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"EVEN AS WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED OF GOD TO BE INTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL, SO WE SPEAK; NOT AS PLEASING MEN, BUT GOD WHICH PROVETH OUR HEARTS."

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THE MEADOW.

BY ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

HERE when the cloudless April days begin,
And the quaint crows flock thicker day by day,
Filling the forests with a pleasant din,
And the soiled snow creeps secretly away,
Comes the small busy sparrow, primed with glee,
First preacher in the naked wilderness,
Piping an end to all the long distress
From every fence and every leafless tree.

Now with soft sleight and viewless artifice
Winter's iron work is wondrously undone;
In all the little hollows cored with ice
The clear brown pools stand simmering in the sun.
Frail lucid worlds, upon whose tremulous floors
All day the wandering water-bugs at will,
Shy mariners whose oars are never still,
Voyage and dream about the lightening shores.

The bluebird peeping from the gnarled thorn
Prattles upon his frolic lute, or flings,
In bounding flight across the golden morn,
An azure gleam from off his splendid wings.
Here the slim-pinioned swallows sweep and pass
Down to the far-off river; the black crow
With wise and wary visage to and fro
Settles and stalks about the withered grass.

Here when the murmurous May-day is half gone,
The watchful lark before my feet takes flight,
And wheeling to some lonelier field far on,
Drops with obstreperous cry; and here at night,
When the first star precedes the great red moon,
The shore-lark tinkles from the darkening field,
Somewhere we know not in the dusk concealed,
His little creaking and continuous tune.

Here too the robins, lusty as of old,
Hunt the waste grass for forage, or prolong
From every quarter of these fields the bold,
Blithe phrases of their never finished song.
The white-throat's distant descant with slow stress,
Note after note upon the noonday falls,
Filling the leisured air at intervals
With his own mood of piercing pensiveness.

Often, how often, from this upland perch,
Mine eyes have seen the forest break in bloom.
The rose-red maple and the golden birch,
The dusty yellow of the elms, the gloom
Of the tall poplar hung with tasseled black;
Ah, I have watched, till eye and ear and brain
Grew full of dreams as they, the moted plain.
The sun steeped wood, the marshland at its back,

The valley where the river wheels and fills,
Yon city glimmering in its smoky shroud,
And out at the last misty rim the hills
Blue and far off and mounded like a cloud,
And here the noisy rutted road that goes
Down the slope yonder, flanked on either side
With the smooth-furrowed fields flung black and wide,
Patched with pale water sleeping in the rows.

So as I watched the crowded leaves expand,
The bloom break sheath, the summer's strength uprear,
In earth's great mother's heart already planned
The heaped and burgeoned plenty of the year,
Even as she from out her wintered hearse
My spirit also sprang to life anew,
And day by day as the spring's bounty grew,
The fabric'd dream unlocked the fount of verse.

In reverie by day and midnight dream
I sought these upland fields and walked apart,
Musing on Nature, till my thought did seem
To read the very secrets of her heart;
In mooded moments earnest and sublime
I stored the themes of many a future song,
Whose substance should be Nature's clear and strong,
Bound in a casket of majestic rhyme.

Brave bud-like plans that never reached the fruit,
Like hers, our mother's, who with every hour,
Easily replenished from the sleepless root,
Covers her bosom with fresh bud and flower;
Yet I was happy as young lovers be,
Who in the season of their passion's birth
Deem that they have their utmost worship's worth,
If love be near them, just to hear and see.

OTTAWA, CANADA.

PRESIDENT HARRISON.

BY T. C. CRAWFORD.

FEW Presidents have been so successful in disarming their critics as President Harrison. As his Administration progresses his reputation grows, so that to-day he is much stronger than he was when he was first nominated as the chief of his party. He has been tried by every test to demonstrate the qualities of his character, and in none of them has he been found wanting.

It is further an accepted fact in Republican circles that the President will be renominated, and that he will be as strong a candidate as any one, and that if he could not be elected no Republican could.

Mr. Blaine's declaration in favor of Mr. Harrison is one of the open secrets of Washington. This declaration is thoroughly consistent with Mr. Blaine's position. His position is one about which there need never be any dispute. This position was presented with remarkable clearness by Mr. Blaine when he was in Europe, both at Paris and later at Florence. If he could have had then the nomination of his party without contest, practically by unanimous consent of all the leaders, he would have accepted a nomination without doubt. To consent to a contest for the honor after having been once chosen chief of the party was absolutely impossible to Mr. Blaine. It was a question with him of personal dignity and pride. To this position he most consistently adhered. It was announced at Paris, and again re-affirmed several months later at Florence. Those who believe that all questions of political policy are to be met with subterfuge and trickery, of course asserted then that this attitude of Mr. Blaine's was a deceptive one and that he was not actuated by motives of good faith. This accusation pursued Mr. Blaine up to the last moment before Mr. Harrison was nominated. I saw Mr. Blaine at all the principal points visited by him in Europe and can affirm that at no time did he change his attitude toward the nomination.

At Edinburgh, where he stopped over Sunday on his way north on a coaching trip upon the Sunday preceding the day Mr. Harrison was nominated, Mr. Blaine received numerous cablegrams. He was assured by men in whom he had implicit confidence that he would be nominated upon the opening ballot of the coming Monday session without opposition if he would only consent to have his name used. Mr. Blaine never wavered in his determination. Any change then would have given the lie to all his previous assertions, and would have proved the truth of the criticisms of his opponents. He cabled his refusal; and in answer to a request for him to indicate his preference he promptly cabled the name of Benjamin Harrison, plainly indicating that was where he wished his friends to throw their support. It was soon after the completion of this cable correspondence that I called upon Mr. Blaine in his rooms at the Royal McGregor Hotel. It was at the close of this conversation that I asked Mr. Blaine who he thought would be nominated upon the following day. He promptly replied: "Without any doubt General Benjamin Harrison." He did not then give any reasons for his belief.

It was at Linlithgow the next evening that I received a private message announcing Mr. Harrison's nomination. I went to Mr. Blaine, who was then engaged with the members of the coaching party in looking at the ruins of the ancient castle which overshadows the little town, and handed him the dispatch. It was the first news he had had of the nomination. His countenance expressed no surprise, rather satisfaction as he said: "A most excellent nomination." His going to the head of Mr. Harrison's Cabinet following the latter's election was most natural. There the Secretary of State had full power to carry out the cherished ambition of his life, the establishment of a reciprocity policy with Latin America, without being worn out and fretted with the demands of office-seekers. In this post he is serenely content. He sees before him a widely extended field for the greatest of ambitions, and the prayer of his life is to have time enough to finish these plans so brilliant and daring in their conception, and now so ably being carried out.

A glance at Mr. Blaine's former attitude is necessary fully to explain his present position in his relations to the President, and why he will be unflinching in his support of the President for a second term. Mr. Blaine is

in exactly the same attitude to-day that he was when in Europe during the year preceding the last presidential campaign. It would be untrue to say that Mr. Blaine would not like to be President of the United States. If he could be nominated unanimously, the President being the first to tender him the offer he would accept; but to suppose him a possible candidate one has to suppose the impossible condition of unanimity among all of the leaders of the Republican Party. If Mr. Blaine's honor and pride kept him from being a candidate in 1888, how much greater must be the restraint laid upon him by his honor and pride now, when he is in the Cabinet acting as the chief adviser of the President. Mr. Blaine has never permitted any doubt to rest in the minds of his friends, who have taken the trouble to ask him about this subject. Few have deemed it necessary to question when the logic of his position was so plain.

It is generally conceded throughout the country now that President Harrison will be renominated. A close study of his personality reveals a character worthy of attention and profound respect.

In the first place he has the knowledge of public affairs necessary to the proper comprehension of his duties. This knowledge is never possessed by any President who has not had previous experience in national life at Washington. Six years in Washington as Senator gave Mr. Harrison an intimacy of practical knowledge of public affairs enjoyed by few Presidents of modern times when first inducted into the office. Of the Presidents since the War General Garfield was the only one who had an equal knowledge of public affairs acquired by study and actual experience.

President Harrison is a man of strong character. This character has been developed by a career of toil and struggle where a weak man would have gone down. He has never had any one to help him, and throughout his whole life had to support others outside his own immediate family. This toil has been so incessant, that he has had but little time for social relaxation. Until he went to Washington he never had put on a dress suit. Altho his life has been one of poverty and struggling, his surroundings have been those of a man of refinement and education. He married when he was barely of age and before he really had any income. The little house occupied by him and his wife in the beginning of their struggle at Indianapolis was no larger than the ordinary workman of to-day possesses. It had but three rooms. Mrs. Harrison had no servant. It was the common beginning of many young people of that day, when early marriages were the rule. But altho both were forced to work, they still found time to keep up their reading and study. Mr. Harrison was a graduate of Miami University of Ohio. His wife was the daughter of the president of an academy for young ladies in the same town. Throughout his life he has had the trials which have taught him self-denial, unselfishness and strength of character. For all his life he has had others dependent upon him.

His early and happy marriage has given him the most elevated ideas concerning domestic purity. This was clearly illustrated last winter. Two Western senators recommended to the President a certain man for the post of United States Judge upon a Western circuit. The President was disposed to make the appointment; as he has always regarded the indorsement and advice of Senators where possible. In this particular case he learned that the candidate for this office had deserted and divorced his wife on account of his passion for another woman. The latter had lived with him as his mistress until the divorce proceedings could permit the legalizing of the irregular union. The President called these facts to the attention of the Senators. They admitted their correctness, but said in extenuation that it was a mistake in the man's life, but that the community had accepted the man and had forgiven him for his conduct. The President the moment the facts were conceded absolutely refused to appoint the man. He said that the post was one for life, and that the man did not possess the character to entitle him to a life post of honor on the bench. He would not enter into the question of his repentance or of the present correctness of his life. For such posts there were men to be found without stain upon their character. This was practically accepted by the Senators as an open defiance. It was during the period when the Election bill was pending, and the President was anxious to have every

Literature.

[This prompt mention in our list of "Books of the Week" will be considered by us an equivalent to their publishers for all volumes received. The interests of our readers will guide us in the selection of works for further notice.]

THE GENESIS OF THE UNITED STATES.*

EVERY student of American history owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Alexander Brown for the two sumptuous volumes to which he has given the somewhat misleading, altho strictly accurate title of *The Genesis of the United States*. The exceedingly compendious sub-title does not entirely set us right as to the character of the work. On the side of the cover, however, it is described with more exactness as "A Series of Historical Manuscripts." For it is not a "narrative," but a well arranged and exhaustive collection of the authorities for the history of the planting of the Virginia colonies. Such a work required great and painstaking labor, and even greater self-denial. The temptation to use these materials for the production of "a history" of the period under consideration, would to any ordinary man have been well-nigh irresistible; and the courage requisite for the publication of a work, involving so great expense and appealing only to a comparatively small body of readers was by no means inconsiderable. It is pleasant to learn from the publishers that such appreciation of this book has been shown that a third installment has already been demanded from their press to meet the demands of their patrons. No more grateful evidence of the growing interest in the subject matter of historical investigation could be given than this, and it is especially pleasant to have to notice it in connection with so meritorious a performance as that under review.

Mr. Brown begins his labors with "the return of Weymouth in July, 1605," and extends them to "the return of Dale in June, 1616." This period of "the first foundation" of the Virginia colony, while wanting in the elements of brilliant achievement and exciting incident, which attaches to that immediately preceding it, and undignified by the calm and confident heroism of the succeeding twenty years when the Puritan colonies were established, has an interest for Americans second to none. To English historians bent on describing the complex influences which evolved the "Puritan Commonwealth" out of the "Tudor despotism" the first settlement of America is a bright, but comparatively unimportant episode. The actors in this small drama no longer filled a large place in contemporary history as did Rawley and Gilbert, Drake and Frobieher, Grenville and Hawkins. War had given place to commerce, predatory excursions were now succeeded by trading voyages, the Spaniard was no longer "plucked by the beard," but lulled by false promises and smooth words. "The spacious days of the great Elizabeth" are indeed over and done. It is not England, but Englishmen, who undertake to carry on the work. If the Court and King are actors on the scene it is only because for a time some parlous fellow will not be put off. The Spanish Ambassador rightly judged that Sir John Popham (XXIV) was for a long time the influence which kept the Virginia enterprise alive at court; but wrongly that when he died England would abandon the budding purpose of her plan. If the State was not in earnest, the people were, and the English race never yet lacked a man in private station to press on a good work once begun. It is this circumstance which makes the investigations represented in these vol-

umes so useful and so necessary. Many of the principal actors on this stage sank into comparative obscurity. Here the great part of them are restored to their rightful place in our national roster of those who have deserved well of the Commonwealth, and all the facts of importance in their lives are briefly and succinctly recorded.

The volumes contain three hundred and sixty-five documents, which the author divides into six classes. The first of these classes consists of manuscripts never before printed, which are given in full without regard to their length. Next we have a number of reprints of old and rare documents, printed, but now for the first time reprinted. The third class is composed of translations of manuscripts not available in English, chiefly papers from the Spanish archives, relating to the Spanish opposition to the English colonization of America. The fourth and fifth classes contain English and American publications needed to complete the systematic character of the work. The sixth and last class is made up of "illustrative material," some of which surely was hardly needed, as, for instance, Bacon's "Essay of Plantations," tho in every case interesting and pertinent.

Fortunately, no attempt has been made to follow this classification in the arrangement. The documents are preceded by a brief introduction in which is given, in chronological order, a somewhat arbitrary topical outline of the steps which, in the editor's view, led up to the planting of Virginia. Then follow sixty-four documents bearing upon "The Experimental Period, from the return of Weymouth, in July, 1605, to the return of Newport, in January, 1609." Among these documents the correspondence of the Spanish Minister, Don Pedro de Zuñiga, is, perhaps, most worthy of note. The year (January to November) 1609, described as "The Brief Period of Enthusiasm" is covered by fifty-eight documents; and "The Long Period of the Crucial Test" (November, 1609-July, 1614), by no less than two hundred and four highly interesting documents. The two years (July, 1614-July, 1616), in which doubt slowly grew into certainty of success, are illustrated by the remaining forty-four papers in the regular collection. The remaining five "illustrative documents" are of a very miscellaneous character.

The great value of such a collection to the general public is quite other than the obvious usefulness it possesses for the special student. The lover of historical studies, however general and miscellaneous his taste may be, is no longer content with the *ex cathedra* utterances of the ablest and most brilliant writers of history. Men and measures are no longer regarded as mere puppets, nor as the devices of creatures quite removed from human influences. The action and interaction of mind on mind, the limitations of time and circumstances, the broad influence of a common humanity, begin to be valued at their true worth. In such a collection as this, the casual reader finds much of the interest which comes of fervid but fragmentary records of human conduct, the picture of men acting in the half-informed zeal of partisanship. But the painstaking student finds the way to the very spirit and temper of the minds of those who first built English institutions on our shores. One feels instinctively that the record is not one to be proud of. The social blight of Tudor England hangs upon the background, the poor futile king figures fitfully as a weakling in all matters where Tudor resolution fought its way to triumph. The few great men are so thwarted, the mistaken judgment of those who seemed unwilling to take the pains requisite to success is so palpable, the whole thing seems so constantly to suggest the word "slovenly," that the only wonder is that any good thing came out of such an enterprise. How much good there was enlisted in the cause may be found in the brief biographies of the men who took part in the "Adventures to Virginia," which form the last two hundred and fifty pages of the second volume. Set in double column in small type, this section

forms a biographical dictionary of the worthies of this period, of the utmost value and one that represents an enormous amount of painstaking research.

The faces of these men in nearly one hundred steel engravings complete in a most worthy manner the record of their lives. The collection of portraits, has been made as wide as possible, including contemporary princes and the great precursors of the period of colonization. Some of these are copies of inferior early woodcuts, and some, notably one of the gallant Henry of Navarre, must be regarded as ill-selected libels on their great originals; but the majority represent excellent contemporary portraits, and are good specimens of the engravers' art of to-day. As we run over these portraits and mark how much of greatness is represented in this collection, the thought constantly forces itself on the mind: "How much these men might have accomplished had they but been moved by a common purpose." It was their fate to begin some great movements; but at home or abroad, by sea and land, England but grew more and more unworthy of her recent past beneath their hands. Only in America, in the midst "of mutiny and distrust, of ambition and self-seeking, was dropped the seed, the little seed they laughed at in the dark, which has risen and cleft the soil and grown a mass of spanless bulk, and lays on every side a thousand arms and rushes to the sun."

A number of maps and plans, curious old drawings of the James River, etc., complete the interesting matter of this book. The press work is in the best style of the Riverside Press, the book making in every way is most admirable, and the indices are full and complete and well arranged. The external impression of the volume does credit to their contents, and in every way they are an honor to American scholarship; and it is worthy of notice that Virginia is once more arousing herself to do honor to her history in so desirable and, for so long a time, so unusual a manner. It is not possible to observe, without regret, that hitherto the Old Dominion has had to look elsewhere for the most worthy historians of her notable events and biographers of her noble sons.

WEEDEN'S ECONOMIC HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND.*

WE have here the results of a most industrious and sagacious gleaning in a field from which it might be thought that the reapers had carried off substantially all the harvest. But Mr. Weeden's "mousing" among the colonial archives, the probate records, and old family papers and newspapers, has brought to light a very interesting and valuable collection of facts, which enable the historical student to form a clearer idea of the daily life of the early settlers of New England than has heretofore been possible. Mr. Weeden has not done much by way of arrangement; he has stuffed his captures into his bag and pours them out before the reader, leaving him to select as his taste inclines him. He makes no pretense of treating any subject systematically; but he has supplied a full index, and his material is thus available for systematic treatment. And it should be added that the discursive reader will find no little profit and entertainment in turning over these pages.

There is indeed so much that is interesting that it is hard to make any selection. Many of the details serve only to confirm judgments already formed; but in some cases the evidence is so exclusive as to enable us to lay down positive conclusions where before we could only venture conjectures. Thus in regard to the relations with the mother country, we see that independence had been attained in practice long before it was talked of in theory, and that the Revolution was merely the attempt of autonomous States to repel foreign invasion. The dispute was not an affair of politics

but of commerce. The colonies were willing to tolerate royal governors provided they did not govern, and to live under laws that were not enforced. But when the attempt was made to give reality to the appearance the sparks flew at once. Mr. Weeden shows that practically the entire trade of the colonies was illegal. There was not much smuggling because it was not necessary to smuggle. If a collector of customs was so ill-advised as to take notice of breaches of the navigation acts he was liable to be mobbed, or to be cast in the local courts by juries that were made up of illicit traders. Governor Hunter, of New York, issued most stringent proclamations against traffic with the French plantations, observing: "What effect it may have in deterring men from it I cannot tell." Kay, the collector of Newport, seized some hogsheds of claret by due process of law. A mob took the claret from him in broad daylight, a prominent merchant and magistrate had him arrested on some charge of exacting illegal fees, and a second warrant was afterward issued upon which he was not even admitted to bail. Mr. Thomas Amory, of Boston, writes to a correspondent:

"If you have a Captain you can confide in you will find it easy to import all sorts of goods from the Straights, France, and Spain, altho prohibited. . . . Modes, Lute-strings and Tea are staple commodities. They are prohibited; but nothing is more easy to import, recommending to the Captain not to declare at the Custom House."

Hutchinson said of the new duty on sugar that it was a great mistake to make it 3d. If it had been a penny the merchants would have paid it "rather than be at the charge and trouble of clandestinely importing foreign molasses." In 1763 15,000 hogsheds of molasses came into Massachusetts, worth £100,000, and probably not 500 hogsheds were legitimately imported. Rhode Island took nearly the same quantity. The duty upon this was nominally 6d. a gallon; but Grenville found that the entire revenue from customs in America was from £1,000 to £2,000 a year, costing the exchequer for collection £7,000 to £8,000.

Upon the course of colonial trade Mr. Weeden throws a flood of light. Its basis may be said to have been the primeval forest which was the inheritance of the early settlers. If they could do no better they could reduce this magnificent timber to ashes, making two tons of potash to the acre. There was a steady demand for staves in the rum and sugar trade, and lumber; boards and shingles were staple commodities. The trade in masts was on a grand scale. These gigantic shafts, sometimes 36 inches in diameter at the butt and 120 feet long, required skillful handling. Where the mighty pine was to fall small trees were laid, and when this "bedding" was duly prepared it was brought down in safety. Forty yoke of oxen might be needed to draw it to the sea, where it was loaded in a specially prepared vessel. After the timber was exhausted upon the coast ships of one hundred tons were actually built upon the upland a mile or two from the shore, and drawn by two hundred oxen over the snow to a frozen river to wait for the melting of the ice.

These vessels were themselves an article of export. The merchant of Bristol or London sent over goods which were exchanged for a new ship, and this was loaded with fish for some Mediterranean port where another cargo was obtained and transported to England. The ship was then sold, and the capital started on another round. The West India traffic was enormous. All the inferior fish were sent there, as well as grain, lumber and horses, the exchanges being chiefly for molasses. This product was used for sweetening and for the manufacture of rum, which became a great industry. The great drink of the early colonists was cider, one village making 10,000 barrels in 1721, but rum afterward took its place to some extent. It was in the slave traffic, however, that rum was most important. No other commodity compared with it in purchasing power on the African coast. Captain George Scott tried dry goods in

* THE GENESIS OF THE UNITED STATES. A narrative of the movement in England, 1605-1616, which resulted in the plantation of North America by Englishmen, disclosing the contest between England and Spain for the possession of the soil now occupied by the United States of America; set forth through a series of historical manuscripts now first printed, together with a re-issue of rare contemporaneous tracts, accompanied by rare bibliographical memoranda, notes and brief biographies, collected, arranged and edited by ALEXANDER BROWN. 2 vols., royal octavo, pp. xxxviii, 1157. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin & Co. 1890. \$13 the set.

* ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND, 1620-1780. By WILLIAM B. WEEDEN. 2 Vols. Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston and New York. 1890. \$4.50.