

Books and Authors

Mayo-Smith's "Statistics and Sociology"¹

The first of Professor Mayo-Smith's volumes on the "Science of Statistics" will demonstrate to the most incredulous that there is such a science. It is true that this volume does not deal with any burning question upon which passion or prejudice or self-interest or class interest has divided the public into hostile camps, but it deals with many questions of great popular interest, and always deals with them in such a way that the reader feels himself on the firm ground of what is absolutely known. If the author errs at all, it is on the side of excluding estimates, however probable, because they are estimates. The volume is distinctively one of statistical science. Book I. deals with the statistics of population, and contains exhaustive chapters on the forces affecting the birth-rate, the death-rate, and the formation and dissolution of marriages. Book II. deals with social institutions, classifying families according to the character of their dwellings, occupation, education, and religious confession, and investigates with especial care the defective, dependent, and criminal classes. One chapter of remarkable completeness deals with the subject of suicide. Book III. deals with race and nationality, and covers the causes, the course, and the character of the immigration into America. Book IV. deals with the influences of physical and social environment.

To review the results of this most comprehensive and painstaking investigation is as impossible as to review the contents of an encyclopædia. Its unity is entirely the result of the symmetry of its construction. Indeed, its greatness as a statistical work is in part due to the fact that the author has no doctrine that he is determined to uphold, but treats statistics, not as a means to an end, but as an end in themselves. The present volume presents, not a view concerning society, but a view of society, as just in its proportions as it is accurate in its details. If the succeeding volume on economic statistics shall be as thorough in its scholarship, and at the same time as impartial in its judgments, the work will constitute one of the greatest achievements of American scholarship.



Our Industrial Evolution²

Not one college graduate in a hundred has the knowledge of industrial history that will be possessed by every thoughtful reader of Commissioner Carroll D. Wright's "Industrial Evolution of the United States." The volume is written for a popular audience, but it is chiefly the author's original work that is popularized. From a scientific standpoint the chief criticism that must be made is upon the author's willingness to formulate generalizations without indicating how unsatisfactory are the data upon which these generalizations are based. This criticism applies particularly to the chapters on the history of wages. Students of Adam Smith will distrust Commissioner Wright's generalizations respecting the lowness of wages a century ago, and students of the Senate Finance Committee's report of three years ago will distrust his generalizations respecting the rise of wages during the present generation. The work of a committee which offset the fall of wages among three thousand cotton-mill operatives and iron-workers by the rise in wages among less than a score of employees in one dry-goods store ought not to be taken so seriously. Nevertheless, there is in Mr. Wright's volume more information respecting the course of wages in this country than is to be found in any other work. The author concludes that wages in 1790 generally ranged from 43 to 60 cents a day; by 1860 these figures had been approximately doubled; during the war (measured in gold) they fell; then they rose rapidly for a few years, falling again during the depression which

set in in 1873, but afterwards (according to the Senate report) slightly more than recovered the loss. The cause of this almost uninterrupted rise in wages has, of course, been the increased productiveness of labor. This, in turn, is partly to be attributed to the increased use of machinery, but also, as Mr. Wright strongly maintains, to the increase in the personal efficiency of the workmen. Commissioner Wright does not at all share in the pessimistic view that the increased use of machinery and the consequent subdivision of labor have resulted in the deterioration of the workmen. On the contrary, he holds that "low grades of labor are constantly giving place to educated labor." "The man," he says, "who used to do the most detestable forms of work is being displaced everywhere by men of professional and technical training, who superintend some device brought into use by invention." This generalization of Commissioner Wright's seems to us to outweigh Professor Nicholson's arguments and John Ruskin's invective on the same question. Doubtless there are thousands of positions in which workmen are reduced to mere "cogs in the machinery," and lack the intellectual breadth of their predecessors in the same craft; but there are thousands of other positions in which skilled labor has displaced deadening drudgery. Engineers and motormen to-day would contrast most sharply in intelligence with the drivers of carts and carriages who performed similar services two generations ago. Mr. Wright does not maintain that the workmen have received a proportionate share of the material prosperity due to the use of machinery—in fact, he urges that they have not—but he does maintain that they have received a share in this prosperity. To our mind he demonstrates the justice of this conclusion. The volume is throughout temperate in its statements, broad in its views, and strong in its arguments, and is admirably adapted to the needs of professors as well as students in all our universities.



The Free-Soil Party in Wisconsin, by Theodore Clarke Smith, A.M., is an invaluable contribution to the political history of the anti-slavery movement. Never before has the reviewer felt in anything like the same degree that he was looking at the Free-Soil movement as it appeared to men of its own time. The essay is only sixty-odd pages in length, and covers only the territory of Wisconsin, but the intensive study of the movement within this field gives a better idea of the classes to whom it appealed, the classes by whom it was resisted, and the perils to which it was exposed than any of the more comprehensive studies. The Free-Soil movement as seen through the medium of the press of its own time is very different from the Free-Soil movement as seen through the misty generalizations of the philosophic historian. It is the former view that Mr. Smith's pages give, and it becomes clear that to men of their own day the heroic Free-Soilers looked very much as Prohibitionists and Populists look to men of ours. Read, for example, the following: "The Liberty party was above all a 'conscience' party. . . . Its leaders in Wisconsin, while not fanatics, were distinctly reformers and radicals. Some were interested in Fourierism, others in spiritualism, nearly all in the temperance cause. Guided by such men, the party early showed a disinclination to unite with or in any way make concessions to the old organizations. Besides being radical and separatist, the Liberty men in Wisconsin were sometimes lamentably deficient in a sense of humor. No body of men not blinded by their zeal to the absurdity of it could have passed such a resolution as did the Wisconsin Anti-Slavery Society in February, 1845: 'Resolved, that the Whigs, by their blind adherence to Henry Clay, a gambler, have defeated the election of Birney the just.'" These are certainly reformers of a type with which we are very familiar to-day. Contrary to the general impression, it appears that the class of voters offering the most uniform and stolid resistance to the anti-slavery propaganda were the German immigrants. It is to be hoped that Mr. Smith will push his investigations forward so as to cover the entire anti-slavery movement. The essay is published at Madison by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Minerals, and How to Study Them. By Edward Salisbury Dana. With more than three hundred illustrations. (John Wiley & Sons, New York.) A pretty little book for beginners in mineralogy. The author's name is an assurance of accuracy of treatment. The style is simple, clear, attractive, and comprehensible to a bright boy of fourteen years. The pictures are

¹ *Science of Statistics: Part I. Statistics and Sociology.* By Richmond Mayo-Smith, Ph.D., Professor of Political Economy and Social Science in Columbia College. Macmillan & Co., New York. \$3.
² *The Industrial Evolution of the United States.* By Carroll D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor. Flood & Vincent, Meadville, Pa.

good, and those which aim to represent crystals or structures as they really appear to the eye are artistic and an innovation. Especial emphasis is laid upon physical characters, although the chemical properties are not neglected, and the chapter on blow-pipe work is a model. The book closes with an important chapter upon determination of species. In it is a novel, and, to the beginner, helpful feature—the presentation in semi-tabular lists of minerals presenting a given character in a marked degree. Thus, noticing any single striking character in a specimen, the reader turns at once to the list of minerals presenting that character strongly. Here he finds a suggestion sure to help him in further study of his specimen. What his father's "Geological Story Briefly Told" did for geology, that and more this little book of Edward Dana's will do for mineralogy.

The over-quoted words, "There is a tide in the affairs of men that, taken at its flood, leads on to fortune," is given fifty illustrations in Mr. W. M. Thayer's *Turning-Points in Successful Careers*. Though the reader may not be able in every case to agree with Mr. Thayer about what constitutes a successful career, yet the residuum upon which all will agree is sufficient to prove the point. It may be true that "once to every man and nation comes a moment to decide," but, happily for most of us, in God's world there comes more than one opportunity for success or for failure. To some extent every moment is critical, and "the lamp holds out to burn" while life lasts. Books like this may be stimulating or discouraging according to the way they are taken. For the average individual the homely old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try again," is the best doctrine of success. (T. Y. Crowell & Co., New York.)

In *The Shield of the Fleur de Lis* the author, Miss Constance Goddard DuBois, has an excellent subject for semi-historical romance. The false Jeanne Darc (Miss DuBois logically objects to Joan of Arc) is made here to be in fact a sister of the Maid. That some woman did, in fact, appear in France with the claim that the alleged burning of Joan at the stake was a trick, and that she had been kept in close solitude for two years or more, and was now again ready to lead to victory—all this is proven by documentary evidence which the present author summarizes in an interesting way in an appendix. In weaving the known facts into a consecutive plot the novelist has shown considerable ingenuity. She is, we think, somewhat hampered by the nature of her material, and as a story the book would be better for compression. (The Merriam Company, New York.)

The Breath of God: A Sketch of Inspiration, by Frank Hallam (T. Whittaker, New York), is an effort to bring about a less scholastic and a more living belief in the inspiration of the Bible. Mr. Hallam reviews the theories of Biblical inspiration, and concludes, though not in the clearest of ways, that whatever was done under the influence of the Almighty was inspired. "Inspiration," he reminds us, is a metaphor. They who impel the world to righteousness are inspired; that is the sum of the matter. The canon, the verbal utterance, cannot limit or constrain the work of God; he is too vast for our little dogmas. Mr. Hallam's book deserves to be read, because it is earnest, impetuous, and vigorous. He is not always clear in his thought, but his intent is sufficiently evident.

If life has a purpose, it will not be correct to say that any novel true to life is devoid of purpose. Every good novel is a tendency novel. A testimony to this is Helen Shipton's story of *The Herons*. It is a story of family difficulties, a divided household, general discomfort, misery, and the ruined life of children. The story is healthy and helpful, a perfectly sane picture of modern life drawn by a practiced hand. The contrast between the two brothers, and between the husband and wife, are well conceived and skillfully managed. The pathetic ending of the tale disappoints those who crave poetic justice. (Macmillan & Co., New York.)

Dean Paget, of Oxford, is a deep and philosophical thinker and a writer of an elegant literary form. His sermons are carefully composed studies. He is a student of life as well as of letters, and his insight is at times surprising. Longmans, Green & Co. have just issued a volume of Paget's *Studies in the Christian Character: Sermons, with an Introductory Essay*. These are chapters to read with care; for, while the author deals with the problems of the day, he has thought out his way in them to such an extent that sciolists would entirely miss his meaning. The book is one for scholars and thinkers. It is the fruit of ripe culture and intellectuality, and of a soul entirely religious.

Guy Boothby has written a wholesome story called *A Bid for Fortune*, and he has written it well. The novel has a fine plot, with the mystery of it carefully concealed to the end. The

story moves along in a rapid way, and the characters develop freely. Perhaps there is a little inconsistency, however, in the description of the character of the hero. He is set forth as altogether too refined for the rough life which he is said to have passed in his boyhood. This little defect does not much injure the story, because it is pre-eminently a novel of incident and not of character. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

Literary Notes

—Miss Beatrice Harraden's new story is to be called "Hilda Stafford." The scene is laid in California, where Miss Harraden has found much physical invigoration.

—The Rev. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren") had attained the age of forty-five years before becoming known to the public as an author. In one short year thereafter the sales of "Beside the Bonnie Brier-Bush" exceeded 100,000 copies in England and America.

—Criticising Mr. Tarver's book on Flaubert, M. de Wyzeva says in the Paris "Temps":

Imagine a deaf man consecrating all his leisure to writing the life of Mozart, not from admiration for the music, but for the elevated moral qualities revealed in the private letters of the artist!

—M. Félix Gras, the Provençal romancer, is about to be introduced to American readers. Mrs. Janvier has translated his story, "The Reds of the Midi," and an introduction has been written for the book by Mr. Janvier. We are told that the story is one of peasant life before and during the French Revolution.

—The "Westminster Gazette" prints the following, "with apologies to the shade of Dryden:"

Two Alfreds in one generation born
The Laureateship of England did adorn;
But Nature found the first throes so exhausting
That after Tennyson she bore an Austin.

—By the death of Professor di Leva, Italian literature has suffered a real loss. He was the first Italian writer of distinction to follow the method of historical investigation which has been brought to such perfection in Germany by the late Heinrich von Sybel. The Italian historian's fame will undoubtedly rest upon his well-known history of Charles V.

—To fill the vacancy caused by the death of Frederick de Lesseps, M. Anatole France has been elected to membership in the French Academy. The new academician is the son of a bookseller, and was born in 1844. The young man became a great student of his father's wares, and is now a savant as well as an essayist, novelist, psychologist, philosopher, and poet. He is librarian of the French Senate. His first book was a biography of Alfred de Vigny. This was followed by "Les Poèmes Dorés" and "Les Noces Corinthiennes," and these in turn by his first novel, "Jocaste et le Chat Maigre." Perhaps his most famous novel is "Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard," of which a translation by Mr. Lafcadio Hearn has appeared in this country. The later works of M. Anatole France have been "Balthazar," 1889; "Thaïs," 1890; "Jérôme Cogniard," 1891; "La Rôtisserie de la Reine Pédauque," 1892; "L'Étui de Nacre," 1893; "Le Jardin d'Épicure," 1894; "Le Lys Rouge," wherein Paul Verlaine is immortalized as Choulette, 1895. The best books of the new academician for Americans to read are his essays and literary reviews reunited under the title of "La Vie Littéraire."

—Professor Edward Dowden, in the London "Saturday Review," thus sums up Matthew Arnold's criticisms of his contemporaries:

Clough, he admits, in some degree helped to form his mind; from Sainte-Beuve he learnt not a little; but he saw with too much of sad or amused lucidity the defects of his eminent contemporaries to be able to squander on any an unmingled enthusiasm. Tennyson is "not a great and powerful spirit in any line;" with all his "temperament and artistic skill" he is "deficient in intellectual power." Mrs. Browning is "hopelessly confirmed in her aberration from health, nature, beauty, and truth." Thackeray is "not, to my thinking, a great writer." The mind of Charlotte Brontë "contains nothing but hunger, rebellion, and rage." Froude has "very sinister ways of looking at history." Freeman is "an ardent, learned, and honest man, but he is a ferocious pedant." Stubbs "is not ferocious, but not without his dash of pedantry." Mr. Hutton, of the "Spectator," has "the fault of seeing so very far into a milestone." Bishop Wilberforce has a "truly emotional spirit," but "no real power of mind." Ruskin it is impossible to like, and yet, improved by evening dress, plain black and white, "and by his fancy being forbidden to range through the world of colored cravats," he grows slightly attractive. Carlyle "I never much liked. He seemed to me to be 'carrying coals to Newcastle,' as our proverb says; preaching earnestness to a nation which had plenty of it by nature." Henry Taylor is "not very interesting; he talks too slow, and is a little pompous." Victor Hugo is not to be taken "so prodigiously au sérieux" as Renan seems to take him. Swinburne is "a sort of pseudo-Shelley," with a "fatal habit of using a hundred words where one would suffice." Seeley is lacking in lucidity. Disraeli's speeches are "heavy pompous pounding," and Gladstone's are "emotional verbiage." Lord Salisbury is "a dangerous man, chiefly from want of any fine sense and experience of literature and its beneficent functions."

[For list of Books Received see page 257]