

esses, and one *en voyage* had thrown her baby out of the porthole to die in the sea!" And this is the Government which poses before the world as the protector of Christians in China and Tonkin. The number of convicts now in New Caledonia is variously estimated, Capt. Norman, in this 'Colonial France,' giving the last official figures as 9,334, Mr. Thomas putting them at nearly 20,000, which is probably much nearer the truth, since several thousand *récidivistes* have recently been transported thither. These "habitual criminals," persons who, in general terms, have within ten years been condemned three times to imprisonment for three months, or once to hard labor and once to a detention of three months, are to form settlements with the power of choosing their own municipal officers, and are, as we are given to understand, after a time to be permitted to leave the island, but never to return to France. Naturally Australia, only 700 miles distant, is the place to which they will go and to which a large number of the *libérés* do actually escape. This fact has led the Australians to protest, with justifiable vehemence, against the *récidiviste* bill and the annexation of the New Hebrides by France for the purpose of providing settlements for this new class of convicts.

It was in 1883, when the excitement over this question was at its height in Australia, that Mr. Thomas visited the New Hebrides to report upon the movements of the French and the present condition of the labor trade. He found the islands similar in most respects to the Fijis, but inhabited, with the exception of Aniitium, by a fierce race of savages, among whom a few white traders, planters, and missionaries live in constant fear of their lives. Several of those whom he saw at that time have since been killed. Most of the land in the possession of the whites had been bought by a French commercial house, which had absorbed nearly all the trade and was using its very powerful influence on the Government to annex the group. Mr. Thomas made it a part of his work to discover the opinions of the natives on this point, and with great courage he went alone among them to win their confidence and thus arrive at the truth. As a result of his investigations, he asserts that there is a universal and profound hatred of the French, or the *Kai-vee-wee*, as they are termed. In this conclusion he is borne out by Mr. Romilly, who, in his recent book on the Western Pacific, says that the natives do not consider the Frenchman to be a white man. Of their willingness to be annexed to Australia, which Mr. Thomas also confidently asserts, there is more reason to be sceptical.

Our traveller had equally favorable opportunities for studying the labor question. Not only did he cruise in labor vessels, but he landed in various places with the recruiters, and finally went to Australia in a ship with a cargo of natives to observe their treatment during the passage. One of the most notable men engaged in this traffic, with whom he sailed, was "the son of a Senator of Louisiana, and nephew to Gen. Beauregard," James Toutant Proctor, who lost a leg at Chancellorsville, but "served on the staff of Gen. Beauregard till the close of the war." Since then he had been a planter in the Fijis and New Hebrides, a trader, and was now a sailor in the employ of the French New Hebrides Company. The present condition of the labor trade is very different from what it was a few years ago, when this same Capt. Proctor was described by missionaries and Government officials as "being a curse wherever he went." The natives' freedom of choice is carefully guarded. Government agents go out with each vessel to see that none are taken by force, and that the ship has the legally prescribed accommodations for its living freight. According to Mr. Thomas's account, the one hundred and twenty natives on

board the *Lizzie* were happy and well cared for. They sang and danced and played "cat's cradle" with a piece of sinnet, making "most wonderful combinations, far exceeding anything a white child would dream of." He believes that they return to their homes, after a three-years' service on a Queensland plantation, improved; but in this favorable opinion Mr. Romilly, the Government Commissioner, and the missionaries generally do not agree. We have not space to dwell upon our author's observations on the work of the English missionaries, further than to say that his criticism on the comparative uselessness of translating the Scriptures into languages and dialects which are fast disappearing seems to us just. One would think that they had never heard of Eliot's Indian Bible. The French priests follow the wiser course of teaching their converts the French language. This policy of the missionaries is the more surprising from the fact that many of the natives in all the islands are able to speak a little English.

The final chapters of this very interesting book are upon New Guinea, but they add nothing new to our information about this island. We regret that the author has not valued his work highly enough to give it an index. In the map which accompanies the volume, the Caroline Islands are incorrectly ascribed to Germany instead of to Spain.

*Sketches from English History.* Selected and edited, with an introduction (from the Roman Conquests to the Revolution of 1688) by Arthur M. Wheeler, Professor of History in Yale College. New York: Chautauqua Press. 1886. 8vo, pp. 372.

PROF. WHEELER'S 'Sketches' consist of sixty-two selections, covering the entire field of English history, from "the Roman occupation" (Green) "to the story of Cawnpore" (Kaye). The selections are made with excellent judgment, from writers of the highest standing. A good notion of the execution, as regards both selection and completeness, will be given by the list of extracts for the reign of George II.: "Walpole as a Peace Minister" (Green); "The Preaching of Whitefield" (Lecky); "After Culloden" (Stanhope); "Pitt as a War Minister" (Macaulay). Each selection is introduced by a well-written paragraph by the editor, and he has provided also a general introduction—in too fine print, and ending, we cannot see why, at the accession of William III. One would have supposed that more abundant foot-notes would be desirable, and at any rate there should be some account of the authors and the works from which the selections are taken. An appendix contains fifteen maps, taken from Labberton's Historical Atlas. As a whole, the book is the best of its class with which we are acquainted.

*The Two Spies.* Nathan Hale and John André. By Benson J. Lossing, LL.D. Illustrated with pen-and-ink sketches by H. Rosa. D. Appleton & Co. 1886. Pp. 169.

In this handsome volume Mr. Lossing relates with good taste and feeling the familiar stories of the two Revolutionary spies—stories familiar, but which will never lose their attractiveness or their pathos. There are too few materials for the life of Nathan Hale to allow it to be more than an introduction to that of the brilliant English officer; but, short as it is—barely thirty pages—this sketch makes a deeper impression upon the reader than the account of André which occupies the greater part of the volume. The publication of the book seems to have (apart from its general historical purpose) a two-fold object: partly to justify the erection, by Mr. Field, of the monument to André at Tappaan, but princi-

pally to excite interest in the projected monument to Hale. The writer's sentiment and sympathy are shown by these words of the "Fore-talk":

"The motives of the two spies were expressed by themselves. Hale said: 'I wish to be useful. If the exigencies of my country demand a peculiar service, its claims to the performance of that service are imperious.' André avowed that in the enterprise in which he was engaged all he sought was 'military glory, the applause of his King and country, and, perhaps, a brigadiership.' The last words uttered by André under the gibbet indicated that his supreme thought at that moment was of *himself*. He said to the American officers present, 'I request you, gentlemen, that you will bear me witness to the world that I die like a brave man.' Hale's last words upon the ladder indicated that his supreme thought at that moment was of his *country*. He said: 'I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.'"

This volume has an especial literary interest, as containing André's "Cow-chase" in full, and also Miss Anna Seward's "Monody on Major André"—never before published in this country; also, three letters from André to Miss Seward, written at the age of eighteen.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Andrews, C. C. Brazil: Its Condition and Prospects. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.  
 Bishop, J. P. Commentaries on the Law of Contracts, upon a New and Condensed Method. (A new work superseding the author's old one.) Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co.  
 Bowen, J. K. The Conflict of East and West in Egypt. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.  
 Conrad, G. S. Cassell's Public School French Reader. Cassell & Co. \$1.  
 Daudet, A. La Belle-Nivernaise. Histoire d'un vieux bateau et de son équipage. William R. Jenkins. 25 cents.  
 Dawson, E. C. James Hannington, First Bishop of Equatorial Africa. A History of his Life and Work. 1847-1885. E. & J. B. Young & Co. \$2.  
 Elliot, H. R. The Common Chord: A Story of the Ninth Ward. Cassell & Co. \$1.  
 Fenn, G. M. The Master of the Ceremonies: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co. 50 cents.  
 Fischer, H. Lessing's Laokoon und die Gesetze der bildenden Kunst. Berlin: Weidmann. 3 m., 60 pf.  
 Fleming, Dr. G. The Practical Horse-Keeper. Cassell & Co. \$2.  
 Fothergill, Jessie. Borderland: A Country-Town Chronicle. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.  
 Fremont, J. C. Memoirs of My Life. Parts 4 to 10 Inclusive. Belford, Clarke & Co. 60 cents each.  
 Frith, I. Life of Giordano Bruno, the Nolan. London: Trübner & Co. \$2.  
 Gaidoz, H. La Rage et St. Hubert. Paris: Alphonse Picard.  
 Gaskell, Mrs. Cranford. Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.  
 Genetraye, A. L'Ombre. William R. Jenkins.  
 George Washington's Fifty-seven Rules of Behavior. With a historical preface by Wm. O. Stoddard. Denver: W. H. Lawrence & Co. 40 cents.  
 Greene, Belle C. A New England Idyl. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.  
 Greville Memoirs. A Journal of the Reign of Queen Victoria. Vol. II. D. Appleton & Co. \$2.  
 Gröber, Prof. G. Grundriss der römischen Philologie. Part 2. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner.  
 Hale, E. E., Sr. and Jun. Franklin in France. From Original Documents, most of which are now published for the first time. Boston: Roberts Brothers.  
 Hodder, E. The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K. G. With Portraits. In 3 vols. Cassell & Co. \$7.50.  
 Irean, J. R. A History of the United States of America from the Monarchic Colonial Days to the Present Times. In 18 vols. Vols. III and IV. Chicago: Fairbanks & Palmer Publishing Co.  
 Longfellow, H. W. The Golden Legend. With Notes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 40 cents.  
 Maxwell, W. H. Elementary Lessons in Language and Composition. A. S. Barnes & Co. 35 cents.  
 Memorial of James Alexander Dupee. With a Short Life. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co.  
 Moor, C. R. Faith and Righteousness. A Memorial of Sumner Ellis, D.D., with an Outline of his Life and Ministry. Boston: Universalist Publishing House. \$1.  
 Morrison, Jeanie. The Purpose of the Ages. Macmillan & Co. \$2.50.  
 Olcott, H. S. A Buddhist Catechism, according to the Sinhalese Canon. Approved and Recommended for Use in Buddhist Schools. Madras: Graves, Cookson & Co.  
 Reid, T. W. Gladys Fane: A Story of Two Lives. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 20 cents.  
 Row, Olcott. Hinduism: the Dwaita Philosophy of Sri Ram Madhvacacharyar. Compiled from original Sanscrit and other works. Madras: Popham's.  
 Schroeder, S. The Fall of Maximilian's Empire. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.  
 Silsbee, M. C. D. A Half Century in Salem. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.  
 Stapf, F. P. Racine et Victor Hugo. Paris: Armand Colin & Cie.  
 Taylor, J. N. Treatise on the American Law of Landlord and Tenant. Eighth ed. 2 vols. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.  
 Through the Gates of Gold: A Fragment of Thought. Boston: Roberts Brothers. 50 cents.  
 Walker, H. E. The Lady of Dardale, and Other Poems. Macmillan, N. H.: Browne & Rowe.  
 Warriner, E. A. I Am that I Am: The Philosophic Basis of Christian Faith. A Metrical Essay. Boston: Cupples, Upham & Co. \$1.  
 Yriarte, Charles. Autour du Conelle. Paris: J. Rothschild.  
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