

## Books and Authors

### Social Problems and History<sup>1</sup>

The restless condition of modern society results in an inquisition into all social forms. Among these forms the framework of the government, taxation, and the political status of women are important. The social ferment of our own day resembles in a most interesting way the condition that preceded the sixteenth-century upheaval. This is what Mr. Bax makes clear in his brilliant historical sketch. The dissolution of feudalism on the Continent led to the growth of monopolies, the centralization of wealth, and a readjustment of social castes. In England the revolution was not so complete. The constitution of Parliament has undergone a gradual evolution from a feudal peerage till it now, even in the House of Lords, has become a popular representative body. To this statement there must be, as Mr. Pike demonstrates, a reservation. While the House of Lords has lived the life of the English nation, and grown with the nation, it has failed to reflect one side of the people; the new men who have made their way into it have been men of action rather than men of thought. In another way, which he does not mention, but which Mr. Mason's and Miss Stopes's learned studies suggest, the Upper House has never adequately represented the importance of the function that woman performs in the State. Our own legislative contrivances, inherited from the past, show the same deficiency. Mr. Bax fails to point out how the Protestant revolution improved the social and political status of woman. Indeed, it will be acknowledged that Miss Stopes is right in saying that there has been in England—and we might add that there has been elsewhere also—a progressive narrowing of the political freedom of women since the era of the Protestant revolution.

Whether this be due to the Hebrew influence upon civilization, in the Judaizing tendency of some of the reformers, it does not occur to Mr. Ashley to mention. He does, however, say that Thales got his philosophy, or rather his theosophy, from the Jews in Egypt, and thus it came about that Greek philosophy was developed from a Hebrew germ. What is more to our present purpose, he asserts that English law was largely molded by the legislation of Moses. This must be pronounced conjectural. One institution of England, still in existence, was no doubt largely strengthened by Hebrew custom, and that is the system of ecclesiastical tithes.

Mr. Clarke has given an exhaustive study of this subject, and he concludes that tithing is not an institution of the early Christian Church, that it has grown up by ecclesiastical exaction, and without a sound legal or original statutory basis. It was not till the fifth century that canons were passed for the payment of tithes. In England the custom of giving tithes as free-will offerings originated as late as the eighth century. This custom generated the common-law right. Mr. Clarke shows that successive reductions of the amount of tithes have acted advantageously in effect upon the Established Church; and that the title to tithes was really given by Parliament, and can therefore be revoked by Parliament. We are not sure of this in every case, for it is no doubt true that much of the tithes has been bequeathed to the Church in the way of testamentary donation. Upon the whole, Mr. Clarke's thorough examination of the subject will be regarded as an authority, and, when read with Lord Selborne's "Defense of the Church of England," will furnish the reader with about all that can be said on the subject. Mr. Bax shows that the intrusion of the old Roman jurisprudence became a large factor in the production of the disorder and evils that attended the sixteenth-century revolution. The basis of the Teutonic institutions was strongly communal and collective. The village community, which had only a semblance in Hebrew civilization, in the stage of development where we know it, was the basis of Aryan political institutions. Out of this form developed the English Parliament and the American Congress. In the village community woman was recognized in her important position. From primitive times, as Professor Mason shows, woman has been the guardian and promoter of religion and inventor of the arts of peace. While man has been the warrior and hunter, woman has created the home, has organized the family, and has thus given rise to human society as such; for if there be a unit in society, that unit is the family, not the indi-

vidual. It was due to this dominant position of women in the primitive household, surviving to this day in India and elsewhere, that the English women of the Middle Ages exercised large influence in political and social spheres. Modern philistinism has before it the task of the restoration of woman to her proper status before the social evil can be hopefully dealt with. We are not sure that suffrage will be precisely the form that the restoration will assume. It may be a step in the process. Professor Mason shows by means of a vast array of data in what ways the liberties of women are preserved in primitive culture; and the study of these devices is suggestive of possible remedies for our present plight. The condition of Hebrew women, especially in the later period of the national life of Israel, offers little assistance in the present crisis.

The Protestant revolution was first of all a social revolt, like that which to some men seems now imminent, between the employer and the employed. In that revolt joined the old knight-hood. This is precisely the state of affairs in Russia, and it is coming to have a counterpart in England. In America it is paralleled, if at all, by the alliance of the socialistic sympathizers of the laboring classes among the professional men and scholars in opposition to monopolies. All these books, with the exception of Mr. Ashley's, which is only a slight pamphlet, form a valuable contribution to the study of the social problem in the aspects that we have indicated. Mr. Pike is already known by his fine "History of Crime in England." He is a deep student and a careful and mature writer. This work is comprehensive and well digested, and its statements successfully challenge refutation. Read with Hallam, May, and Freeman, it will prove its worth in correcting one-sided statements. Mr. Bax's book is brilliant. His lack of sympathy with the religious factor in civil progress must be taken into account, but the picture that he presents of the social life of Europe just preceding and contemporary with the Reformation is admirable. It must be the result of deep and wide research. It is to be deplored that the author has given no index to this book. Professor Mason gives us a most royal feast of archæological material. The whole field of primitive culture has been his study for many years; he knows his subject thoroughly, and he puts no padding into what he writes. Miss Stopes has examined the little-traversed region of the feudal life of woman, and her contribution to the social problem, though originally a mere sketch, has been expanded into a piece of permanent scientific literature that answers the demand of several classes of students. It is a work of real learning, written in a clear style, concise and replete with facts. Those who recognize the importance of the historical investigation of the evolution of social forms, in order to find the way out of our existing difficulties, will appreciate the usefulness of these books.

*The Religion of Hope*, by Philip Stafford Moxom. (Roberts Brothers, Boston.) This volume of seventeen discourses on various themes is pervaded by the optimistic spirit which has given it an appropriate title. The preacher does not attempt to prove or argue, but simply to proclaim, in reliance upon the consciousness and the consciences of his hearers to bear witness to the truth. He has not sought to invest his thoughts with any literary charm, but presents them in a simple, lucid, and vigorous style. Their flow is natural and facile, with many a point in the stream where thoughtful observations attract reflection to the depths beneath. They abound in wise and helpful counsels drawn from practical knowledge of the world and the heart, and from contact with life's sorrows and trials. They are a good type of what we conceive that pastoral teaching should be which deals effectively with a congregation of intelligent Christian people for the quickening of ethical and spiritual life. We imagine that in this case the personality of the preacher imparts to the spoken discourse a still greater power than it carries on the printed page. He sharply marks his dissent here and there from certain distorted conceptions of Calvinistic theology. His breadth of view is indicated by his conception of the Kingdom of God, as meaning, for the individual man, "better life, higher aspiration, greater skill as a worker, greater range and power as a thinker, richer culture of mind and person, a tenderer grace in the home, a finer morality in trade, a nobler ambition in society, a more scrupulous unselfishness and a larger comprehension both of rights and duties in politics, a wider horizon in views of life, a broader sympathy with mankind, a quickened sense of kinship with his fellows, a more capacious charity, and a solid strength of character." Those who have known of Dr. Moxom by report, first as a beloved pastor among Baptists, next as sought by Unitarians, and then as called by Congregationalists to his present ministry in Springfield, Mass., may be interested to learn from these discourses what manner of man is he who has attracted all these.

One who enjoys nature at any season of the year will find Rowland E. Robinson's *New England Fields and Woods* a feast. Beginning with March, he photographs for you the several phases of country life. All the gray days and the yellow days, the winds of March and the cool glooms of the midsummer woods, the hunting, the fishing, and the camping out, are given in short impressionist sketches. It needs versatility and flexibility of mood for one to thoroughly adapt

<sup>1</sup> *German Society in the Middle Ages*. By E. Belfort Bax. Macmillan & Co., New York.

*A Constitutional History of the House of Lords*. From Original Sources. By Luke Owen Pike, M.A. Macmillan & Co., New York.

*Hebrew Influence upon Civilization*. By John T. Ashley, Brooklyn. Published by the Author.

*British Freewomen: Their Historical Privileges*. By Charlotte Carmichael Stopes. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

*A History of Tithes*. By the Rev. Henry William Clarke, B.A. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

*Woman's Share in Primitive Culture*. By Otis Tufton Mason, A.M., Ph.D. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

himself to all the changes of the world that is out of doors. Physical and mental myopia had best stick to the pavement, to the study, or at most to venture only upon a summer watering-place. It may not always be true that it takes a great mind to be a fisherman, but it certainly takes a disposition that is distinctly a type to honestly enjoy a day's lonely angling, whether you catch anything or whether you do not; success is merely an incident to the born angler's enjoyment. This book reminds us that there is virtue in getting at times close to mother earth. There is a salutary effect in sleeping on the ground, *sub jove*, a few nights each year; there is a medicinal virtue in it. At home we are martyrs to drafts, and catch a violent cold if caught out in a shower without an umbrella, but it is notorious that one may wade streams trout-fishing in the mountains all day without the least danger of getting *enrhumé*. Those who know all these things will recognize in Mr. Robinson a congenial spirit. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)

Notwithstanding the denial of Sittl and some others, it must be considered as settled that there were among the Latin-speaking people two languages—the literary and the vernacular. The literary language took its rise in that part of Italy known as Magna-Graecia, and, starting with Naevius, Ennius, and Livius Andronicus, diverged ever more widely from the speech of the common people, the *sermo plebeius*. Out of the *sermo plebeius* arose the modern Romance languages; and any scientific study of those languages presupposes an investigation into the Roman vernacular. A scholarly investigation of this sort has been made by Mr. Frederick Taber-Cooper, "submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University Faculty of Philosophy, Columbia College," and published under the title *Word-Formation in the Roman Sermo Plebeius: An Historical Study of the Development of Vocabulary in Vulgar and Late Latin, with special reference to the Romance Languages*. Mr. Cooper, after a careful introduction, treats first of the derivation of substantives, adjectives, diminutives, adverbs, and verbs in vulgar Latin. After this analytical work he proceeds to discuss the composition of words in the Roman vernacular. In pursuit of his purpose Mr. Cooper has made an examination so exhaustive that we should suppose that little or nothing could be added to it. The work is one which students of Latin and of the Romance languages will find invaluable. (Ginn & Co., Boston.)

*The Critical Handbook of the Greek New Testament*, by Edward C. Mitchell, D.D., President of Leland University, New Orleans. New and enlarged edition. (Harper & Brothers, New York.) Dr. Mitchell's work, first published about fifteen years ago, does not undertake to give what we have in Dr. Sanday's Bampton Lectures on Inspiration, the approved results of modern criticism. Neither does it deal with questions of criticism now under discussion. It gives us, first, a compendious view of the evidence for the general authenticity of the New Testament Scriptures; next, a very brief outline of the History of the Canon, and then a sketch of the History of the Text. Thus far it is not particularly critical, but rather cursory, with some valuable foot-notes. The rest of the book, comprising one-half of the volume, is occupied with charts, tables, and facsimiles, in which its principal value consists. Its classified catalogue of MSS., embracing all that are found in the standard authorities, to the number of over 3,800, makes it a convenient index to the works of Tischendorf and Scrivener, while at the same time referring to what either of these has omitted. It also describes a large number of American MSS., some of which are not elsewhere catalogued. Its glossary of abbreviations, signs, and library designations will be serviceable in points obscure even to those who possess the larger critical authorities. Typographically it is handsomely done.

Mr. George Saintsbury had a good thought when he determined to present to the readers of the present day a selection of the classic *Marmontel's Moral Tales*. In his introduction, the literary quality of which equals almost any of the stories that he translates and edits, Mr. Saintsbury indulges himself in some entertaining literary philosophizing. It may be true that Sainte-Beuve was correct in calling Marmontel a second-rate writer, yet we cannot help admiring to the fullest extent the grace and delicacy of his invention and style. Second rate or first rate, these stories will always remain admirable. The form in which they have been published, with illustrations by Mr. Hammond, renders the work suitable for a gift-book, and as such it is likely to be chosen by many in the coming Christmas season. (Macmillan & Co., New York.)

*An Ethical Movement* is a volume of lectures by W. L. Sheldon, lecturer for the Ethical Society of St. Louis, who in his dedication describes himself as an apprentice of Dr. Felix Adler. For those who wish to know the type of thought embodied in this ethical movement we should think this volume would prove useful. To our thought it is far too much a questioning, far too little an affirmation; far too much an attempted interpretation of other men's faith, far too little an exposition of a spiritual faith possessed by the expositor, to be of great value to the one who has lived in the atmosphere of a Christian church and a Christian home.

A new edition of Daudet is always in order, and that which is now coming from the press of the Messrs. Macmillan & Co. (New York) is dainty and well made in all its appointments. The first volume, *Tartarin of Tarascon*, is an admirable introduction to one of the most humorous and picturesque of contemporary French novelists. It has already become a classic—one of those literary illustrations of provincial humor which hold a great place in the interest and regard of all who appreciate characteristic human qualities. This edition presents a small, attractive page, with wide margins, and profuse illustrations

by such well-known illustrators as Picard, Rossi, Montégut, and others.

A popular national history under the title *The People's History of the United States* is being published in serial parts by the Woolfall Company of this city. The author is Mr. Edward S. Ellis, best known as the writer of many books for boys. The three parts sent to us are profusely illustrated, and the typography is excellent. The style is direct and simple. A commendable feature is found in the preliminary lists of authorities and side-readings attached to each chapter.

## New Books

[The books mentioned under this head and under that of Books Received include all received by The Outlook during the week ending May 1. This weekly report of current literature will be supplemented by fuller reviews of the more important works.]

A new edition of Henry D. Lloyd's *Wealth Against Commonwealth* has been published by Messrs. Harper & Brothers, New York, the price being reduced to \$1 as against \$2.50 received for the former edition. The book has already reached a wider circle of readers than any other scholarly economic work of the last decade, and the publication of this new edition at a popular price will doubtless greatly extend its influence. The volume deals chiefly with the history of the Standard Oil Company, as exhibiting in a concrete form the most serious evils which lead to and arise from the concentrated control of an entire industry. The charges brought are mainly from court records and the findings of the Inter-State Commerce Commission and legislative investigating committees. No answer has been published, we believe, except that of Professor George Gunton in the "Social Economist" (now "Gunton's Magazine") last year. In case the charges can be answered, the company arraigned owes it to the public to answer them. The policy of silence is usually the one to pursue toward newspaper accusation, but it is not the one to pursue toward a volume like this, written by a responsible author, published by a responsible firm, and citing public records of such high authority.

*The Insane in Foreign Countries*, by William P. Letchworth, President of the New York State Board of Charities, is a volume that reads itself. One would not imagine from its style that the author had ever penned an official report. His subject is introduced by a brief review of the progress of the humane treatment of the insane that is full of moral inspiration. As every one knows, it is a record of love triumphing where violence had failed. It seems strange that it is only a century since Pinel, on assuming oversight of the Bicêtre in Paris, found fifty-three men languishing in chains, and was asked by an official if he was himself "mad" that he should "desire to unchain such animals." In our own country it was only a few years earlier that Dr. Rush, at the hospital in Philadelphia, relinquished whips and chains, and even then that distinguished philanthropist deemed it of the first importance, on paying a visit to an insane man, "to look him out of countenance." For the mediæval atrocities toward the insane the Church has received—and deserved—a large share of the blame; but it is equally deserving of credit for the part it has borne in carrying forward the modern reforms. As early as 1817 the Society of Friends—pioneers in this as in nearly every other humane movement—erected near Philadelphia a hospital, whose object, in the words of its projectors, was "that the insane might see that they were regarded as men and brethren." A large part of Mr. Letchworth's volume is devoted to descriptions of the methods employed in modern European hospitals, which he has investigated with a degree of thoroughness which would have been impossible for a man of less judgment or less enthusiasm. The volume is copiously and admirably illustrated.

Mr. George B. Waldron's *Handbook on Currency and Wealth* (Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York) condenses within small compass a vast amount of statistical information bearing upon the economic questions now before the public. One of the most interesting portions relates to the present distribution of property and incomes. In estimating the National income, Mr. Waldron seems to us to reach a total much too great, but this criticism applies with more force to the official estimates he accepts than to the estimates he himself makes.

*Russian Politics*, by Herbert M. Thompson, M.A., is not a work of original research, but is the result of careful study, compactly, clearly, and effectively presented. It is historical only to the degree that a knowledge of history is essential to an understanding of the present situation. The author's aim is to stir the friends of freedom throughout the world to a deeper interest in the cause of Russian liberty. His work is vivified by the fact that his heart is in it. The chapters upon the method in which the Russian serfs were emancipated, and the manner in which they have been almost re-enslaved by debt and taxation, are particularly worthy of the examination of students of social politics. (Henry Holt & Co., New York.)

Mr. F. J. Stimson's *Handbook to the Labor Law of the United States* (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York) is a work of exceptional value to lawyers, to students of labor problems, and to managers of trades-unions. In substance it is little less than a complete codification of the labor laws and decisions of all the States of the Union; in style it is for the most part an attractive essay upon the present position of laborers before the law, and the constitutionality of further legislation in their behalf. It would be difficult to speak too warmly of the scholarly way in which Mr. Stimson has conducted his investigation, or of the artistic way in which he has presented the results so as to meet the needs of audiences so diverse. Mr. Stimson's conclusions will be the subject of a subsequent review.

Dr. Homer B. Sprague's edition of Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It* (Silver, Burdett & Co., New York) is furnished with an introduction which gives some facts about the play and a number of critical