

COLONIAL ENGLAND.

Two Volumes in the British Empire Series That Have Special Interest Now.*

The first two volumes of the British Empire Series have appeared, bearing the titles "India Ceylon, Straits Settlements, British North Borneo, Hongkong," and "British Africa." They include a series of articles, most of which were originally given as lectures in the Sunday afternoon course at South Place Institute, London, from 1895 to 1898. The purpose of these lectures was to afford trustworthy information concerning the various colonies, settlements, and countries which go to form the British Empire. These lectures were presented by colonial officials, natives, travelers, and others who possessed unusual knowledge about the various dependencies of Great Britain. In general, each address was intended to include a short account of the country prior to its annexation or incorporation, its colonial history, the effect of British connection on the country and the natives, the outlook for the future; the conditions for colonization, trade, and commerce, the State and local government, and the laws of the country. It will be seen that this information, even when epitomized, results, when put in print, in formidable volumes. The interest in the subject among the people of England is so great that there will undoubtedly be a large demand for these volumes from thousands who, in the course of military, touring, or commercial experiences have visited or contemplate visiting these outlying territories of Great Britain. Many stay-at-homes will also want to know more about these lands beyond the sea, and they will find it difficult to place their hands on more satisfactory volumes than those included in this series. They are decidedly useful, and from them American readers can glean much information. It would be unfair to select for special commendation the names of a few out of the over twoscore in the tables of contents, including as they do some of England's foremost scholars, thinkers, and travelers.

The first volume is largely devoted to a consideration of the presidencies and districts of India, for it is chiefly as mistress of India that the greatness of England is measured by foreign nations. The articles in this volume evidence at once the vastness of the physical, ethnological, and political problems which were presented to the men who have carried on the work of government of that country. These articles, though somewhat unequal in range, are all animated with first-hand knowledge and observations. They picture the countries to the reader as they exist in all the kaleidoscopic variety of life and customs. India is not so much a country as it is a small continent. Its population is not less than one-fifth of the estimated number of inhabitants of the world. There is no question but that British rule in India has been specially distinguished from all previous governments by the inestimable blessings it has conferred in security, justice, and material development. It was not the intention of the lecturers to dwell at length on the wonderful development of India in the physical and economic spheres, nor are the portions of the volume which enlarge on those features as of absorbing interest as the parts which display to us the social development of the country. In the field of education and of moral and political thought the ground was fertile and the advance has been immeasurable. Industrial enterprise, of course, has had a marvelous awakening, as the indigo, cotton manufacture, and tea cultivation all attest. Agriculture is the prevailing means of subsistence, and supports, directly or indirectly, three-fourths of the population. Over 90 per cent. of the people dwell outside of the towns, and agriculture is carried on with ancient tools and in a primitive fashion.

Interesting articles detail the features of Madras, Bombay, Sind, Bengal, Assam, the Northwest Provinces, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, Burma, the Native States, Ancient India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, British North Borneo, and Hongkong. In this brief notice we can only give these titles and refer the reader to them for a vast quantity of information. We note three chapters which deal with the condition of women in India, and we will make a few extracts which may prove of interest. These are "Hindu Women," by Krishnaro Bholanath Divatia; "Mohammedan Women," by Mohammed Barakatullah, and "Parsee Women," by Zulirka Sorajji Cavalier. These essays from the pens of native authors are unusually fascinating and are possessed of genuine stamps of authenticity. Hindu girls as a class are practically illiterate, being taught only practical work, such as sewing and cooking. They

must and do marry between the ages of ten and thirteen, their husbands being selected for them, and a marriage once concluded is indissoluble. The wife cooks the meals and takes her own meals after the husband and other members of the family have taken theirs. Polygamy is practiced only in cases where no sons are born, a son being considered necessary according to the Hindu religious code, inasmuch as it is through the son that the father reaches heaven. The Hindu childless widow of the higher castes is forbidden to remarry by the laws of custom, and is a living picture of silent suffering. In the East life is looked upon as simply preparatory to a higher state of bliss hereafter, and Hindu women in every act of their daily life intermix religion with labor. In her domestic virtues the Hindu woman is a model for the whole world. She is a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. She is obedient, sympathetic, and charitable. She does not indulge in the habit of drinking or smoking. It is interesting to note that the present century has witnessed a perceptible improvement in the general condition and status of Hindu women.

The seclusion of Moslem women is universal, and in India it is considered disrespectful for Mohammedan women to walk in the streets unless advanced in years. They are absolute queens in their homes, having full authority in the government of the house. They dress gorgeously and indulge in garden parties and many pleasant home amusements. Their education is generally confined to religious books, and they have to learn a part, if not all, of the Koran. Marriage is always arranged by the parents, the contracting parties having no previous personal acquaintance. Divorce is of rare occurrence, but is permitted in extreme cases. The general practice is monogamy, excepting with the aristocracy, which in every land has been notorious for its transgression of the laws of morality. Mohammedan women seldom meddle with politics, but there have been a number of Moslem Queens, a notable example being her Highness Shah-Jehan Begum, the only Moslem Queen serving under the Empress of India.

Parsee women are Zoroastrians and are not idol worshippers. Women do not marry as early in life as among the Hindus, but it rarely happens that a man chooses his own bride. They are in advance of their Hindu and Mohammedan sisters in the way of education, and glory in the fact that they can cook as well as any good housewife. They are fire worshippers, but God, according to the Parsee faith, is the emblem of glory, refulgence, and light, and in this view a Parsee, while engaged in prayer, stands before the fire or turns his face toward the sun, because they appear to be the most proper symbols of the Almighty. You will see neither a Parsee drunkard nor a Parsee beggar on the streets. They are called by the Christians "the good Samaritans of the East," for no tale of woe goes unheard. The Parsee women shine in society as doctors, lawyers, linguists, musicians, artists, and nurses. They are intensely religious, and with them religion is not a cloak to be put on for one day.

These extracts will suffice to indicate the mass of valuable information contained in this volume. A perusal of the chapters devoted to "Famines in India," "Industries in India," "Indian Literature," and "Administration of Justice" will afford much satisfaction.

The wonderful development of Africa during the past fifty years is largely due to British enterprise and daring. Livingstone began the work which transformed the map of Africa and filled it with features and people of striking interest. Prior to that we were ignorant of the source of the Nile, and the Congo scarcely existed on the map. In fact the interior of the continent was a blank from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn. When the results of the wonderful journey of Stanley through the dark continent were made known, the powers of Europe began to give serious attention to Africa as a field for industrial and commercial activity. Belgium led the way in the partition of Africa in 1880, when Stanley went there as the agent of the King of the Belgians. Germany entered the field a little later, and although both France and England had been at work before, it was not until 1883 that the real scramble began. By 1886 the respective spheres—British, French, German, Belgian, and Italian—had been blocked out. The agreement entered into between England and France during 1899 delimits their respective spheres in the Sahara and on the Niger. So far as area goes, France has fared the best, her sphere covering nearly a third of all Africa. England's share, exclusive of Egypt and the Soudan, exceeds 2,000,000 square miles, while Germany and Belgium claim about a million each.

The present volume comprises addresses given in the British colonial series on the following districts: The Cape of Good Hope, Rhodesia, Bechuanaland, the Transvaal, old and new; Natal, the Highlands of Natal; Zululand, British and Central Africa, the Protectorate of Zanzibar, the East

*INDIA, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, BRITISH NORTH BORNEO, HONGKONG. Svo. 536 pages. With two maps. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Limited. \$3.50.

BRITISH AFRICA. Svo. 413 pages. With four maps. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Limited. \$3.50.

Africa Protectorate, Uganda, the Niger, the West Africa colonies, Mauritius. This list will give, at the best, but a faint idea of the amount of information contained in the lectures. Each topic was handled by a specialist, in most cases former or present colonial officials, and the treatment is so adequate that it leaves but little to be desired by persons seeking information relative to the British colonial possessions in Africa. The means by which the Orange River sovereignty, (now the Orange Free State,) the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, and Rhodesia were brought under British rule, and how the first two were abandoned by, or broke away from, their masters, are here graphically outlined. During the present strife in South Africa the articles on the Transvaal and the Boers will be found of absorbing interest. A chapter on "Briton, Boer, and Black in South Africa" presents an English view of the Boers in a decidedly anti-Boer strain. It is by James Alex Liebmann, a former professor in the University of the Cape of Good Hope, and should be read by all persons who are studying the South African situation. There we read of England's former control of the Transvaal, the revolt under the leadership of Pretorius, Kruger, and Joubert in 1850 and the final Boer triumphs at Laing's Nek, the Ingogo River, and Amajuba Hill. The author speaks of Kruger's Government as follows:

Under this ideal (?) Government, which is really a sixteenth century oligarchy flourishing at the end of the nineteenth, and is certainly not a land where "a man may speak the thing he will," you have a press censorship as tyrannical as in Russia, a State supervision of telegrams, a veto on the right of public meeting, a most unjust education law, and an Executive browbeating the judiciary; and in order to accomplish so much the Transvaal has closed its doors to its kinsmen in Cape Colony, for you must not forget that the oldest Transvaalers, from President Kruger downward, are ex-Cape Colonists and quondam British subjects, and imported a bureaucracy of Hollanders to plait a whip wherewith to castigate her children.

This volume is useful, not solely on account of the excellence of its articles on South Africa, but for the thorough treatment which it gives to all the British possessions in Africa.

An Empire That Was.*

"The Moorish Empire" grew out of an attempt to acquire some knowledge of the antecedents of the Moors, the better to understand them as they are to-day. The material of the volume has been culled from choicest sources, and all facts not of vital interest have been cast out. The subject is practically new to English literature, and it may seem that one so remote from English interests is hardly worth so much pains as it has received here, but to this may be responded that the study of the Moor is of far more than ethnological or geographical importance. As part of the story of the human race its incidents assist the study of mankind. In the spirit in which Arnold edited Thucydides, Mr. Meakin entered on this work, not as an "idle inquiry about remote ages and forgotten institutions, but as a living picture of things present, fitted not so much for the curiosity of the scholar as for the instruction of the statesman and citizen." Only as seen as a whole, magnified in scenes long past, do the effects of Moorish thought and principles upon the national life become apparent, and then only can their influence upon the individual be rightly weighed. For this purpose it is the internal history, as seen in the people themselves, which is of greatest value. It is extremely disappointing that native authorities have shed so little light as to the condition, past and present, of their nation.

The origin of the Moorish Empire is wrapped in deep uncertainty. The earliest accounts of it depend largely upon myths and legends which are not at all reliable and it remains till the Carthaginian Hanno made a colonizing expedition beyond the Herculean Pillars for any accurate account to be met. One thousand years after this expedition a Roman scribe, Procopius of Caesarea, wrote that in his time there were two white columns of stone near Tangier on which was the inscription, "We have fled before the face of Joshua the robber, son of Nun." Procopius thus claimed an ancestry for these people among the Canaanites. It is also interesting to note that the Arab historians attribute the same origin to the nation. With the advent of the Romans the history assumes a more authentic form. For a while later Mauretania became subject to the Vandals, subsequently to the Goths, then followed a period of darkness of which we have no true accounts. In the seventh and eighth centuries Mohammedanism gained its foothold in Morocco, and a little later (1061) the Moorish Empire became established after numerous conflicts with foreign powers and invaders. Before the close of the eleventh century (1096) the Moors enlarged their territory and were masters of Spain. The history of the Moorish Empire during succeeding years was a history of war and conflict. The Mohammedan realm on both sides of the straits was in chaos. The empire reached its lowest ebb and Spain was irretrievably lost to the world of Islam. In Morocco a call was issued for a rise to a "Holy War" which won the empire for Mohammed. A peculiar tribute our author has paid to Mulai Ismail, the last Moorish

Sultan to leave an indelible mark on his country, albeit a scar:

There is in his character, nevertheless, something which commands admiration; his ferocity was but the outcome of the times in which he lived, and he was only stronger, not worse, than those around him. Notwithstanding his tyrannical behavior and wholesale butcheries, he succeeded in making his power so thoroughly respected that public life and property were never more secure than under his rule. While during his lifetime not a human being failed to tremble at his name, it is strangely significant of the real tendency of Islam that Ismail is remembered to-day, not as the tyrant, but as the great and religious Sultan. As his rule of life he used to have a copy of the Koran borne before him. It would hardly be possible to credit the accounts of his carnage. He was a blood-thirsty villain, but he had better moments, and moments, one is thankful to say, of remorse.

The personal appearance of this human creature is thus described by Windus:

He is a middle-sized man and has the remains of a good face, with nothing of a negro's features, though his mother was a black; he has a high nose, which is pretty long and thin. He has lost all his teeth. His beard is white and thin; his eyes seem to have been sparkling, but their vigor decayed through age, and his cheeks very much sunk in.

Bus-not describes him "as nearly black, with fiery eyes, a strong voice, and greatly given to jumping, being remarkably agile even when past middle age, and able by one action to mount his horse, draw his sword, and behead the slave who held the stirrup. Several times a day he would change his costume, suiting the color to the mood he was in, green being his favorite, but white the most propitious, and yellow fatal."

There is only one instance of many in which Mulai Ismail entered into friendly relations with European rulers, and in 1721 was secured for the first time the recognition by treaty of the right of foreign protection for foreign subjects and their interests in Morocco. Portions of the famous stables of this Sultan still exist. They were three miles long, and contained 12,000 horses. Thirty thousand men and 10,000 mules, it is said, were employed in building his palace at Mequinez, which is his greatest monument to-day. His remains were placed after his death, which occurred at the age of eighty-one, in a solid building erected for that purpose near Kubba Majub.

Since the year 1724 eight Sultans have reigned, yet few have left any places in the memory of their subjects. Anarchy and horrors worse than ever prevailed. But whatever of peace and order Morocco has since enjoyed must be attributed to Si Ahmad's firmness and political skill. It is certain that not for years has Morocco known such an administration, and the question arises, How long will it last? The Circassian mother of the present Sultan is credited with a strong and beneficial influence over her son.

All Mohammedan States have apparently a similar administration, but upon close observation it is evident that Morocco has sufficient individuality to warrant a separate study. It has, however, like the other Moorish States, principles and standards set by the Koran. The Sultan of Morocco is the highest spiritual and temporal power recognized by the Moors. It would be vain to attempt to estimate the actual number of the Moorish Army. With the exception of a few thousand under European instruction, there are none deserving the name of "regulars." To be quite up to the times, the Moorish Army boasts of a band which plays upon foreign instruments and is under foreign instruction. The band has been taught a number of national and sentimental selections, the words of which, to a European ear, are often incongruous. Commands are given in French or English, according to the language of the instructor. The Moorish Navy consisted of four frigates, a brig, and a sloop-of-war at the beginning of the present century, and in 1860 a schooner of four guns, a brig of twelve, and four gunboats were all that remained.

Modern Christian missions to Morocco date from the early part of the thirteenth century. Protestant mission work is of altogether recent introduction, the London Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Among the Jews having been the first in the field. In 1895 the Gospel Union of Kansas City, U. S. A., sent its missionaries. In 1899 a "Christian" cemetery was opened outside of Marrakesh, due to the efforts of the British Minister, Sir Arthur Nicholson. To enter upon a discussion of the relations which Morocco maintains and has maintained during the past with foreign nations; to consider her diplomatic customs, her commercial intercourse and foreign protection, and to describe the Moroccan literature would here be impossible, but our author has most thoroughly and admirably summarized each of these subjects.

The book is a splendid work, and worthy of the highest commendation. It is amply supplied with maps, copiously and beautifully illustrated, and replete with information and references for the student.

An Elysium 'in Rochester.*

In Rochester there is an "imperium in imperio." Mr. Robinson may not care for whatever there may be of grandiose in this expression. Anyhow, in Rochester there is a Third Ward. Sometimes it has been called the "Ruffled Shirt Ward." It is no Little Pedlington. This portion of Rochester retains all that is best of the old ways. Time is regulated by the same clock which has ticked away for the last century. That clock may stop occasionally, but that makes no matter. Of Summer nights all the Third Warders live on the piazzas. The men and women there are not precisely ceremonious. Good behavior is the passport. There are certain social functions peculiar and particular to these Third Warders. It may be

*THIRD WARD TRAITS. By Charles Mulford Robinson. Rochester, N. Y.: The Genesee Press. The Post-Printing Co.

that there is some little of a Southern flavoring, and they are none the worse for that. It is not an arrested civilization, because it is in sympathy with all the rest of the world. Of this delightful abode Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson writes in the happiest manner. There is a certain quality about the writing of this little volume which makes the reader think of Charles Lamb. The manufacture of the book is of the prettiest. It is neatness and niceness personified.

Letters Addressed to Washington.

The second volume of "Letters to Washington" comes from the Riverside Press, (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) this week. The Colonial Dames of America, in their dedication to the first volume, state that it was issued at the opening of the year in commemoration of the death of Washington; on the anniversary of his death, at the close of the year, they present their second volume to the public. They are encouraged to continue the work that has been so ably conducted by their editor, Mr. S. M. Hamilton of the Department of State, Washington. His familiarity with the archives, added to his exact and conscientious methods, renders him peculiarly fitted for the task of preparing these transcripts from the original manuscripts in the department, which were preserved for future use by the wise forethought of Washington himself. As the work advances the wider circle of the correspondents will excite a more personal interest in addition to that which exists from the letters being addressed to Washington, and as they unfold they add lustre to his character, showing him, even in his youth, as "he stood head and shoulders above his fellows," known to them, trusted by them, beloved by them, and claiming their reverence.

The Committee on Publication consists of J. J. Boudinot, Julia Livingston Delafield, and Elizabeth Fisher King.

*THE MOORISH EMPIRE. A Historical Epitome. By Budgett Meakin. For some years editor of The Times of Morocco, author of "An Introduction to the Arabic of Morocco," "The Moors," "The Land of the Moors," &c. 8vo. Pp. 576. London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co. Limited. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$5.