

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

AMERICAN HISTORY TOLD BY CONTEMPORARIES. By *Albert Bushnell Hart*, Professor of History in Harvard University. Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1901. Pages xx, 668. Price, \$2.00.

The third volume of Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart's admirable undertaking of an *American History Told by Contemporaries* has just been issued, and embraces that most interesting period between 1783 and 1845 which has been correctly denominated our national expansion. The idea is that American history may be read in the works of its makers, and to this end characteristic extracts from the best-qualified contemporaries are woven together so as to make a consistent and truthful whole. The material of the present volume is distributed into nine parts: the first is a practical introduction for teachers, pupils, students, and libraries, and treats of the purposes and value of a study of historical sources; the second part treats of the social, economic, political, and frontier conditions of the United States in 1783; the third part is devoted to a study of the Confederation (territorial questions, trade, and commerce); the fourth deals with the framing of the Federal Constitution and the establishment of the federal government; the fifth treats, under the title of federal supremacy, of parties and party leaders, foreign relations, and the controversies of the Federalists; part six is devoted to the Jeffersonian period (Jefferson democracy, territorial expansion, neutral trade, and the War of 1812); the seventh is consecrated to the development of our national conscience as it took form in the growth of the great West and the delineation of our foreign policy; part eight is concerned with the period of our social and political readjustment, inclusive of the Jacksonian period; part nine is taken up with slavery and abolition.

It has been the aim of the compiler to illustrate social and political conditions even at the expense of omitting what is sometimes considered as important and indispensable incidents. "To my mind," he says, "the foundations of true historical knowledge of our past are the actual conditions of common life: of country, town, and city; of farmer, artisan, merchant, and slaveholder; of church, school, and convention." He has consequently selected his extracts more from diaries, travels, autobiographies, letters and speeches, than from constitutional documents, first because they are more real and more human, and secondly because good collections of them do not abound.

The episode to which the greatest space is devoted is the building of the Federal Constitution. "In this, as in other disputed questions," says the author, "I have tried to give a fair representation to the various schools of thought; if some people were wrong-headed and illogical and unpatriotic, it is part of history to know what their arguments were and how they were refuted." So again, "In approaching the terrible contest over slavery the same method is adopted: the assailant, the champion, and the observer speaks, each for his own side." Beginning with the year 1783, "The West assumed a life and character of its own; and it has been my aim to bring out that abounding frontier life, that constructive political instinct, that force and energy, which are so notable in the development of the West and so important in our national history."

There is certainly no existing work in which students of colleges and secondary

schools may hope to find so much material for collateral reading and topical research as in the present volume; and the compiler and his assistants are to be congratulated upon the excellent results which they have obtained.

LE PRÉHISTORIQUE, ORIGINE ET ANTIQUITÉ DE L'HOMME. Par *Gabriel et Adrian de Mortillet*. 3^e édition entièrement refondue et mise au courant des dernières découvertes. Un volume in-8° de 709 pages, avec 121 figures dans le texte. Paris: Schleicher Frères, 15 rue des Saints-Pères. Price, 8 francs.

The present work of M. G. Mortillet is widely known in Europe as a complete and convenient manual on the origin of the human species and the first phases of its physical and moral development; and the third edition of it which now appears has been considerably augmented and brought so thoroughly up to date by the son of the author as to constitute almost a new book. The first part contains a clear and precise exposition of our present knowledge concerning the precursors of man, and the traces of his industry as discovered in the tertiary strata. Several pages are devoted to a question which is now occupying some attention, with regard to the existence, the anatomical and mental constitution of the pithecanthropos, supposed to be the intermediary link between the great anthropoid monkeys and man. The second part gives a detailed study of the first human races, their industrial development, and of their animal and vegetable environment. It furnishes an excellent portraiture of the social life of the quaternary period. The illustrations of the book, while not elegant according to the American standard, are both numerous and instructive.

We have two additional volumes of the Citizens' Library of Economics, Politics, and Sociology to announce. The first is by Brooks Adams, the author of the *Law of Civilisation and Decay*, and bears the title *America's Economic Supremacy*. Its name alone is a sufficient claim to attention at the present juncture. It is Mr. Adams's theory that "most of the greatest catastrophes in history have occurred because of the instinctive effort of humanity to adjust itself to changes in the conditions of life, wrought by the movement from point to point of the international center of empire and wealth." From present indications he sees that "the seat of wealth and power is migrating westward, and may even now have entered America." If this be so, we are confronted with a mighty revolution which will move on as inexorably as any other force of nature; but it is the author's belief that if we are destined "to fulfil the functions which have been fulfilled by the dominant nations of the past, the corresponding administrative machinery will be duly evolved, as well as the men fitted to put that machinery in action." (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1900. Pages, viii, 222. Price, \$1.25.)

The second volume in the same series, by Dr. Charles J. Bullock, Assistant Professor of Economics in Williams College, consists of three lengthy essays on *The Monetary History of the United States*. The first treats of the three centuries of cheap money in the United States, from wampum and barter currency to the gold and silver agitation of recent years. It reviews the entire monetary history of the United States, and endeavors to show that "all the varied currency experiments with which our people have been vexed for nearly three centuries have been, first and fundamentally, efforts to secure a cheap medium of exchange." The second and third essays treat of the paper currency of North Carolina and New Hampshire,—states which "up to the very close of the Colonial period remained sparsely settled farming communities in which manufactures and commerce were

of slight importance," and which consequently offered a favorable field in which to test the author's theory. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1900. Pages. x, 292. Price, \$1.25.)

The Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1898 has appeared. It contains, apart from the secretary's reports, but one monograph: that by the late Prof. E. D. Cope, of Philadelphia, on the *Crocodilians, Lizards, and Snakes of North America*. It takes up considerably more than one thousand pages.

The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for the year 1898-1899, Vol. I., contains a vast amount of material which will be useful to educators. The main subjects treated are as follows: Education in Great Britain and Ireland, Australasia, Belgium, Central Europe, Sweden, and Japan; the development of the common school in the Western States, from 1830 to 1865; the study of art and literature in schools; the organisation and methods of training in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis; American text-books on arithmetic; public education in Italy; educational training for railway service; university extension in Great Britain; Confederate text-books, 1861-1865; educational periodicals in the United States; educational directory; economic geography; Swedish gymnastics; and the future of the colored race. (Washington, Government Printing Office.)

MOSLEM AND CATHOLIC CONCEPTIONS OF ANIMALS.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

May I be permitted to add in connexion with the remark made at page 113 of my article "The Hebrew Conception of Animals" in the February *Open Court* the following note?

Muslim hunters and butchers have the custom called the *Hallah*, of pronouncing a formula of excuse (Bi 'sm 'illah!) before slaying any animal. Mr. W. Skeat in *Malay Magic* mentions that if a Malay takes a tiger in a pitfall, the Pawang or medicine-man has to explain to the quarry that it was not he that laid the snare but the Prophet Mohammed. The following text from the *Koran* clearly implies the future life of animals: "There is no kind of beast on earth nor fowl which flieth with its wings, but the same is a people like unto you; we have not omitted anything in the book of our decrees; then unto their Lord shall they return."

The other day I was glad to see that Dr. Corrigan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, had approved of a catechism in which humanity to animals was taught. I believe this is the first time a Roman Catholic prelate has inculcated any such teaching, though many visionaries and saints like St. Francis made friends with animals. Here in Italy I never heard of a priest who taught humanity to animals except that (I think) the Archbishop of Palermo said he did not wish to have bull-fights.

I wish Dr. Corrigan would get the Pope to "pronounce" on the subject. It would be good for beasts and very good for men, for as some German statistician showed, homicides are in proportion to humanity to animals.

EVELYN MARTINENGO CESARESCO.

SALÒ, LAGO DI GARDA.