
BOOKS

MEXICO OF TODAY.

Mexico and the United States. By Frederick Starr. Published by the Bible House, 443 S. Dearborn St., Chicago. 1914. Price, \$3.50.

Professor Starr, the well-known anthropologist of the University of Chicago, whose frequent journeys of investigation into Mexico during the past twenty years have made him an intimate observer and friend of both Indians and Spaniards, has just presented to the public a timely book in a readable form. Without pretense of treating the subject after the stately manner of historians, the author has nevertheless succeeded in giving a condensed and graphic description of the Mexico that is now looking into the mouths of American cannon. Dismissing with a few words the glamour that Bancroft spread over Aztec civilization, and the romance that Lew Wallace wove into the land of the Montezumas, Professor Starr sets forth the prosaic facts of modern research; and upon these he constructs his history of the past hundred years.

That the author endorses John Kenneth Turner's "Barbarous Mexico" will give the reader an idea of his point of view. But he is particular to state that Mr. Turner's title is unfortunate in that it conveys the idea that it refers to the people of Mexico, whereas in reality it is applied to the methods of the government, and particularly to the Diaz government. Professor Starr thinks the Mexican government all that Turner said it was, and more; but for the people themselves he has a sympathetic appreciation that will appeal to those who look upon Mexico as something other than a land to be despoiled by a stronger race. He explains why we are hated by the Mexicans. "They realize that we are different; they consider us most disagreeable. We assume and try to demonstrate that we are superior. Our attitude toward them is always critical and instructive." These social antagonisms, added to the economic friction that comes from our beginning where the despoiling Spaniard left off, serve to explain some of the recent happenings south of the Rio Grande.

Professor Starr, always a strong anti-imperialist, sympathizes heartily with the non-intervention principle of the Administration at Washington, but frankly decries the non-recognition of Huerta as a diplomatic mistake in method of carrying out the peace policy. Let them absolutely alone, he says, to battle out their own way to an equilibrium as Argentina and Chile have done, and Nicaragua and the others will do.

Altogether, Professor Starr's book is one from which the busy man can get a picture of the real conditions in Mexico, without devoting prolonged study to the question.

S. C.

A UNIVERSITY ADDRESS.

On Politics and History. By Viscount Morley. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York, 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

In the turmoil of the hottest battle of the foremost war between democracy and plutocracy in the world today, when the British Tories have "forged Ulster into a fire-arm" in their desperate stand against the land program of the Liberal Ministry, when Great Britain and all the world breathlessly watches Parliament—at this moment there has been published in England an unimpassioned, philosophical, calm little book written by one of the three most prominent Liberals in the House of Lords.

John Morley's biographies are a part of the world's literature. This generation knows itself and its heredity far better because of Morley's masterly interpretation of the character and career and influence of Edmund Burke and Richard Cobden, of Rousseau and Gladstone and Cromwell.

But this latest book of Lord Morley's is not a biography. "Politics and History" is an essay, "a version, and recast" of an address made by the author in 1912 as Chancellor of the University of Manchester. The audience and the occasion explain the unrestraint of its erudition. With the stuff of its thought we are all concerned—the great social motives and queries of mankind and suggestions for their interpretation and solution:

What is public opinion like? How shall we appreciate representative government in the cross-lights of its advocates and forerunners and foes?

Representative government exists today in a hundred different forms, depending on a hundred differences in social state and history, and nobody claims for public opinion in all or any of them either sanctity or infallibility. But to make a mock of it, is merely to quarrel with human life. We all know the shortcomings in political opinion and character—the fatal contentment with simple answers to complex questions; the readiness, as Hobbes put it, to turn against reason, if reason is against you; violent over-estimate of petty things; vehement agitation one day, reaction as vehement the other way the next; money freely laid on a flashing favorite this week, deep curses on what has proved the wrong horse the week after; haste; moral cowardice; futility. But if anybody supposes that these mischiefs are peculiar to parliaments or democracy, he must be strangely ill-read in the annals of military despotism, absolute personal power, centralized bureaucracy, exalted ceremonial courts.

Does mankind actually progress? John Stuart Mill expressed an "audacious doubt." How shall we use history?

History's direct lessons are few, its specific morals rare. To say this is not to disparage the grand inspiration that present may draw from past, or the priceless value of old examples of lofty public deeds and magnanimous men. . . . To working statesmen parallels may easily be a snare, and lu-

dicrous misapplications from Greece and Rome inspired some of the worst aberrations both of the French Revolution and of the Empire. The Old Testament was often made to play the same part in our own rebellion. They are convenient to the politician. A plausible parallel makes him feel surer of his ground. It is as refreshing as a broad reflective digression in a close narrative.

What has each of the European nations contributed to the western world's sum of good?

Let us note in passing that our fashionable idolatry of great States cannot blind us to the cardinal fact that self-government, threatened with death when Protestantism appeared upon the stage, was saved by three small communities so little imperial in scope and in ideals as Holland, Switzerland, and Scotland. Taking Rousseau and Calvin together, Geneva stands first of the three.

How goes the great duel between the doctrine that "the State is Force" and the faith in Peace Triumphant?

Let us refresh ourselves by recalling the plea for perpetual peace that came from the pen of the great German, who died at the beginning of the nineteenth century, leaving behind him a fame and influence both as metaphysician and moralist, that place him among the foremost of all his countrymen. . . . He points to the immoderate exhaustion of incessant and long preparation for war. He presses the evil consequence at last entailed by war, even through the midst of peace, driving nations to all manner of costly expedients and experiments. When war ends, after infinite devastation, ruin, and universal exhaustion of energy, comes a peace on terms that plain reason would have suggested from the first. The remedy is a federal league of nations in which even the weakest member looks for protection to the united power, and the adjudication of the collective will. States, Kant predicts, must of necessity be driven at last to the very same resolution to which the savage man of nature was driven with equal reluctance; namely, to sacrifice brutish liberty, and to seek peace and security in a civil constitution founded upon law.

A. L. G.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Democracy and Race Friction. By John Moffatt Mecklin. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.25 net.

—Teaching Sex Hygiene in the Public Schools. By E. B. Lowry. Published by Forbes & Co., Chicago. 1914. Price, 50 cents net.

—Joseph Pulitzer. Reminiscences of a Secretary. By Alleyne Ireland. Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York. 1914. Price, \$1.25 net.

—The Fundamental Basis of Nutrition. By Graham Lusk. Published by Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1914. Price 50 cents; postage, 4 cents.

—The Cause of Business Depressions. By Hugo Bilgram in collaboration with Louis Edward Levy.

Published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. 1914. Price, \$2.00 net.

PERIODICALS

The Spanish Singletaxer.

A photograph of the late Mr. Joseph Fels, with a short sketch of his life and his great efforts in the interest of humanity, is on the front page of the Spanish Singletaxer for April. Mr. Fels had many warm friends among the Spanish Singletaxers who deeply mourn his departure and pay fine tribute to his memory. Mr. Alvaro Florez Estrada writes an analytical exposure of the absurd claims in favor of the tariff by its beneficiaries—claims based on arguments all more or less familiar to American readers. Mr. Baldomero Argente, another Spanish economist, also attacks the tariff, the revision effective in 1916 which is ostensibly downward, but by adroit manipulation is actually upward in its tendency. Evidently the tariff boosters in Spain need no expert advice from the ex-Aldrich-Payne Committee. The "Problem of Property," by Mr. Henry H. Hardinge, defines the difference between that which is produced by labor from that which is provided by Nature. There is also an editorial entitled, "Precaution against Sophistication." The Singletax cannot be a movement of any single political party; it must appeal to the souls and consciences of the people aside from parties and independent of party discipline; in this way only can favorable legislation be secured. Mr. Luis Olariaga and Mr. Ramiro de Maetzu have gone to Berlin, as students of Professor Oppenheimer's new economic doctrine, the "Renascent Liberal Economy," which aims to control land monopoly by legal restrictions, so that landlords may not raise rents to suit their fancy. From this postulate, Messrs. Olariaga and Maetzu are making a bitter attack in the Spanish press, on the Singletax. Mr. Antonio Albendin, in meeting their arguments, calls their attention to the fact that they are reasoning from a false premise; the law of rent is governed by supply and demand, not by any whim of the landowner, nor can it be controlled by statutory laws.

C. L. LOGAN.

Singletax in the Technical Journals.

It keeps one busy nowadays to watch the Single tax break out in new places. The technical magazines are the field of its latest appearance. A good example is The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, published by the American Chemical Society, and edited by Professor M. C. Whitaker, of Columbia University, New York City. The April number has a lengthy article by Professor J. J. Miller, of the Ohio State University at Columbus, under the title, "Conservation of Natural Resources in Relation to Business." In the author's words: "This article is an application of the fundamental principles set forth by Henry George in his 'Progress and Poverty' and 'Our Land and Land Policy.'" Some idea of his argument is given by the following passage: "If timber lands and barren lands which are especially suited to timber and are of equal value are