

The Citizen

Vol. IV.

June, 1898.

No. 4.

Life and Education.

The office of THE CITIZEN is at 111 South Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE CITIZEN is published on the first day of each month, by the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor of THE CITIZEN.

Remittances by check or postal money order should be made payable to Frederick B. Miles, Treasurer.

Advertising rates furnished upon application.

THE CITIZEN is on sale in Philadelphia, 111 S. 15th street, the Central News Co. and its agents, Wanamaker's, and Jacobs & Co., 103 S. 15th street; New York, Brentano's, 31 Union Square; Washington, Brentano's, 1015 Pennsylvania avenue.

Entered, Philadelphia Post-office, as second-class matter.

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MR. CHAMBERLAIN has afforded by his recent Birmingham speech an exposition of the present foreign relations of Great Britain. Since the Crimean War, he said, the policy of England has been a policy of strict isolation as respects alliances—a policy justifiable as long as the other countries in Europe were working separately and for their own hand, but no longer wise when all the powerful states of Europe have made alliances, and when now England stands liable to be confronted with allied powers having colonial and commercial interests hostile to those of England. In such a position the duty of England, says Mr. Chamberlain, is, first, to draw closer the colonial bond; and, second, "to establish and maintain bonds of permanent amity with our kinsmen across the Atlantic. There is a powerful and a generous nation. They speak our language. They are bred of our race. Their laws, their literature, their standpoint upon every question, is the same as ours. Their feeling, their interests in the cause of humanity and the peaceful developments of the world are identical with ours. I don't know what the future has in store for us; I don't know what arrangements may be possible with us; but this I do know and feel, that the closer, the more cordial, the fuller, and the more definite these arrangements are, with the consent of both peoples, the better it will be for both and for the world, and I even go so far as to say that, terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased, if, in a great and noble cause, the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together over an Anglo-Saxon alliance." Mr. Chamberlain's proposal has astonished the world by its boldness and by its frankness. The enthusiasm with which England has received it shows that that country is ready definitely to turn away from the powers of Europe to seek the alliance of the great power of the West which has up to the present played no part in European affairs. It recognizes that a union of the two Anglo-Saxon races must be based, not upon special exigencies or actions of statesmen, but upon a lasting community of sentiment, beliefs, interests. It is further notable for its apparent offer of the armed aid of England against any attempt of the powers of Europe to interfere in the settlement of the Cuban question by the United States.

In the proposal of an Anglo-American alliance, there is no doubt that at present Amer-

ter entitled 'The Foreigner in the Land', the reign of Akbar stands out in pleasing prominence. The contemporary of Elizabeth in England, his glory like hers is brightened by a magnificent display of literary power. The work of the greatest of the company of poets has even been rated by Grierson not far behind Shakspere's.

The closing chapter, 'The Fusing Point of Old and New', is of especial interest. British rule has given India a welcome freedom from disturbance. It has moreover by its encouragement of education brought the younger men into contact with new ways of thinking. The result is seen in the liberal religious movements of recent years. Slowly but surely the barriers between classes are breaking down, and a united people is forming. The development when the leaders of Indian thought, "infused with all the best of the spirit of the East and West, rise up to proclaim that East and West have met, and from the union new forms of thought, new modes of artistic expression, new ways of viewing life, new solutions of religious, social, and moral problems have been produced, as produced they must be, is one that the whole past history of the world teaches us is to be watched with hope, not fear or doubt."

The importance of the book, especially in view of the author's acquaintance with the people of India, will readily be recognized. The few inaccuracies of statement and the defective scholarship appearing here and there do not sensibly impair its value. When a second edition is called for these faults can easily be removed. Then, too, greater consistency in the spelling of Indian names and more careful revision of the printed page will be desirable.

A. W. STRATTON.

Old Virginia and Her Neighbors.*

A CHAPTER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

We have in these two delightful volumes the fifth installment of what Prof. Fiske is doubtless planning to be a complete history of the United States. In his previous volumes on the Discovery of America, the Beginnings of New England, the Revolution and the Critical Period of American History, we have learned to admire his broad and accurate scholarship, his masterly power of generalization, and his graphic style. Naturally we expected to find the same qualities in these volumes and we have not been disappointed. It was somewhat more questionable whether we should find the New England scholar approaching this field with a

sympathetic mind, mastering the sources and entering into the life of those whose story he was telling. But in this as in his previous studies he shows an open mind, a fine ability for seeing things in a true historic perspective, and a judgment unclouded by passing prejudices. Of course Prof. Fiske has his marks of our common mortality. He has his little prepossessions and he displays them with accustomed frankness. For example, he does not hide his "free trade" sentiments under a bushel; and we are not surprised, but only amused, when he says in his discussion of West Indian piracy (II. p. 346): "Like all semi-barbarous governments, the court of Spain pursued a highly protectionist policy." We have been familiar with these delicate criticisms on a settled policy of our country since Prof. Fiske first began to write history. But such things are but trifles in so good a book. It is delightful to read so able a piece of constructive criticism as we have in the account of Captain John Smith, and the admirable judgment with which really significant facts are selected and grouped, and the distinctness with which they are presented is most satisfactory.

The work begins with a chapter on the 'Sea Kings,' and we are made to see the place that the discovery and colonization of America occupy in the history of the world. There is no belittling of that place or of the men who were the actors in the drama of the dawn. On the contrary we are told: "A due appreciation of the significance of the discovery of America gives to our history from its earliest stages an epic grandeur, as the successive situations unfold themselves, and events with unmistakable emphasis record their moral." We are then made to see what is particularly notable at this hour, that the history of America is one phase of the struggle of the English race with the Spanish for domination. In it is largely written the story of the fall of one mighty empire and the rise of another, and in that story the lessons for the student of human life and human institutions are very many and very impressive.

Not only is the episode of John Smith's career in Virginia ably dealt with,—especially illuminated, as it is, by Prof. Fiske's unusual knowledge of our Indian customs,—but the less inviting incidents are studied with painstaking care and presented with rare saneness. Thus, if we compare the treatment of the starving time under Dale with the same period as presented in Mr. Eggleston's recent work, or the strong and faithful portraiture of the Scotch-Irish with some of Mr. Sydney G. Fisher's caricatures, we readily appreciate how superior is our author's ability for seeing men and times as they were. The scope of this review will not

*'Old Virginia and Her Neighbors.' By John Fiske. Two volumes, 800 pp. xxi, 318, and xvi, 421. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, 1897.

permit us to dwell upon the details of the large canvass that is before us. But we can say with emphasis that these volumes are full of admirable work, carefully done. They give a much higher character to the early years of Virginia than is popularly attributed to them. The common view that there were few or no Puritans in the Southern colonies, is corrected, and the dependence of America upon the vigor and deep conscientiousness of this element in her population is shown to have been as real in Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas as in New England. The present age may scoff at the hard doctrines of the Calvinists, but the men who professed these doctrines—which were as high as they were hard—whether English, Scotch, Scotch-Irish, Huguenot, Germans of the Palatinate, or Dutch, hewed down the forests, scaled the mountain barriers, and shaped the institutions of free America. And Prof. Fiske makes it very clear in these pages. It is doubtless surprising to many to learn that at the time of the Revolution three-fifths of the people of Virginia were dissenters, three-fifths of those of Maryland were Puritans, South Carolina was strongly Puritan, and North Carolina largely so. And to be assured that “the Puritan theory of life made it imperatively necessary to set a high value on education” is a gratifying substantiation of the long rejected claim that, though the free school system was not the usual form, sound education was not neglected in the South.

In addition to the necessary topics of Colonial history, the subjects discussed are frequently illuminated by explanatory passages of great interest. Thus the excursions on “counties palatine,” and on the nature of English nobility, in the second volume are especially noticeable.

We do not often note a positive error of statement, yet Madison’s college graduation is misdated as 1772 (for 1771), and the first exportation of turkeys to England is certainly put much too late when referred to Newport’s return in 1608. We have more often occasion to question a judgment, as when Madison’s part is held to have been greater in the composition of the Federalist than Hamilton’s (II, p. 254), and we must take very strong exception to the statement that “after the abolition of the African slave trade in 1808 had increased the demand for Virginia-bred slaves in the states farther south, the very idea of emancipation faded out of memory” (II, p. 191). We think in the first of these instances the reason given is specious rather than real, and in the second our author must have forgotten the so-called “Great Debate”, of December and January, 1831 and 1832.

ETHELBERT D. WARFIELD.

Modern France.*

The period of French history which includes the rise and development of modern France is not one of which it is easy to tell the story. The succession of events is so rapid, the changes are so sudden and inexplicable, the relation of cause and effect is oftentimes so impossible to trace, that one is liable to search in vain for a guiding thread in this bewildering maze of complications. And when one tries to condense this complex history into a single volume of 500 pages, the task only becomes the more difficult. This is what has been attempted in the latest addition to the ‘Story of the Nations’ series by André Lebon,—to tell the story of modern France from the outbreak of the Revolution in 1789 down to the present time in a single small volume. Has the attempt proved successful? Certainly the author has not written a comprehensive history of France during this period. It is not of France as a great European power that he writes; the all-important foreign relations are scarcely referred to; it is the story of the internal development of that country that he tells us. His history is, furthermore, essentially a political history of modern France: the social life of her people is not described; her intellectual development is but briefly outlined, and that outline is given in separate chapters, one on each of the three divisions of the period—1789-1815, 1815-1848, and 1848-1895—inevitably suggesting, what we know to be really the case, that these chapters were added as a sort of after-thought to a work which dealt originally with political history alone.

If it was necessary to confine himself to such a narrow field, M. Lebon has chosen well in restricting himself to political history, for it is the work which he is best fitted to do. Though he modestly announces himself on the title-page as a “member of the chamber of deputies”, he is much more than that, having long been prominent in the political life of his country and being at present the minister for the colonies in the Méline cabinet. As might have been expected from such a man, he devotes himself almost exclusively to the rise and fall of the various governments with which France has been so abundantly favored since her great Revolution. He shows why the various political systems have failed, he tells us how the present form of government came to be established, and we are glad to note that he evidently believes in the stability of his country’s institutions, looking upon the Boulanger episode as

*‘The Story of the Nations: Modern France, 1789-1895.’ By André Lebon, Member of the Chamber of Deputies. New York and London: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1898. xviii-488.