

tic, gossipy, and sedate. Dubious pun and obvious reflection, poetic sentiment and solid erudition, flow from her pen with equal facility. Interwoven with her sprightly narrative, we find incidental comments upon everything under the sun. Here we have a digression upon "the time-murdering train that dawdles fifteen minutes at every wayside station, . . . and steams in and out of each at one-horse—no, one-donkey or puppy-dog power." There the author indulges in a passing fling at the "horrible, uncivilized print that the Germans blind themselves with." Presently we come across a strong defence of the study of Latin and Greek, with caustic remarks at the expense of those who would discourage such study in the supposed interest of natural science. Here a dash of fine writing or a burst of romantic sentiment; there the speech of common sense and worldly wisdom; and quotations—quotations by the hundred (good ones, too), for the adornment of the tale and the pointing of the writer's reflections. Occasionally a number of these quotations are fired off in quick sequence, like the successive pops of a Roman candle. Then the effect is bewildering; but there is usually entertainment in it, for the language of the book is throughout the language of high breeding and of genuine culture. It is indeed "a pleasant yarn about Linnaeus."

*Roundabout to Moscow.* An Epicurean Journey. By John Bell Bouton. D. Appleton & Co. 1887.

MR. BOUTON is not a Russian, but a Continental, traveller. Though he spent a short time in Moscow and in St. Petersburg, the principal portion of his journey was in the regions of "roundabout." He begins his story with the gaming tables of Monte Carlo, and afterwards runs through the well-known itinerary of tourists, southward to Paestum, at Rome during Easter, in Switzerland when the passes became practicable, and so on through the guide-book stations of Germany to Russia, and homeward by Sweden and Norway and Amsterdam. The narrative is an easy-going diary, and is enlivened by a somewhat free use of the characters of chance acquaintances and specimens of their conversation. After reading passages of this nature, one comes to think the traditional frozen-up Englishman the pattern of discretion. The young man from North Adams and the art critic from Philadelphia will hardly peruse the pages devoted to them with the good-humor that seems ordinarily

to be among their amiable qualities. The freshest part of the book is that which concerns Russia, of which our knowledge is in some respects so full, and in others so defective as to amount only to ignorance. Mr. Bouton was surprised at the apparent looseness of the officials in examining his passport, and at his freedom from annoyance by the police; he found summer travelling, contrary to common report, very pleasant for one accustomed to American heats; and if he did not stray from the beaten paths, or meet with any adventures, or look on common things with new eyes, he certainly enjoyed his dinners and had a good time. The surface view obtained in a rapid tour along well-known lines of travel can make no great claim for itself; at the most, Mr. Bouton's book is a long letter from a press correspondent.

*Letters from the Far East.* By De Lancey Floyd-Jones. Public Service Publishing Company.

IN a book of very comely appearance, Col. De Lancey Floyd-Jones of the United States Army has brought together his letters written to relatives during his recent trip round the world. Collected from the newspapers in which they were originally printed, they now form a connected narrative of travel without the slightest pretence to literary excellence or rhetorical embellishment. The illustrations, numbering one short of a dozen, are well chosen and beautifully executed; and all the appurtenances of a good book (except an index) put the reader on good terms at once with author and publisher. Without any display of professional knowledge, one discovers that the writer's military eye was open and alert; and there is a good deal of information pleasantly conveyed, relative to the armed strength of England, India, China, and Japan—the countries visited. Like all visitors to the Mikado's realm, Col. Floyd-Jones is pleased with country and people. Though the title of the book is 'Letters from the Far East,' yet the opening and closing chapters are devoted to the United States, and two are descriptive of England. The narrative is an easy, unpretentious diary of a gentleman who seems in good health, able to enjoy life, and kindly disposed towards humanity and all the world. In one gratifying feature, the book is free from the average grumbler's complaints and impertinent details of discomfort. It is a sunny story of enjoyable travel.

*Forty Years of Stewart Rule (1603-1643).* By the Author of 'The Heir of Redclyffe.' (Cameos from English History.) Sixth Series. Macmillan & Co. 1887. Pp. 400.

It is hard to find a term which precisely describes Miss Yonge's 'Cameos' of the history of England. They do not form a continuous history, but, on the other hand, they are not wholly detached stories; each "cameo" has a certain completeness in itself, and the subjects are at the same time so selected and arranged as to cover the ground pretty thoroughly and consecutively. Nor are they, as the title would imply, confined to England. The reader can get from the present volume a fair acquaintance with contemporary affairs in France, Germany, and the Netherlands, as is shown by some of the titles—"The Arminian Persecution," "The Snow King" (Gustavus Adolphus), "The Reign of Richelieu." There are in all thirty-one cameos, bringing the story down to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642. And while it is a period which would naturally invite the expression of the writer's well-known prejudices, we must say that we have found her on the whole fair and impartial. The King's want of good faith is somewhat glossed over, and his offences against the Constitution belittled; but his opponents are not misrepresented and vilified, while, on the other hand, Sir John Eliot and Sir John Hampden are described with hearty praise.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Bairn, Prof. A. English Composition and Rhetoric. Enlarged ed. D. Appleton & Co.
- Bates, A Lad's Love. Boston: Roberts Brothers. \$1.
- Bourgeois, E. Neuchâtel et la Politique Prussienne en France Comté (1702-1713). Paris: E. Leroux.
- Bynner, E. L. Penelope's Sutors. Tickner & Co. 50 cents.
- Carlsie, J. H. Johnson's Memoir of Roger Ascham, and Memoir of Thomas Arnold. Boston: Chautauqua Press. 75 cents.
- Clay, Mary S. Twilight Thoughts: Stories for Children. Boston: Ginn & Co. 50 cents.
- Comba, E. Histoire des Vaudois d'Italie. F. W. Christern.
- Comba, Prof. T. E. Metodo Practico e Naturale per lo Studio della Lingua Italiana. Wm. R. Jenkins. \$1.50.
- Combe, Anne S. A Game of Chance. D. Appleton & Co.
- Davis, Rev. L. E. A Pastor's Thoughts on Living Themes. Tubbals Book Co.
- Dilke, Sir C. W. The Present Position of European Politics. Harper & Brothers. 20 cents.
- Dodge, D. S. Memorials of W. E. Dodge. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$1.15.
- Gillette, Mrs. F. L. White House Cook Book. Gillette Publishing Co.
- Haggard, H. R. Allan Quatermain. Harper & Brothers. 25 cents.
- Harte, B. The Crusade of the Excelsior. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
- Hawels, Rev. H. E. The Conquering Cross (The Church). T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
- Hawthorne, J. A Tragic Mystery. Cassell & Co. \$1.
- Heermans, F. Thirteen: Stories of the Far West. Syracuse, N. Y.: C. W. Bardeen.
- Heimburg, W. A Penniless Orphan. Geo. Munro.

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