

this subject, one on "the geography of sea and land operations in the war of 1812," and the other on "the geography of the Civil War"; Mr. Brigham confines his attention to the Civil War. Of more immediate interest are the chapters on the international geography of the United States, on "the growth of the United States to a continental power geographically determined," as Miss Semple expresses it; or, "geography and American destiny" in Mr. Brigham's phrase.

Both books are good. By way of comparison I should say, Miss Semple's is academic, Mr. Brigham's popular; this is true only so far as the style is concerned, however, for in material and arrangement each sets a scientific standard. This difference in style is enhanced by the illustrations, Miss Semple employing maps and charts exclusively, — and extremely good ones, while Mr. Brigham adds a wealth of excellent photographic reproductions of typical scenes taken from different sections of the country. The only criticism I would offer — and I fear at the present stage of development it may seem hypercriticism — is to this effect: The course of history is affected far more by economic geography than by physical geography pure and simple. Economic geography has to do not so much with the environment itself as with the potential utilities inherent in the environment. Neither Miss Semple nor Mr. Brigham takes this distinction into account: both are content to call attention to the effects of physical geography upon history, to the influence of mountains, plains, rivers, sea-coast, *etc.*, on the trend of progress. There can be no doubt that these influences are to be observed, but further study would reveal the more potent influences exerted upon American development by the character of the natural resources, the potential utilities inherent in our varied environment.

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*The American Revolution*, Part II. By the RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN, BART. Volumes I and II. Longmans, Green & Co., New York and London, 1903. — 353; 344 pp.

Sir George Trevelyan's work, beginning years ago with a brilliant study of the early career of Charles Fox in its connection with the court and the aristocratic society of the time, has been continued through a further study of that same society viewed in contrast with the far simpler life and ideals of the American colonists. In the part now issued it expands into a detailed history of some of the chief phases of the colonial revolt. The two volumes which are the subject of this notice

are occupied chiefly with the events of 1776, both in Europe and America. In Europe the author traces the development of English opinion concerning the war, making use for the purpose of the newspapers, the correspondence of statesmen, the pamphlets of the time, the observations of persons who were travelling through the country, the reports of foreign ministers resident, as well as parliamentary debates and the results of local and general elections. The negotiations for the employment of German mercenaries are also outlined, as well as the attitude of Frederick the Great toward this transaction and toward the war in general.

Among events in America itself the reader's attention is specially directed to the campaign in Canada, to the military operations in and about Manhattan Island, to the retreat through the Jerseys and the American successes at Trenton and Princeton. Much attention is paid to the armies, on both sides, to their officers, their organization, their spirit, their achievements. In this connection the pacific disposition and fatal delays of Howe are given a prominent place. In the account of the later phases of the Canadian expedition, including the retreat of the Americans, full justice is done both to the abilities of Sir Guy Carleton and to the brilliant personal exploits of Benedict Arnold. Charles Lee comes off with unusually severe and contemptuous treatment. Somewhat in the background — until Trenton and Princeton — stands Washington as the embodiment of dignity, patience and organizing power, but forced, by the limited extent of his resources and the crude instruments with which he had to work, to maintain what seemed a losing contest. When, however, he recrossed the Delaware on his raid into New Jersey, he appeared as the brilliant and resourceful partisan leader. The author justly throws these events into bold relief, for by means of them the prolongation of the struggle by the Americans was insured until they could secure foreign aid. In no work which aims to be a systematic history of the Revolution has so much attention been paid to the character of the American soldier, to his excellencies and defects, and to the system and leadership under which he worked. This constitutes one of the most realistic and successful features of the volumes which thus far deal with the war.

The development of American opinion as exhibited in pamphlet and newspaper and in the utterances of the various legislatures and revolutionary congresses has been very fully treated by earlier writers. Except so far as the question of independence itself was concerned, the literary controversy had mostly spent itself before the time of which the author treats in these volumes. Sir George Trevelyan, moreover, in-

terests himself but slightly in mere political struggles and constitutional changes. For these reasons the theory of the revolution, the process by which the administrative system of the revolutionists was developed, the work of the Continental Congress, the collapse of royal power in the various colonies and the rise of new governments based on written constitutions in its stead, receive little or no attention at his hands. In fact the question of the colonial episcopate is assigned more space than are matters of this character.

From what has been stated the reader may infer that the work which Sir George Trevelyan is publishing is not a balanced or well rounded history of the Revolution in either its political or social phases. It contains rather a series of suggestive essays or studies on important social and military aspects of the struggle. Beaten paths are to an extent avoided. A disproportionate amount of space is devoted to certain topics, while others are slurred over and neglected. The writer is not systematic in arrangement and method. He is discursive, and does not allow himself to be seriously hampered by considerations of proportions, least of all by the order of events in time. Occasionally there is evidence — as in his treatment of Rev. William Gordon — that he is not thoroughly abreast of the critical work which has been done upon the sources for the history of the period. But his reading is wide, and for the purposes of the work in most respects is ample.

Every reader must be struck with the points of resemblance between this work and Macaulay's *England*. Both are frankly partisan in their tone. Both possess a distinct and powerful literary charm. Both abound in acute and detailed analyses of character and in vivid descriptions of events. Both are the work of statesmen, of men of affairs. Both writers plunged at once into the midst of their subjects, without in all respects, taking due account of the antecedents from which the crisis they sought to depict arose. Both have, to a large extent, viewed the events and characters which they sought to describe from their own standpoint and from that of the time and class to which they belong. In the case of an event so recent as the American Revolution, that of course does not make so much difference; while it is also true that Sir George Trevelyan's partisanship is not so much in evidence in these volumes as in the first which he published. But his work throughout is based on the supposition that the separation of the colonies from the mother country was almost the inevitable, if not quite the most desirable, result of the dispute. He is quite sure that serious perils to English liberty were averted by the revolt.

To the general reader and to the literary critic Sir George Trevelyan's

history will always and justly appeal with great power. But to the scientific historian, to the sober student of social and political forces, it will not be wholly convincing or satisfactory.

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*Insurance and Crime.* By ALEXANDER COLIN CAMPBELL. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1902. — xiv, 408 pp.

*Insurance and Crime* has the merit of being a very readable book on a subject of great importance, and on the whole seems admirably adapted to accomplish, at least in part, the purpose which the author sets before himself. That purpose, as stated in the preface, is

to awaken the interest of the common people in a subject which seems to me [the author] of vital importance to the common people in these modern days, and, through that interest, to bring about changes which shall prevent the recurrence of the abuses of the past and correct the abuses of the present [p. ix].

It is unfortunate that the author did not see fit to supplement his popular treatment by more detailed statistics showing the extent of the evils described. For in spite of the scantiness and too frequent unreliability of the available material on the subject, there are many sources of information, even in English, of which no use is made in the work before us.

Nor is it only on account of the absence of such statistical information that the serious student of insurance will find the book disappointing. The method of treatment adopted is selective rather than exhaustive, and the particular periods and individual crimes selected for description can by no means be called typical; on the contrary they are almost invariably extreme cases. Furthermore the language used in characterizing the evils resulting from insurance is extreme and sometimes somewhat intemperate. We can hardly take literally the statement "that it [insurance] has given rise to whole systems and cycles of evil; that there is hardly a crime in the calendar of which it has not been the prolific mother and the assiduous and successful nurse" (p. 9). In short the book bears throughout the stamp of the argument of a lawyer before a jury rather than that of a scientist's cool and impartial statement of fact. It may for that reason be better adapted "to awaken the interest of the common people," but it cannot be admitted to the select class of books which are at once popular and scientific.