to enumerate the interesting questions which recent discoveries in this wonderful island have raised for students both of prehistoric and of Greek archæology; but the answers to these questions must in many cases depend upon the nature of the language used by the early Cretans, and touching this point we are still largely in the dark. In the absence of bilingual inscriptions, as Dr. Evans remarks in his preface, a comprehensive attempt at interpretation or transliteration is not likely to be attended with fruitful results, but this fact makes it none the less an urgent need that scholars should have before them in as complete a form as possible the existing records of the early Cretan script. This need will be adequately met in the present handsome publication.

The whole work is planned in three volumes: the first includes the hieroglyphic and primitive linear classes of writing, together with some general discussion of pre-Phœnician scripts; the second and third will be given to a detailed publication of the documents of the advanced linear scripts. The whole will therefore constitute a *corpus* of the early Cretan written documents. In Part i of the first volume, Dr. Evans gives an exceedingly useful survey of his

whole subject, taking up the question of the antiquity and diffusion of pictographs and linear signs in Europe, the discovery and the nature of each of the types of Minoan writing, the survivals of the art of writing as the different phases of Cretan civilization pass away, and the influence that this art had in other regions. This leads to a discussion of the Cretan Philistines and the Phœnician alphabet, and to a statement of the theory that this alphabet is to an important degree of Minoan origin. The various tables of illustration supplement the text in a most valuable way. Part ii is devoted to a careful and complete presentation of the hieroglyphic or conventionalized pictographic script. The influences under which it grew up are discussed, and its use on seals and clay documents. Then follows an extended catalogue of hieroglyphic inscriptions on seals and sealings, and one of similar nature for inscriptions on clay sealings, tablets, bars, etc. There is further a catalogue of the hieroglyphic signs, and an analysis with extended discussion of the nature of the script. Part iii is a study of the so-called Disk from Phæstos, discovered by Dr. Pernier of the Italian Mission, in 1908. This is the largest single hieroglyphic inscription yet discovered in Crete, and its nature is, of course, of high interest. Dr. Evans subjects its signs to a searching examination, showing how radically in most cases they differ from the Minoan classes, and coming to the conclusion that the script is the product of a culture allied to the Minoan, but "existing on the southwest coastlands of Asia Minor and not improbably in the Lycian area." At the present stage of our knowledge any interpretation can hardly be more than an interesting suggestion, for one cannot be certain how exactly the original form of a hieroglyphic character indicates its meaning at a given time. It seems as if a bilingual inscription was the only thing which could possibly clear away the uncertainties. Nevertheless, a surprising amount of information about the probable contents of the writings, both hieroglyphic and linear, is scattered through the volume. A decimal system was in use in both, and, especially in Class B of the linear script, it is possible to make out the enumeration of various classes of objects stored in the chambers of the palace. The arrangement of the clay tablets was often very careful, and they were sometimes placed like books on a modern shelf, so that the edges showed; then the edge would be docketed with a summary of contents.

It is superfluous to add that the book as a whole is of high importance—the careful record of a considerable part of the extraordinarily able archæological work which has placed Dr. Evans in the front rank of really great discoverers.

*Charles Sumner.* By George H. Haynes (American Crisis Biographies). Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co. \$1.25 net.

Except Lincoln, no statesman of our civil war period has been so elaborately commemorated as Sumner. We have the fifteen volumes of his works, edited by himself, the four bulky volumes of memoirs by E. L. Pierce, the biography by Moorfield Storey in the American Statesmen Series, and less considerable accounts in large number. Professor Haynes thinks it worth while to add to the list a new life, not at all claiming to add fresh material, but undertaking to adjust the figure properly in the perspective, after the lapse of a momentous half-century. Professor Haynes is thoroughly informed and an excellent narrator; while strongly sympathetic, he is by no means indiscriminating; he does not blink the faults of his hero's character or the mistakes of his career. Nevertheless, we feel that he accords Sumner a place among the statesmen of his time which he did not hold, and which in the retrospect of history he never will hold.

Professor Haynes adopts from another the statement that "at the close of the civil war Abraham Lincoln and Charles Sumner were the most influential men in public life." Lincoln's eminence no one will question, but as to Sumner? Did he outrank in influence the great military figures? or, if we restrict our view to civil life, did he stand before the country so superior in wisdom and service to Chase, Seward, Stanton, and Charles Francis Adams? Good men in those days believed Sumner to be intrepid, untiring, well-purposed, and adorned with statesmanlike accomplishments; but they also believed that he gravely lacked patience; also the sagacity for measuring accurately great and difficult problems and dealing with them wisely in view of their relations with other problems and with the facts of human nature; also, the invaluable quality of tact, the faculty for getting on with men and winning out in the welter of varying temperaments, clashing judgments, and conflicting interests. Conspicuous though the service of Sumner was, we yet believe that in many contemporary eyes his leadership had the handicap of these unfortunate limitations; that his work, therefore, in behalf of his country and of humanity was far less effective than that of Lincoln; indeed, that several among his fellow-strivers were fully his equals in the accomplishment of good results.

While to multitudes of his contemporaries Sumner seemed thus to fall short, indications abound that a later generation is not disposed to judge him more kindly. Ideas are broached to-day by voices of authority which are not in harmony with the views and anticipa-

tions of the anti-slavery men of fifty years ago. C. F. Adams, for instance, makes declarations as to the negro problem which sound strange in view of his antecedents and earlier associations. Again, the Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford, in his recent "Land of the Lion," asserts with great emphasis that the urgent need of the African blacks is "that they shall be firmly, lovingly forced to work." Dr. Rainsford will not assert that there exists now among advanced races any such warm and comprehensive altruism as will engage, unrequited, in this firm and loving enforcement of labor upon black millions. What remains but to devise a scheme through which a body of uplifters shall find it to their interest to do the enforcing? And when that is said we come perilously near to the suggestion of a society of masters and bondmen—the masters, loving, we hope, but performing their task with an eye to their own interests as well—the bondmen held to unwilling work for a benefit they have not craved and do not appreciate.

More interesting still, Booker T. Washington, asserts ("Up from Slavery," page 16):

We must acknowledge that, notwithstanding the cruelty and moral wrong of slavery, the ten million negroes inhabiting this country, who themselves or whose ancestors went through the school of American slavery, are in a stronger and more hopeful condition, materially, intellectually, morally, and religiously, than is true of an equal number of black people in any other portion of the globe.

American slavery then, in Mr. Washington's view, has been for its victims an uplifting influence of great potency, and how, in contrast with this view is the doctrine of the "Barbarism of Slavery," in which Sumner pronounced the institution only brutalizing upon master and slave alike!

Distinctly, we express here no approval of Mr. Adams's depreciation of negro capabilities; nor are we accepting the theories of Dr. Rainsford and Booker Washington. We cite them simply as utterances that are significant of the present moment. They are strangely out of accord with the utterances of the old anti-slavery men among whom Sumner was a chief. Citations of a similar character might be multiplied; and they all indicate that a state of mind prevails now among many humane men not in harmony with that of the zealous combatants of the former time. It is not difficult to understand why the prestige of Sumner, much questioned in his own days, has lost rather than gained in later years. As is well set forth by Professor Haynes, while a man of many foibles, he possessed in a high degree courage, sincerity, high purpose, and scholarly accomplishments. His service was great, but, over-confident in his own wisdom, he set his hand

to much reconstruction of ideas and institutions. Often he made, but too often he marred. In the world's judgment, he falls far short in beneficent leadership of the supreme statesman of his era, and is doubtfully eminent even among the secondary figures.

*Great and Greater Britain: The Problems of Motherland and Empire, Political, Naval, Military, Industrial, Financial, Social.* By J. Ellis Barker. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3 net.

Mr. Barker is a German who has been long enough in England to naturalize and Anglicize his name; to sit at the feet of Mr. Chamberlain, and imbibe the fiscal and economic and other Tory doctrines associated with Mr. Chamberlain's name since 1903, and to become a member of the Constitutional Club. The English "Who's Who" is silent regarding Mr. Barker. It is therefore possible only to conjecture how long he has been a naturalized British subject. But it is clear that he has been in England a sufficient number of years to become possessed of the Tory idea—traditional now for a century or more—that England is going to the dogs; and his devotion to his new country is so great that he appears to have made it his special and peculiar mission to prevent the appalling catastrophe that is threatening not only England, but the British Empire. It is something of a reproach to the governing classes who have done so much for England, and for whom England has done even more, that they should have to welcome Mr. Barker's aid in the task of saving the Empire from its threatening fate. But the welcome has undoubtedly been extended to Mr. Barker. He and Mr. Garvin of the *Observer* and Mr. Blatchford of the *Clarion*, one of the organs of English Socialism, were the literary lights on the Tory side at the general election. The *Daily Mail* was open to Mr. Barker whenever he was ready; and many of the forebodings embodied in "Great and Greater Britain," which is concerned with the problems of Motherland and Empire—political, naval, military, industrial, financial, and social—have already been published in the *Nineteenth Century* and the *Fortnightly Review*, both of which exist among other purposes to aid the governing classes of the Tory party in safeguarding the Empire.

According to Mr. Barker, the situation of the British Empire is to-day most critical, but not yet desperate. Everything depends on the British navy. Otherwise by the inexorable law of history and of nature the British Empire must soon come in at the tail of the procession of Phœnicia, Carthage, Athens, Rome, Constantinople, the Arab Empire, Amalfi, Pisa, Genoa, Venice, and the Dutch Empire, and all her greatness pass away. The lesson that Mr. Barker

would enforce on England, on Mr. Chamberlain, to whom he dedicates his book, and on the Constitutional Club, from whose house on Northumberland Avenue he dates his preface, is that "all the good things of this world, land, riches, commerce, and shipping, are not to the peaceful and feeble, but to the warlike and the strong"; that wealth and power can be preserved only by military strength; that wealth is a bad substitute for power; that money bags do not defend themselves; that "neglect of the army and of agriculture has been fatal to all great commercial states of the past from Phœnicia to Holland; and that large towns devour the strength of the country."

Mr. Barker is convinced that Great Britain and the British Empire stand at the parting of the ways. The crisis has arrived. But he is confident of a safe and comfortable future for England if she will only build a navy equal in strength to the combined navies of the United States and Germany; adopt protection, because free trade means cheap labor and cheap men; give the colonies a voice and share in the administration of the British Empire by means of an Imperial Cabinet, an Imperial Navy, an Imperial Exchequer, and an Imperial Senate; and establish an army based on universal military training. A year ago the *Tory Quarterly Review* celebrated its centennial, and a large part of two issues was devoted to the history of the *Review* and the lost political causes to which it had since 1809 attached itself. Had Mr. Barker bestowed a couple of hours on this history of Tory propaganda for a century past, he might have realized that the cry of the Empire's danger is an old and well-worn one with the political party with which he is now serving; that it was raised in 1832 and again in 1846, and again whenever the Tory party has found itself out of office; and he would have realized also that he could expect no shock to the English people to result from his dismal forebodings.

*A Vagabond Journey Around the World.* By Harry A. Franck. New York: The Century Co. \$3.50 net.

On graduating from the University of Michigan, Mr. Franck started out in a cattle ship "for to see and for to admire." Until he reached Marseilles his status was that of a tourist pedestrian of frugal sort. But already, in England, France, Germany, and Italy, he had come to know the gentry of the road, their resorts and resources. The last of his money found him a member of the beachcomber colony at Marseilles, waiting his chance to work or beat his way eastward. The chance came, and our gentleman vagabond debarked at Beirut, whence he visited the sites of the Phœnician cities and tramped to Da-