

ship, as in Germany, the returns have been exceptionally favorable; and that in countries where natural limitations and a sparse population prevent exceptional results, the outcome has still been far from discouraging. Without fear of exaggeration we may therefore say that from the point of view of the State treasury public ownership has, wherever consistently applied, proved a success, sometimes a very decided success.

ERIK OBERG.

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IMMORTAL MARS.

For The Public.

The gods of old are gone, save one,
Of all the twelve who sate
On high Olympus' snowy crest
To ponder deeds of fate.

But one still rears his horrid head
And wields a might untold,
The dread god Mars hath power yet,
E'en as he had of old.

And every year a tribute votes
Unto our war-god grim,
While every nation gives its best
To be the priests for him.

SIMON PURE.

BOOKS

AN APPRECIATION OF ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt and the Public. By John W. Bennett.
Published by the Broadway Publishing Co., 835
Broadway, New York. Price, \$1.50.

Readers of *The Public* who saw Mr. Bennett's frank but fair and able criticism of the American newspaper in its relation to democratic institutions, which appeared in these columns six months ago (vol. x, p. 725), will want to know about, and most of them will doubtless be glad to read, the views of the same writer on the relation of President Roosevelt to the same institutions. Mr. Bennett is especially well qualified for this work, as he was for the other, by extended experiences as a Washington correspondent. Although his picture of Mr. Roosevelt is not altogether that of an attractive public functionary, we fail to find a single instance of deliberate unfairness or any indications of warped judgment.

Inasmuch, however, as the author handles his subject without gloves, he prudently shows in his Introduction how frank Mr. Roosevelt himself has been in characterizing historical persons whose careers he has discussed. The friends of a man who has described Thomas Jefferson as Mr. Roosevelt has, as "constitutionally unable to put a proper value upon truthfulness," who has denounced Thomas Paine as "a filthy little atheist," and Wendell Phillips as "either mischievous or

ridiculous and usually both," and who has regarded men who object to government by injunction as being, "as regards essential principles of our government, in hearty sympathy with their remote skin-clad ancestors who lived in caves, fought one another with stone-headed axes, and ate the mammoth and the woolly rhinoceros"—the friends of such a reckless writer can hardly complain if other writers, without recklessness but with fitting words, characterize their idol as the provable facts warrant.

Mr. Bennett's account of Roosevelt begins with the latter's political alliance with "Joe" Murray, of the old 21st legislative district of New York, where Roosevelt's public career had its roots, and follows him through the New York legislature, where he flourished in the early '80s, and which he left "a wiser man than when he entered, and with fewer and different ideals."

From the New York legislature Mr. Roosevelt stepped into national politics. Here he distinguished himself by fighting valiantly against Blaine by the side of George William Curtis and Carl Schurz, whom he promptly abandoned after the nomination in order to fight by the side of Blaine himself. "As every partisan on occasion must do, he placed partisan regularity above country, above public good, above convictions, above clean ideals, above civic integrity;" and "never a Bogan, a McCarren or a Murphy, or a follower of a Bogan, a McCarren or a Murphy has shown more narrow or hide bound partisanship than did he."

As a civil-service commissioner "he was an efficient officer, despite his bluster and his grandstand posing;" but "aside from the clamor of it his record is in no sense extraordinary." In the Spanish war he did most of the fighting and gave the really important orders at San Juan, but with a "mighty pen" afterwards and "a robust imagination." Incidentally in this connection the author avails himself of the opportunity which Mr. Roosevelt's war record affords, to rescue the reputation of the Seventy-first New York from imputations of cowardice. "It is," he says, "a vile aspersion. With their black powder Springfields, worse than useless, and their inefficient officers, they were put to a test to which no other soldiers even there submitted. They were not cowards who scaled San Juan heights with Rafferty—who kept step with their comrades without firing a shot, for that was the only condition upon which the separated companies and groups were permitted to participate."

Mr. Roosevelt's career as Governor certainly lacks in this book the brilliant beauty in which it appears to "Teddyolators;" but Mr. Bennett sticks to the facts and characterizes with judicial restraint. Regarding Roosevelt's Vice Presidential candidacy, the reader is left to infer whether it was "consciously or unconsciously that he lent

himself to the plans of Platt and Quay;" but going to the convention "in Rough Rider hat and the rakish dash and swagger of the regiment, so well-advertised a man as he naturally attracted attention," and Platt and Quay did the rest. The author so well appreciates what he calls "Roosevelt's marvelous skill as a politician," that in his judgment "it must always remain a question whether Platt and Quay in this matter of the Vice Presidency made Roosevelt their unwilling but lucky victim or were really his unconscious tools."

After following Mr. Roosevelt's career down to the present time, the author predicts his historical magnitude with discernment and discrimination. It will depend, he writes, "upon the future course of the Republic. This none but a prophet can foresee. . . . If this nation should become a great imperialistic military power, inspiring admiration by its splendor, and fear by its momentary strength; if after a hectic, feverish course of apparent brilliancy should ensue the palsied inefficiency of bureaucracy, with the inevitable death and disintegration, some future Gibbon, telling some future people, lusty in the strength of young manhood, the story of its decline and fall, would designate the time of the Spanish war as the day upon which the seeds of the white death had been sown. Theodore Roosevelt would be written down as the President who had seen to it that these seeds had taken root. And Roosevelt would be remembered. . . . On the other hand, should the bright sunlight and pure air of life-giving freedom strengthen our Republic to throw off the menace of this white death—destroy this canker-ing germ which imperial ambition has planted in its bosom; if, defying time, our Republic should live a democratic sanctuary through the ages, then the period of Roosevelt will be but a feverish, unsubstantial dream. He shall then be counted as one of the evanescent, inconsequent incidents of our national life."

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THOUGHTS WHILE TRAVELING.

The Disinherited. Observations in Travel, Giving New Views and Descriptions of Old Routes and Scenes. By George Wallace. New York: J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, 57 Rose street. Price, \$1.00.

A further supplementary title to this book indicates that it is more than a collection of travel jottings. It is also a book in which conditions of old world people are observed and depicted, and the cause of the poverty which afflicts so many is individually studied and timely comments on home topics are made.

About to go upon a European journey, the author promised the editor of his local paper on Long Island, the South Side Observer, to make notes of his observations on the way, and the letters com-

posing this volume, republished from the Observer, are the result. They are characterized by the freedom of thought of one writing from abroad to neighbors at home, and by the simplicity of expression which comes from utterance without self-consciousness. It is the author himself and not a guide book, who does the observing and reflecting.

In Ireland he notes the fact, not especially just but altogether human, that while the Irish leaders denounce absentee landlords they are quite reconciled to the idea of being landlords. Yet, as the author says, "if all the Irish landlords were Irishmen and lived in Ireland, rankling poverty would still exist."

Among his reflections upon the two thousand years of Christianity, regarding which so many of us are prone to think that it has had opportunity all those years to improve social conditions and has failed, the author impressively insists that Christianity has not had this opportunity, because humanity has never accepted Christianity. When men really obey the Golden Rule and find that it doesn't work, then and not till then can we say that Christianity is a failure. In this connection the author puts a searching question to the official leaders of Christianity: "Does the church today believe," he asks, "that enforced poverty is right and just? Does it believe that unearned wealth is in accordance with God's will?"

The countries visited and written about by the author are France, England, Scotland and Ireland.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Early New England Towns. A Comparative Study of Their Development. By Anne Bush Maclear, Ph. D. Published by Columbia University, through Longmans, Green & Co., New York.

—Private Freight Cars and American Railways. By L. D. H. Weld, Ph. D., Garth Fellow in Political Economy. Published by Columbia University, through Longmans, Green & Co., New York.

—Prophet of Peace. Revised by Asenath Carver Coolidge, author of "The Independence Day Horror at Killsbury," etc. Pictured by Cassius M. Coolidge. Published by Hungerford-Holbrook Company, Watertown, N. Y. Price \$1.00.

—Preliminary Report on the Soils and Agricultural Conditions of North Central Wisconsin. By Samuel Weldman, Ph. D., Geologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. From State Board of Immigration, Madison, Wis.

PAMPHLETS

The Union Square Tragedy.

Robert Hunter has written an open letter, published in pamphlet form (New York), to the Commissioner of Police of New York and to the Mayor, in which he gives a detailed account of the recent police outrage in Union Square (p. 110) which culminated in