

indecent. This criticism was later found to be absolutely absurd, and all now agree in praising his deeper and more serious writings for their thought and beauty. Fröding has not written anything for a number of years, as an inherited mental disease has almost completely darkened his mind. He lives in a little country house in the immediate neighborhood of Stockholm; he has laid down his pen, probably forever, but his lyrics are sung and loved by all who bear the Swedish name. The biographical essay by Berg gives a clear portrait of the poet, and may be recommended to everybody who desires a fuller knowledge of Fröding's life and work. The price of the volumes of this series is only kr. 1.50 (about 40 cents). Other biographies in the series are: Carl von Linné, Selma Lagerlöf, Verner von Heidenstam, Ellen Key, Karl XIV Johan, etc.

Another Swedish biography of interest is Paul Meijer-Grangvist's life of the famous Swedish king, "Carl X Gustaf." It is written in pleasant and easy style and displays a great deal of enthusiasm for the king who, by his victorious wars in Russia and Denmark, added so many fertile and valuable provinces to the Sweden of his day. The essay does not count more than 140 pages, but the author succeeds in giving very complete information concerning King Carl's life and personality, and his importance to Sweden.

ARNE KILDAL.

#### NEWS FOR BIBLIOPHILES.

The twenty-fourth annual volume of J. H. Slater's "Book-Prices Current," recording prices paid for books at English auctions from October, 1909, to July, 1910, is just published (London: Eliot Stock). The season has been a rather commonplace one in London, no library or collection which could be called a first-class one having come into the auction room for dispersal, and the average price of the selection of 9,584 lots deemed worthy of inclusion in the record being £2 9s. 1d. This is the lowest average since 1896 (excepting 1900, when it was £2 6s. 2d.). The average of last year kept up by the Amherst sale was £3 11s. 10d. The highest average was that of 1907, £4 4s. 2d. for each lot recorded. We do not know the exact system followed by Mr. Slater in calculating this average price. Autograph letters with a few exceptions are not included. In two or three cases, though not fully described, they are mentioned, the most notable one being the sale on April 25 last of a collection made up of correspondence, chiefly addressed to W. Blathwayt, Secretary of State and Commissioner for Trade and Plantations, relative to the colonies during the last quarter of the seventeenth century, which brought as one lot £8,650. This great sum, probably the largest price ever paid at public sale for a single lot in the book auction room, would have gone far towards keeping up the average had it been included. In the same sale a collection of maps, partly manuscript, brought £690. This is described in extenso, and was un-

doubtedly included by Mr. Slater in the total used for calculating his average.

We notice that the manuscript of Sheridan's "School for Scandal," which sold for the low price of £75 on June 16, is described as in Sheridan's own autograph, although it was admitted at the time of sale to be a transcript by some unknown hand.

"The Production of the Printed Catalogue" is the title of a little volume by Alex. J. Philip, just published by Robert Atkinson, London. Although it treats primarily and principally of the catalogue of the public or circulating library, it contains suggestions which will be found useful to the owner or librarian of a private library who is preparing a catalogue, whether to be printed or kept in manuscript. It is the first of a contemplated series of Library Technical Manuals. The second, in preparation, will be "The Business of Bookbinding."

The James T. Mitchell collection of prints seems to be without limit. Part x of the catalogue, describing his collection of engraved portraits of beautiful women, actors, musicians, etc. (1,219 lots), is sent out by Stan. V. Henkels, Philadelphia. It contains a number of fine reproductions, including a frontispiece printed in colors. The sale will take place November 4 and 5.

On November 1 and 2 the Anderson Auction Company will sell the library collected by John and William Waddle of Chillicothe, O. The larger portion relates to the history of Ohio and the Northwest Territory. Some notable Western books included are: M'Affee's "History of the Late War in the Western Country" (Lexington, Ken., 1816), Metcalf's "Narratives of Indian Warfare" (Lexington, 1821), Harris's "Journal of a Tour Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains" (Boston, 1805), Carver's "Travels," first edition (London, 1778), and Wither's "Chronicles of Border Warfare" (Clarksburgh, Va., 1831).

On November 1 and 2 the Merwin-Clayton Sales Company will sell a collection of Americana, including sections on the American Revolution, John Brown, California, the Early West, Indians, Lincoln, New York, and the War of 1812. On November 3 they offer a collection of first editions of English and American authors, among them Richard Jefferies, Andrew Lang, Thoreau, Henry James, Joel Chandler Harris, and others. On November 4 they sell a miscellaneous collection.

On November 2 and 3 C. F. Libbie & Co. in Boston will hold a sale of miscellaneous books, including American periodicals, civil war literature, etc.

## Correspondence.

### ROOSEVELT AND THE AVERAGE MAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I do not wish to reply to all of Mr. Franklin T. Hammond's article on Rooseveltism in your issue of September 29, but there is a question put by him which I should like to answer. He asks:

May not the fact that Mr. Roosevelt's hold on the "people" is so strong be itself significant to prove that the Rooseveltian views are really and vitally, and not apparently, entertained by the "average American"?

To answer this question yes or no, de-

pends on one's estimation of Mr. Roosevelt. My knowledge of history and of Mr. Roosevelt's figure therein compels me to answer no. The people—the average Frenchman, to adopt what utility may repose in Mr. Hammond's phrase—of Napoleon's country believed in him and doubtless thought he had an eye single to their welfare, when they made him Consul for life. (Parenthetically, no one now believes that Mr. Roosevelt craves kingly power.) Yet Bourrienne, who saw more of Napoleon during the first twelve years of his career than any other person, not excepting Napoleon's wife, says that the "Little Corporal" had his eye on the throne all the while, and was merely playing the part of a Republican, and that all his public acts were done after deliberate calculation of what effect each would have on his prospects of attaining the kingly station.

Average Americans will likely consider the man behind the policies they are asked to adopt. And while "we all grow," as Mr. Hammond observes as a seemingly intended palliation of Mr. Roosevelt's inconsistencies, yet the many books I have opened on Lincoln have not shown me that he had either stated things to be as they were not or had been accused of so doing and then, to raise a self-shielding cloud, had vociferated the "short and ugly word" at his accuser.

If Mr. Hammond will quit the company, for a brief span, of those who "smell of fried things," he can ascertain that many discerning persons have recently entirely reconstructed their opinions of Rooseveltism. He will find the "deadly parallel" column is appearing all over the land. On his jaunt in the open Mr. Hammond can also learn that the people—the lovely common people—are fast coming to believe that Taft is right, that he has the dignity needed in the Presidency, is fully possessed of the ability, and will do things, if the hysterically obsessed will support his pilotage of the ship of state instead of scurrying fore and aft to interpret the movements of an acrobatic politician. Let Mr. Hammond do what his average American is doing—compare what President Taft has accomplished during the short time he has had office with what any other President accomplished in a like period.

If the good book is right in saying, In the multitude of counsellors there is safety, then the man who habitually spurns counsel can hardly be called safe—though he may be sane.

S. ROSS PARKER.

Seattle, Wash., October 19.

### PROBABILISM AND THE JESUITS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In his letter, which appears in your issue of October 13, "S. D." states that "Rome consistently condemned the teaching [Tutorism] that there is an obligation under pain of sin to take the so-called safer course when the law, which alone creates the obligation of conscience, has no certain application in the case." This is the truth, but not the whole truth. There are laws which bind to the safer course, *v. g.*, the obligation of receiving the sacraments. Perhaps the most notable instance in recent times was that of Cardinal Newman, whose Anglican orders were looked upon as of doubtful validity and who there-

fore received Catholic orders conditionally. This, too, in spite of Tract xc. Day after-day Pius X follows the *partem tutiorem* in handling the modernists. The chance—aye, even the hope—that the person under suspicion will be faithful to the church counts for nothing. The name of such persons is legion. The latest instance is that of the historian Duchesne, president of the French School at Rome, and recently elected a member of the Institute: As long as his history of the ancient church was in French, Rome overlooked it. But when an Italian translation is announced, Duchesne becomes suspect, his orthodoxy questioned, and himself cited to appear before—whom? The Jesuit Billot, one of the writers of the Encyclical on Modernism, who boasted that he had taught theology for twenty years and his students knew not that there was a Biblical question. Surely, in Duchesne's case we have the safer course with a vengeance. Again in Tyrrell's case the Jesuits followed the safer course. No doubt Tyrrell would have lived and died a Jesuit if left alone.

Further, "S. D." writes: "The only weight which casuists attach in uncertainties of conscience to the 'opinion endorsed by one learned teacher' or by many, is the probability added to the original reasonableness of the opinion," etc. This, too, is true, but it is not the whole truth. There are casuists and casuists, from the professed theologian to the child first kneeling in the confessional. Now, Pius IX decreed that every opinion of Liguori may be safely followed, and that by every person interested. One may walk after the founder of the Redemptorists contrary even to his own conviction. But he must use a "reflex judgment," as theologians term it. Now, this may result from the weight of Liguori's name without even the remotest thought of "the original reasonableness of the opinion." Again, a person may count heads. For example, a question of conscience is up: four theologians teach that a given course is permissible, while three deny it; a probabilist will follow the majority, led by the force of numbers alone. Even if six were opposed, and but one in favor, the party interested may follow that one, as Jesuit theologians, notably Balzerini, teach.

If, as "S. D." writes, it be an historical commonplace that Jansenist rigor led to the French Revolution, Orestes Brownson, the greatest of all American Catholic writers, laid it at the door of the Jesuits. And "S. D." to the contrary notwithstanding, Liguori, as far as Moral Theology goes, must be counted with the Jesuits; for his work is a copious commentary of the Moral Theology of the Jesuit Busenbaum, whose text he reprinted and marked off by inverted commas.

The history of probabilism is yet to be written. It is my own conviction that probabilism has in great measure created among the Latin races that hatred of the church, specially towards monks, friars, including Jesuits, and puns, which is so widespread. By a deft use of probabilism, nearly everything is condoned. When, age after age, this practice is inoculated into a people, it must leave consequences, of which one seems to be contempt for its teachers. In conclusion, we are inclined to think that probabilism had its formal be-

ginnings in the procedure of the Roman courts.

J. R. S.

New York, October 17.

#### THE EXCAVATION OF CYRENE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Some months ago the Ottoman Government granted to the Archaeological Institute of America a firman for the excavation of Cyrene. The project had received the authorization of the Council of the Institute at the meeting in Baltimore in December, 1909; and the prompt issue of the firman seemed to augur well for the undertaking. A preliminary reconnaissance was made in May and June, 1910. This was fruitful in results, and it is expected that within a month the work of excavation will be commenced. A cablegram received today from Malta brings word that the first installment of supplies for the expedition has been successfully landed. As there is no good harbor in the vicinity of the site, Mr. Allison V. Armour placed his yacht at the service of the undertaking for the transportation of supplies as well as of the staff; a landing can be made in calm weather by means of small boats.

The excavation of Cyrene was proposed by Charles Elliot Norton, the first president of the Institute, among the earliest projects, but until recently conditions have not been favorable. To defray the cost of the work in its earlier stages the sum of fifteen thousand dollars a year for three years has been subscribed or pledged by members of the Institute; one-third of the whole amount was contributed by Mr. James Loeb. The direction of the undertaking was placed in the hands of a commission consisting of Mr. A. V. Armour, New York; Mr. Arthur Fairbanks of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and Mr. D. G. Hogarth of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The Commission appointed Mr. Richard Norton director of the field operations. The commissioners recently met in Paris to pass upon the last questions of policy before the work should commence.

The site of Cyrene lies at the edge of a high plateau in the northern part of the province of Barca, between Tripoli and Egypt. The ruins are covered with soil to only a moderate depth. Since the devastation of the region the site has been protected by its inaccessibility; it has been without permanent inhabitants for centuries. According to all evidence now available, the excavation of few Greek cities might be expected to yield more of value and human interest.

FRANCIS W. KELSEY.

Ann Arbor, Mich., October 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The expedition undertaken by the Archaeological Institute of America for the excavation of ancient Cyrene has already born fruit in the discovery of important Greek ruins which apparently mark the site of an offshoot from Cyrene itself. When in Bengazi last May, the director of the expedition, Mr. Richard Norton, was informed by Arabs that ruins existed at a place called Messa, not noted on any map. When the party reached Merdj, a guide was procured, who professed to know the way to Messa from Sheriz, a station on the Derna-Merdj-Bengazi telegraph line. On June 14 the party left Sheriz, following a wooded gorge three

miles to the east, then proceeding northeast two miles up hill and four miles farther over rolling country to Messa.

On this site Mr. Norton reports as follows:

The ruins of Messa lie at the edge of the same plateau as those of Cyrene. The most important spring is in a hollow, surrounded by quantities of square-cut blocks and traces of buildings. The extensive ruins on the high ground west, north, and east of the spring include quarries, in which are many rock-cut tombs, large free-standing sarcophagi and built tombs, and platforms of buildings. Of the two clearly marked roads one leads north toward the sea, the second leads eastward toward the Sawiya Beda, the Marabout of Sidi Raffa, and so on to Cyrene, which it enters from the southeast. The distance from Messa to the fountain of Cyrene is about fifteen miles, and for the greater part of the way the road is clearly marked either by tombs and buildings at the sides or by the presence of the actual road bed. There can be no doubt that this was a main highway from Cyrene to the west, and that Messa was an important offshoot of Cyrene. The character of the remains indicates that Messa was a Greek city, and inhabited at least as early as the fourth century B. C.

Messa was visited in 1909 by representatives of the Jewish Territorial Organization, but the published report makes no reference to the nature of the remains. The outline map and the photographs obtained by Mr. Norton, as well as the description already quoted, indicate the importance of the site; and it is to be hoped that the Archaeological Institute may procure the right to excavate it in connection with the work at Cyrene itself.

ARTHUR FAIRBANKS.

Berlin, October 3.

#### POE'S BALLOON HOAX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In view of the interest excited by Walter Wellman's recent attempt to cross the Atlantic in a dirigible balloon, Edgar Allan Poe's famous "balloon hoax" deserves some notice. In that remarkable canard, which first appeared in the New York *Sun* of April 13, 1844, Poe announced the arrival near Charleston, S. C., of a party of English aeronauts who had crossed the Atlantic in a dirigible balloon in the short space of seventy-five hours.

With all of Poe's well-known scientific interest, it is not surprising that he was interested in aerostation, as it was then generally called, but the extent of his knowledge and use of the aeronautical literature of his time has, I believe, never been carefully investigated. In 1844 and thereabouts there was great interest in aeronautics, and several aeronauts, especially Charles Green and John Wise, the most prominent balloonists in England and America, respectively, had proposed to try crossing the Atlantic.

Poe, however, in narrating the voyage of his party of aeronauts, depended chiefly upon the account by Monck Mason of an actual balloon trip made by Charles Green, Monck Mason, and Robert Holland in November, 1836. These three started from Vauxhall, London, on November 7, and landed the next day near Weilburg, in the German duchy of Nassau. Soon after the trip, Monck Mason published his narrative: "Account of the late Aeronautical Expedition from London to Weilburg, accomplished by Robert Holland, Esq., Monck Mason, Esq., and Charles Green, Aeronaut." It was first published in London in 1836 by F. C. Westley, and was reprinted in New York in 1837



by "Theodore Foster, Basement Rooms corner of Pine-Street and Broadway." The American edition is the only one I have been able to examine, but it was probably Poe's source. His mistake in giving the date of the trip from London to Weilburg as 1837 may be due to confusion with the date of the imprint.

Poe's use of the account is shown by a comparison of certain passages in the two accounts, the references being to the American edition of Mason and to Harrison's Virginia edition of Poe, volume five. In speaking of the use of coal gas for inflation, instead of the hydrogen gas formerly employed, they say:

Up to the period of that discovery, the process of inflation was one, the expense of which was only to be equalled by its uncertainty; two and sometimes three days of watchful anxiety have been expended in the vain endeavours to procure a sufficiency of hydrogen to fill a balloon, from which, on account of its peculiar affinities, it continued to escape. . . . I allude to the superior facility with which the latter (coal gas) is retained in the balloon, owing to the greater subtlety of the particles of hydrogen, and the strong affinity which they exhibit for those of the surrounding atmosphere. In a balloon sufficiently perfect to retain its contents of coal gas unaltered, in quality or amount, for six months, an equal quantity of hydrogen could not be maintained in equal purity for an equal number of weeks.—Mason, p. 7 and note.

In the description of the guide rope or equilibrator, a device Mason, Poe, and Wellman all united in using, there is equal similarity:

The progress of the guide rope being delayed to a certain extent by its motion over the more solid plane of the earth's surface, while the movement of the balloon is as freely as ever controlled by the propelling motion of the wind, it is evident that the direction of the latter when in progress, must ever be in advance of the former; a comparison therefore of the relative positions of these two objects by means of the compass, must at all times indicate the exact direction of her course; while with equal certainty, an estimate can at once be obtained of the velocity with which she is proceeding, by observing the angle formed by the guide rope, and the vertical axis of the machine. When the rope is dependent perpendicularly, no angle of course is formed, and the machine can be considered as perfectly stationary, or at least endowed with a rate of

motion too insignificant to be either appreciable or important.—Mason, p. 10, note.

Other similarities between the two accounts are in the various contrivances carried, particularly a coffee warmer using slacked lime; the carrying of passports directed to all parts of the continent of Europe, and the sudden explosions during the trip, caused, as each explain, by the changes in temperature. Everything, indeed, indicates that Poe depended very largely on Mason's narrative, even retaining at times some of his very phrases.

WALTER B. NORRIS.

U. S. Naval Academy, October 21.

#### ANCIENT COLLEGE LIFE IN THE ARGENTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Judging by the recent discussions relating to the work done by college students, one might suppose that the students of the present day were peculiarly prone to neglect the pursuit of learning. We condemn athletics, particularly intercollegiate athletics, because they attract the student's mind from his work. We condemn members of the faculty because they make his work too hard or too dull. We search heaven and earth to find out why it is that our present methods of teaching are not successful. And we continually imply that the problem before us is a new one, due to the distractions of life in the twentieth century.

It may comfort some distressed instructors to read what Professor Moses wrote a year or two ago regarding one of the most ancient universities in America, the University of Cordova, in the Argentine. The period under discussion is the seventeenth century:

The students gave little or no attention to any subjects except those on which they were to be examined for their degrees. They passed from one course to another with a very imperfect knowledge of the subjects supposed to constitute a necessary introduction to the course before them. When they found themselves near the final examination, a few undertook to repair their deficiencies by assiduous effort, but the majority found that the career of a scholar had not the attractions they fancied, and turned away to other pursuits. The evil of this state of things clearly demanded correction, and this was attempted, in 1680, by lengthening the course to ten months, and insisting on attendance. Annual examinations were established three years later, and it became necessary to pass them with approval in order to be advanced to the succeeding courses. This tightening of the lines of discipline led to acts of insubordination on the part of the students. That in an institution of learning they should be required to listen to lectures and pass examinations seemed to them an interference with their rights as students, and they instituted a rebellion. The *clausuro*, however, firmly supported the other authorities, and the two leaders of the rebellion were expelled and order restored.

There is something painfully familiar about all this. Can it be that we are witnessing in these early twentieth century days a reincarnation of seventeenth century Argentina? Anyhow, it is pleasant to think those old Jesuit fathers had the courage of their convictions. One reason for their temerity may have been that the boys' mothers were not likely to rush into print with a wholesale condemnation of university methods.

HIRAM BINGHAM.

New Haven, Conn., October 20.

## Literature.

### CIVIL WAR STUDIES.

*The War of Secession, 1861-1862: Bull Run to Malvern Hill. Special Campaign Series. No. XI. By Major G. W. Redway. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.60.*

The author, an officer of the British army, is known to American students of the civil war through his study of the battle of Fredericksburg, which was published as number iii of the same series. The present volume and numerous other recent books on the civil war by Englishmen, in which are evident original research and fresh treatment of the theme, seem to indicate that more interest is taken in that war just now in England than in this country. The convincing analysis of Grant's 1864 campaign by Lieut. C. F. Atkinson of the British army was at once recognized as a work of superlative merit, which no student of military history could afford to overlook. Major Redway's volume also compels attention because of its originality and frank, impartial criticism. The author's conclusions express the belief that most of the latter-day problems of defence were practically solved by the events of 1861-1862.

The difficulty of maintaining the armies on both sides and of repairing the large losses leads the author to point out that as late as the Boer war England had not profited by this experience. In the first flush of war excitement and patriotic fervor, volunteering can be depended upon to supply the raw material for armies, but the wearing quality of that system is poor. The bounty plan proves to be most unsatisfactory, and a rigid draft does great harm to the industries which must supply the means to wage the war. The question how best to maintain an army in a democracy remains for the present unanswered.

In the chapter on Policy and Strategy the author relieves McDowell of all blame for the battle of Bull Run, and condemns McClellan for his campaign of 1862. He declares that it is futile for a general to-day to ask for absolute power, but suggests that he should decline command until the just demands of strategy are satisfied by the government. It might be noted that if this had been done in the civil war, the Army of the Potomac would have been without a commander for a considerable part of the time. Reynolds did decline that command; Meade would have promptly resigned when in 1863 his government refused him permission to abandon the difficult Orange and Alexandria railway and take his position at Spottsylvania.

Of the military situation in 1861 on