

*Voyages of a Merchant Navigator of the Days that are Past.* Compiled from the Journals and Letters of the late Richard J. Cleveland. By H. W. S. Cleveland. Harper & Bros. 1886.

OF the Salem sea-captains who first made our shipping known to the world, Capt. Richard Cleveland was the hero of some of the most remarkable and adventurous voyages. His father, who, it is interesting to know, was the brother of the Connecticut minister from whom the President is descended, was the first to unfurl our flag on a Government ship in a European port; and his son, whose biography is a broad view of American commerce in its first period, unfurled it in all parts of the world. He himself wrote a long 'Narrative' of his voyages, in an admirably plain and intelligent style, published over forty years ago; and the present volume, although drawn from letters and journals, is yet, in effect, an abridgment of the earlier work. He got his education in the counting-room, and started out to make his fortune before he was a man in years. He was daring, acute, ready with resources, prompt in action, long-enduring; and, either alone or in company with the still-remembered Algerian Consul, William Shaler, upon the Alaska Fur-Coast, in the East India seas, or among the California missions, or manœuvring between French and English in the Danish straits, or defying Spanish governors in the Chilian ports, or being plundered by Admiral Cochrane in the West Indies, or confiscated by Napoleon in the bay of Naples, he succeeded in making half-a-dozen fortunes, and also in losing them. After one of these expeditions George Cabot said to him, "You have cut a good deal of hay, but you have got it in very badly"; and the words might have been his epitaph, for he died poor, except for his sons.

His letters show that Capt. Cleveland's character grew merely by the enlargement of experience. He owed little to books, though he was an industrious reader, and came to a certain intellectual command and power unusual in a man of mercantile pursuits, with a tendency to philosophizing in a leisurely eighteenth-century way. One sentence, written in 1810, is an interesting example of the times, and also a piece of the man himself:

"My dear boys must early become accustomed to hardships. They have a prospect of living in turbulent times, when the civil must be subservient to the military authority, when the only right that is acknowledged will be that of power; and consequently they must, by the improvement of their talents and early acquaintance with danger, become masters, or, by neglect of them and a retired life, submit to be slaves. I have ordered a copy of the 'Travels of Count Beniewski' and of Plutarch. These ought to be their study till they have them by heart; and if afterwards they should die at sixty of disappointment, I'll disown them."

We suspect that Capt. Cleveland was himself nurtured on old Plutarch, from some of his boyhood letters. His interest in his boys' education had good results in establishing the Lancaster Academy, for whose first principal he selected Jared Sparks, afterwards succeeded by George B. Emerson and Solomon P. Miles. He died, full of days, at the opening of the civil war; and, if less blessed with wealth and honors than some of his early associates, it was by fortune's caprice.

*The Story of Norway.* By Hjalmar H. Boyesen. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1886.

THE author states in his preface that it has been his ambition for many years to write a history of Norway, and that he therefore eagerly accepted the proposal to write the volume upon his native country for the series entitled "The Story of the

Nations." He explains, however, that the "story," according to the plan of the publishers, was to differ in some important respects from a regular history. "It was to dwell particularly upon the dramatic phases of historical events, and concern itself but slightly with the growth of institutions and sociological phenomena. It therefore necessarily takes small account of proportion." The *history of Norway*, for English readers, has yet to be written, and it can never be properly written within the compass of this volume. Indeed, it has been a difficult task to tell the so-called "story" of the country in a 12mo volume of 556 pages; and the narrative of the thirty-five successive rulers of the land from 860 to the time of Queen Margaret and the Union of Calmar, 1397, occupying more than four-sevenths of the volume, proceeds perforce with such rapidity that the reader has the confused impression of having witnessed a swift-moving panorama of continuous barbaric warfare. It is not made manifest that, in spite of the constant civil strife and public warring, there was a slow but sure social development, so that one is surprised at a hint that society was not in just the same crude state at the end of the 500 years of fighting that it was at the beginning.

The 400 years of Norway's union with Denmark, following the Treaty of Calmar, are very properly allowed but three brief chapters, for, as the author well says, "Many things happened, no doubt, during those centuries, but 'there were few deeds';" but the interesting final chapter, containing the history of Norway since 1814, might with advantage have been allotted more space than barely eighteen pages of text. In the first three chapters, dealing with the origin of the Norsemen, their religion, and their viking voyages, what is quoted as legend and what is meant to be stated as historical truth is not always distinguished; and the author might have added to his collection of reference books Steenstrup's 'Normannerne' ('The Northmen') for consultation, when writing the third chapter dealing with the Viking Age. In the chapter which relates the discovery of America by the Norsemen, exception may be taken to the passage on p. 180 which reads: "The statement that the sun rose in this region, on the shortest day of the year, at half-past seven and set at half-past four, indicates a latitude of 41° 24' 10"; Leif, accordingly, must have landed somewhere in the neighborhood of Cape Cod or Fall River, Mass." The theory that the "Vinland" of the Norsemen was situated near Fall River, depends entirely upon the supposition that the latitude deduced from the statement as to the length of the shortest day corresponds to the position of the modern city; but it has been pointed out that the computation which indicated the result quoted (published in English by Prof. Rafn), was incorrect, and that the true latitude of the shortest winter day of nine hours, in the eleventh century (the time of the Norsemen's arrival) would be 42° 21'; while Prof. Gustav Storm, of the University of Christiania, with the aid of the Norwegian astronomer, Hans Geelmuyden, demonstrates conclusively (*Arkiv for nordisk Filologi*, November, 1885) that the evidence as to the time of sunset on the shortest winter day, contained in the sagas, is not sufficient to indicate the exact latitude, the only deduction tenable being that the location was not further north than 49° 55'.

Prof. Boyesen's manner of writing is at once dignified and entertaining, and he has produced a valuable and interesting book, which deserves to find a host of readers, old and young. The publishers have taken great pains to make it attractive; the paper is excellent, the typography (excepting the proof-reading) is good, and there are more than seventy illustrations, including an excellent likeness of the poet Björnson.

*Oranges and Alligators: Sketches of South Florida Life.* By Iza Duffus Hardy. London: Ward & Downey. 1886. Pp. viii, 240. 8vo.

IT is high but deserved praise to say of this book that it is as good in its way as Lady Barker's 'Station Life in New Zealand.' There is naturally far less of the alligator in it than of the orange, but any lack of information as to the habits of the saurian or the methods of hunting it, is amply made up by the clear idea which Miss Hardy gives of the orange culture, from the selection of the wild land for the grove to the packing of the fruit. In writing she has especially in mind those of her countrymen who contemplate settling in Florida, and her advice to them is summed up in these words: "Florida for young men without money means steady hard work or dead failure. . . . You must be ready to take up anything that comes to your hand, an axe, a pitchfork, or even a broom!" Of the ultimate success of the man who is not afraid of hard labor and scanty fare, she is confident, even though she witnessed the ravages of the cold wave last January, when the lemons, bananas, grape-fruit, citrons, and guavas were destroyed, and "the oranges were frozen stiff on the trees." The greater part of the winter was spent at Lake Maitland in Orange-County, but excursions were made to Rock Ledge on the Indian River, near the headwaters of the St. John's and close to the Atlantic, and to Tarpon Springs near Tampa, on the Gulf Coast. Both of these were new settlements, and her description of them and the journey to them gives a most vivid picture of the present condition and prospects of Southern Florida. At Rock Ledge she found that the oranges, said to be the finest in Florida, had suffered but little from the cold, and were so plentiful that at the hotel "every morning a bough freshly gathered from the grove, with the glossy leaves and golden fruit growing on it, was laid by our plates." There are also scattered through the book graphic sketches of the negroes, "crackers," and young English fortune-seekers, as well as charming descriptions of the scenery.

*Memoirs and Letters of Dolly Madison, Wife of James Madison, President of the United States.* Edited by her grandniece. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1886.

"QUEEN DOLLY," as Mrs. Madison came to be pleasantly named (it was at the ball on the establishment of peace that Sir Charles Bagot said she looked "every inch a queen"), was more truly a belle than any other woman who has presided over the gayeties of the White House. She was born of very sober parents, and was a demure little Quaker girl, with a small bag of old-fashioned jewelry, given her by a less austere grandmother, tucked away under her dress about her neck. From her grief when the string broke and she lost her treasure in the woods, a modern analyst might prophesy her future. From her Virginia home she removed to Philadelphia, and, her father failing in business and in health, she dutifully married a friend of his and at the same time a fortune; the husband soon died, and left her to be the wealthy bride of the confirmed bachelor, James Madison. In consequence of this union she was practically the lady of the White House in Jefferson's day as well as during her husband's term, and afterwards she was a great figure in Virginia society, and still later, in her widowhood, at Washington.

These facts are told in this small volume, and they are made alive and contemporary by many letters, which exhibit—in rather dull colors, it is true (but the epistolary style of those days was grave)—something of society at the period, but also a simple womanly nature, interested in a woman's affairs, bright, cheerful, domestic, faith-

ful to her duties, loyal and affectionate and considerate, in society very intent on pleasing others, and an enemy only to quarrelling and unsocial gravity—an entirely honorable, attractive, and capable character from girlhood to her last hours.

The most exciting incident is the taking of Washington by the British, which is graphically told. Few historical personages come into the canvas. Count d'Orsay, who makes a hunting excursion in Virginia—"would borrow Payne's [her son's] summer clothes, and go forth, returning as ragged as bushes and mires could make him, rest for several days and then off again, tumbling into the river, losing his way, and yet come home laughing at his adventures." Old Mrs. Madison, keeping her state in her own part of the rambling homestead, is a very delightful old-portrait-like character, with her Bible and knitting and her gifts of stockings to the favored guests, and the old negro of ninety wagging to sleep behind her chair at dinner. Signs of social manners are contained in Mrs. Madison's remark upon the Fourth of July dinner at Montpelier in 1820, when ninety persons, of whom only four were ladies, sat down—"the dinner was profuse and good, and the company very orderly." Such was Virginian hospitality. "Jeffersonian simplicity," at least in banquets, is explained by a foreigner's remark that Mrs. Madison's table "was more like a harvest-home supper than the entertainment of a high official"; to which she replied, on hearing of it, that she did "not hesitate to sacrifice the delicacy of European taste for the less elegant but more liberal fashion of Virginia." Later, in 1826, she thinks if she were in Washington she "could not

conform to the formal rules of visiting they now have, but would disgrace myself by rushing about among my friends at all hours." Of Mr. Madison one sees very little; but his study, habits, and surroundings are pleasantly and fully sketched. The work has been well written, with taste, picturesqueness, and a love for the persons involved in the picture. Out of somewhat slight materials a very interesting book has been made; and the list of American women who survive in history is so brief that this biography of one of the leading public characters of her day, as well as of Virginia society in its noted time, is very welcome.

*The Art Gallery of the English Language.* By A. H. Morrison. Toronto: Williamson & Co. 1886.

In the earlier pages of this volume the author remarks, in the course of an *excursus* upon the future life: "I hope and trust that we shall be able to recognize our work, and give account of it to the eternal progression of the cycles, which, though concentric, like the ripples in the clear surface of water, spread ever outward and onward from the point where self-consciousness first struck the great ocean of infinite being." We are inclined to leave the author to settle for this particular work with that same "eternal progression of the cycles." It is a singular exercise in rhetoric, in verbosity; never was there such a posturing of words, and the author never shows his head above the puppets except in a pretentious way. He classifies literature as architecture, sculpture, painting, and music, in language, and cites examples of words that build, carve,

paint, and flow melodiously. But why not also add that literature is dancing, jewel work, millinery, horsemanship, or any other art, and cite Wordsworth's daffodils, and some more of Edwin Arnold's India work, and a dozen pieces of *vers de société*, and Byron's, "Mazeppa" to illustrate the assertion? His classification is a mere metaphor; his logical faculty itself swallowed up in the rhetorical sense. His acquaintance with literature is wide, if not discriminating; there is even a quotation from Percival!—and the extracts are frequently excellent reading. For the rest, we commend him to "the cycles," according to our first decision.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Accidents, and How to Save Life when they Occur, with a Complete Treatise on Poisons and their Antidotes. Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
- Adams, O. F. September. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.
- Bacon's Dictionary of Boston. With an Historical Introduction by George E. Ellis, D.D., LL.D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.
- Bartholomew, J. The Pocket Atlas of the World. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
- Bishop, P. P. The Psychologist. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
- Bolton, Sarah K. Stories from Life. Thos. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
- Churchillman. The Story of Carthage. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
- Crawford, Mrs. Lucy. The History of the White Mountains from the First Settlement of Upper Coos and Pequaket. Portland: B. Thurston & Co. New Edition. \$2.00.
- Crowninshield, F. Mural Painting. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$3.00.
- Culley, J. L. Treatise on the Theory of the Construction of Helicoidal Oblique Arches. D. Van Nostrand. 50 cents.
- Dawson, Sir J. W. Handbook of Zoology. 3d ed., enlarged. Montreal: Dawson Brothers. \$1.25.
- Davitt, M. Leaves from a Prison Diary. Ford's National Library. 25 cents.
- Doubleday, C. W. Reminiscences of the "Fillbuster" War in Nicaragua. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
- Fawcett, E. A Gentleman of Leisure. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.
- Ford, W. C. The American Citizen's Manual. 2 vols in 1. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
- Gréville, H. "Zitka"; or, the Trials of Raissa. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. 75 cents.

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