

letter change (making, however, no attempt at scientific exposition of phonetics) and pronunciation. For the latter a considerable number of rules is given, so that he who uses this book no longer need say, "Il n'y a pas de prononciation provençale." The treatment of pronouns and of verbs is noticeable for simplicity and method. There are a few slips in this part. Such are the statement, on p. 25, that the double sound of *e* and *o* was not precisely observed; the implied derivation on p. 29 of *luxa* from *lux* (doubly impossible, by meaning and by phonetics); the unqualified assertion on p. 32 that nominative *s* in Provençal nouns comes directly from the Latin (cf. pp. 30, 31). Further, it is puzzling to read (p. 53) that strong verbs are those "which throw the accent in the 1st and 3d sing. of the perf. indic. on the stem, and not on the ending"—inasmuch as strong verbs in these forms have no ending—and distressing to see Latin etymons given (*passim*) in the nominative case.

The third book consists of selections from the literature—two in prose and ten in verse. Here the biography of Guillem de Cabestaing makes an easy introduction into an admittedly difficult language. The other prose piece is from the grammar of Uc Faidit. Then follow a *ballade*, a hymn, an *alba*, three *canzos*, a *domnejaire*, and a *serventes*, besides extracts from Peire de Corbiac's 'Tezaur' and from 'Flamenca.' Apropos of 'Flamenca,' we are told (p. 98) that it is "the best surviving example of the epic poems of Southern France." 'Girart de Ros-silho,' the only real epic in the language, is nowhere mentioned (though Mignard's edition of the *old French* poem of the same name is noticed in the bibliography), and the 'Chanson de la croisade albigoise' is referred to only indirectly (p. 11).

On the whole, the verse selections are good, and may fairly be considered representative, though one would expect to see some of the work of Bernard de Ventadorn, the simplest as well as the sweetest singer of them all, and of Peire Cardenal, the great master of the *serventes*; in a book that finds place for the lady of Vilanova and Alphonso II. of Aragon. Full notes accompany the text, and there is a glossary. A select bibliography and an index close the volume. For a book so small there are two many typographical errors. A few may be noted: p. 8, l. 2, Rhodes for Rodez (same error in index); p. 29, l. 2, nijo for hiyo; 34, 13, Dranges, Drango for Dranges, Draugo; 76, 41, es for en; 89, 79, fo rei for bo rei.

Martin Luther: His Life and Work. By Peter Bayne, LL.D. 2 vols. Cassell & Co. 1887.

DR. PETER BAYNE belongs to a class of men with whom one finds it difficult to maintain the degree of patience necessary for any critical judgment of their work. These are the Carlyle imitators. Their mistake is in supposing that what made Carlyle great was the oddity of his expression, whereas in fact he was great in spite of that, and would have been great no matter how he had chosen to express himself. The imitator who begins with the oddity is pretty likely to end there, and to reveal the essential littleness of his own talent by challenging comparison with the master. This is precisely what Dr. Bayne has done to the extent of two stout octavo volumes.

His method has been to take two or three of the best modern works on Luther, together with the reformer's own writings, then to select the most striking incidents of his career, and make each of these the subject of a chapter with some more or less fantastic heading, then to weave about these incidents a narrative of which one part is the accepted tradition of the day, and

three parts are speculation as to what the persons concerned must have thought and felt, and what would have happened if things had been different from what they were. The result is, that on the whole the facts narrated are pretty well founded in the researches of trustworthy scholars, that the narrative is in many places picturesque and vivid, but that the general effect is fantastic and cloudy to a degree.

Never, perhaps, was there a man whose life lent itself to partisan treatment more easily than that of Luther. His nature was full of contradictions; the multitudinous problems of his life made it impossible for him to live up to any strictly consistent principles either of judgment or of conduct. Thus, friend or enemy seeking for proofs of his goodness or of his badness can find them in abundance. Dr. Bayne is one of the friends from whom any man looking forward in anxiety as to his reputation might pray to be delivered. He is rather an advocate than an historian. He admits seeming weaknesses and shortcomings in his hero, but does this only to excuse them and explain them away. He is an avowed hero-worshipper, refreshingly frank in his worship, but causing the reader to fear that things may have been concealed or slighted which must be known if the whole figure of a man is to be brought before us. This method of treatment is a deplorable one. It was employed with great force by the most powerful antagonists of the Reformation in recent times, the Catholic Janssen, but that fact has made it all the more incumbent upon the historian of Protestant effort to take an entirely new line of defence. Not by gathering another list of facts on the other side, but by showing that those brought forward by Janssen are in themselves false or misleading, can the defender of the new faith make a powerful impression upon the thinking world.

The style of the book may be best illustrated by the first chapter of the second book. Beginning after the manner of certain novelists, "The early shadows of a November night had fallen upon Eisleben, the trim little county town of the district, or, as we should say, the shire, of Mansfeld to the north of Thuringia," it goes on to inform us that "Die Sonne tönt nach alter Weise—the sun shines much as usual, making his tuneful way through the heavens without perceptible variation in the melody. In the humble room, however, in which lies Margaret, the young wife of John Luder, Luder, Leuder, Lothar, Lotter, Lutter, Luther—no one had ever cared to ask how the poor miner spelt his name—an event was expected which, from prince to peasant, is of interest to young couples." After referring then to certain legends regarding the supernatural incidents connected with the birth of the reformer, the author continues:

"Returning then to the room—probably a temporary lodging—in which, with or without stellar participation, the boy was born, we can discern, or plausibly infer from subsequent knowledge, that his eyes have a notable sparkle. Not improbably also the cry of surprise, alarm, and distress in which, in the manner of human kind, the infant intimates its sense of the liberty taken with it in ushering it into this world, might have hinted to ears medically expert that, though blessed with excellent lungs, it had something eccentric in the intestinal region. But we cannot be certain that Luther's dyspepsia, as well authenticated as Carlyle's, was congenital. The incidents of the birth, were, in short, those usual in such cases."

Three authors appear to have been constantly in the mind of Dr. Bayne while making this book, Shakspeare, Carlyle, and George Eliot. If we are to believe him, Shakspeare was profoundly influenced by Lutheran ideas. How valuable his opinion is may be inferred from the following argument: Cardinal Cajetan,

papal legate to Augsburg in the year 1518, after one interview with Luther declined another, saying, "I will have no more disputation with this beast of a creature. Habet enim profundos oculos et mirabiles speculationes in capite suo." "Turn now," says Dr. Bayne, "to 'Macbeth':

'Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
That thou dost stare with.'

It may be a mere coincidence that the words in italics occur in close juxtaposition in Cajetan's Latin and in Shakspeare's English, but to many it will seem more probable that Shakspeare had read some account of the Augsburg interview, and had noted the graphic words." Who the "many" may be who fancy that the greatest of poets worked up his vocabulary from a commonplace book, it is hard to tell.

It ought to be added in common fairness that this sort of stuff decreases notably in quantity as the book goes on. The second volume is comparatively free from it, and one can hardly repress the conviction that the author was in some way led to see that he was working on a false system. It is only to be regretted that his good genius did not persuade him to subject his first volume to a thorough pruning, the only process by which it can be made tolerable to any reader of taste.

Bornholms Oldtidsminde og Oldsager, af Amtmand E. Vedel, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries in Copenhagen. 4to, 424 pp. Copenhagen.

WE have here a masterpiece in archaeological research, and in regard to the island of Bornholm in the Baltic it is well-nigh exhaustive. Denmark's great archaeologists are Thomsen and Worsaae, both deceased, and now Vedel, who well maintains the prestige of his predecessors. Mr. Vedel was a magistrate (*Amtmand*) on Bornholm from 1866 to 1871, when he was transferred to Sorö, near Copenhagen. His time in Bornholm was largely devoted to the examination of the antiquities of the island, and after his removal to Sorö he regularly visited Bornholm and continued his researches. The results of his eighteen years' study are given to the public in the magnificent volume before us. It contains several hundred excellent illustrations and a very good map of Bornholm. For the benefit of foreigners, it is furnished with a résumé in French extending over thirty-three pages.

Bornholm is literally covered with graves, mounds, and burial-places from the past. Their number exceeds 10,000. Of these Mr. Vedel has opened 3,600, and has been rewarded with an abundance of finds, which he has presented to the Royal Museum of Northern Antiquities in Copenhagen. The author points out as a remarkable feature of the stone age that the graves have thresholds and door-posts, and from this he draws the conclusion that the people of the stone age understood the art of building houses and practised it. The interior part of the island was not inhabited in the stone age. The volume abounds in illustrations of the various finds from the Bornholm graves, and these indicate that the ancient inhabitants were highly civilized and developed a fine industry. In the unburnt graves the finds were not destroyed or broken, but, as soon as cremation began, swords and other treasures placed in the graves were mutilated. A century ago Bornholm had more than 1,000 stone monuments, but of these only about 200 now remain. Two groups of monuments are enclosed and protected, one at the instance of King Frederick VII., and the other by the munificence of Mr. Vedel.

Mr. Vedel refers the so-called bauta-stones to the bronze age and the oldest iron age. The rock-tracings (*Hellerstringer*), of which there

are ninety in Bornholm, do not commemorate a solitary event, but were produced from time to time in connection with offerings of the gods, so that the same rock contains the history of a whole generation. Much attention is paid by Mr. Vedel to "Brandpletter," that is to say, deposits of charcoal and ashes (*dépôts cinéraires*). Of such spots or deposits he has examined 2,500, but their number is much greater, showing that the population of Bornholm was very large in the olden times. In the first period of these *dépôts cinéraires* weapons were never found, but on the other hand belt-hooks and a few fibulæ, evidence of a pre-Roman iron-culture. In the second period he found fibulæ, swords, gold ornaments, and beautiful earthen vases, and in the third period, fibulæ of a new pattern, and four different styles of vases. The new forms and styles point to revolutions on the island, and the wealthy families seem to have diminished in numbers and influence. The skeleton-graves were rich in ornaments. In the middle stone age each grave held a two-edged sword, but in the younger stone age the swords had but one edge. The large number of ornaments for women described in the work are very interesting, and illustrate the power of fashion in remote antiquity. The mosaic beads are beautiful and excellently preserved. They might be worn by any woman of our day.

Bog-finds have also occurred on Bornholm like those of Schleswig, and then there were large collections of coins and gold, buried in the earth in time of war to protect them from the greed of the enemy, and afterwards forgotten. They prove the presence of great wealth on the island, and the source of this must have been trade and commerce with other peoples. The author asserts that there was a commercial route by way of Bornholm from south to north, and another from west to east. The former he establishes by comparing Bornholm finds with relics from Gulland, Oland, and other places up the coast of Sweden; the other, by the presence of British coins, which indicate a trade between England and Bornholm by way of Schleswig. Mr. Vedel says there is nothing to show what sort of houses the people of the stone age inhabited; little to show how the men were dressed. Men are, indeed, engraved on many of the ornaments, but there is no certainty in regard to the origin of these ornaments. More light is thrown on woman's dress, since the fibulæ, buckles, beads, etc., offer suggestions in this respect. It would appear that the buckle, which became so common in the north, originated on Bornholm.

The island has several excellent specimens of runic inscriptions, which are reproduced and interpreted by Mr. Vedel, and he believes that the population in the bronze age must have been about as large as it is at the present time. There were times of prosperity and periods of depression. Wealth and poverty had their seasons. The weapons found prove that the people had no other arms than shields and swords. They were not afraid to close in with the enemy in combat, and both the men and the women had strong faith in immortality.

Archæologists the world over will heartily welcome Mr. Vedel's monumental work.

A Popular History of the Mexican People. By Hubert Howe Bancroft. San Francisco: The History Company. 1887. Pp. 632.

THE great value of Mr. Bancroft's larger history of Mexico—five volumes of which have appeared—has been suitably noticed by us, and the only question that needs to be asked in regard to this abridgment is as to how it is done. We regret to find it, on the whole, an unsatisfactory performance. It is not perhaps a fair

charge against it that it retains the worst faults of Mr. Bancroft's style; for, though one might instinctively hope that pruning would improve his rhetoric, it was only to be expected that the taste which could allow some of the offending passages to stand in the greater work, would be sure to single them out for reproduction in the smaller. It was also inevitable that the too little critical handling of the mythological period of Mexican history, and of the era of the conquest, which marks the extended history, should reappear here. We are told, as before, "All that was written of the Mexicans by their Spanish conquerors cannot be believed"; but we are given no sifting of the evidence, are not informed why one writer is to be credited rather than another, are not enlightened as to the reason why one chronicler should have lied in one way and another in another. Indeed, we do not know that the work of cross-examining the Spanish historians, so as to show the motive and nature of their picturesque falsehoods, has been thoroughly done by any one, though it will have to be by some one before early Mexican history can be more than guess-work.

These faults might have been overlooked or submitted to, if the work of condensation had not been done in such a careless, hop-skip-and-jump, labor-saving-fashion. We shall not take up space with specifications, but will simply leave it to the reader to verify what we say by putting the elaborated narrative alongside this volume. If he does not find abundant evidence of job-work done by some clerk, his eyes are different from ours. One instance of the way this book is "abstracted" (the term of the preface) from the larger work, we will give. On page 535, and again on page 545, is printed an elaborate plan, lettered and numbered, of some fortification or other, to which there is absolutely no reference; it has no name beneath it, is not alluded to in the text, is not referred to in the index. In the sixth volume of the complete history (if that volume has appeared, we have seen no notice of it), the mystery will doubtless be cleared up; at present, it remains for us an indication of the way this book is made up, in so large a degree, of random selections.

We would not judge with undue severity. Even in 'prentice hands such material as that of Mr. Bancroft could not be utterly spoiled. Unsatisfactory as we must deem it, the book is not without interest and value—in fact, if it might not so easily have been far better, we should be disposed to call it very good. The chaotic periods of Mexican history naturally suffer in the telling in so condensed a story, yet the outline is always clear, if the details are often confused. The weakest part of the whole is the section dealing with the events of the past twenty-six years. The Intervention is inadequately sketched. The estimate of Maximilian is too high, even apart from the recent revelations in respect to him. The paragraphs relating to Gen. Diaz read as if they were extracts from a campaign biography. The whole account of modern Mexico is poor—very fragmentary, evidently made up from books, not from personal observation. The statistics given are, for the most part, belated, being for the year 1879-80. Use might have been made of an authority at least as late as Garcia Cubas's 'Cuadro Estadístico' of 1884. It is fortunate for Mr. Bancroft that his reputation does not rest upon such a piece of book-making as the present.

A Short History of Architecture. By Arthur Lyman Tuckerman. With illustrations by the Author. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1887.

THIS little book is a rather hasty compilation of architectural criticism taken from several sources; generally good ones, and is so far trust-

worthy; but it is marred by the indifference to accurate use of language which characterizes almost every page, and still more by a neglect of the results of late discoveries and late researches and conclusions. The best part of it is the account of Romanesque Architecture, pp. 115-131, with the introductory remarks on Gothic Architecture, p. 133. This seems to have been thought out—at least as far as the eleventh and twelfth century buildings go—and is very satisfactory. And the Gothic chapter which follows is also full of good matter; but here there is much more room for difference of opinion, much greater opportunity for misconception and error, and the book is too hastily put together to allow of avoidance of these pitfalls. In fact, all the discussion of mediæval architecture is too good not to be better.

It is to be wished that the author would read his own work over carefully, like a hostile-minded critic, if that be possible, and consider whether he is really prepared to stand by all his dicta. To take an instance: the differences between French and English pointed architecture are explained in a way brief and incomplete, indeed, but intelligent; what, then, is the shock of disappointment when the reader finds "the spires of Chârtres and St. Ouen, at Rouen," named together as "the finest in France"—that is, one of the most mechanical and lifeless designs of the Gothic style built in modern times is added to two of the loveliest, to make up a lesson of excellence—and this followed by the statement that French churches had such high naves that they "often prevented the towers from having their due effect." Now, we do not offer these as gross and obvious errors—the whole work belongs to a better class than that to which gross and obvious errors belong, and the writer was thinking of the central lantern when he named St. Ouen; but these are just the mistakes which a writer makes when he writes hastily, except in the rare, and in architectural matters almost unknown, case, that he is really familiar with his subject. The absence from our library shelves of histories and handbooks of architecture which show really profound knowledge and acute perception of the important points in architectural history, is almost total. Knowledge and acuteness are devoted to monographs; but to general treatises, only here one and there one.

Beiträge zur Geschichte Russlands. Nach bisher unbenutzten russischen Original-Quellen. Von A. C. Wiesner. Leipzig. 1887.

PUBLICATIONS on Russia, its past and present, are in our day among the most eagerly sought-after products of the book market. Not a few of them are composed by writers ignorant of the Russian language and literature, and unfamiliar with the character and peculiarities of the Russian nation, and of the Slavic race in general. Against this kind of "historische Buchmacherei" Herr Wiesner inveighs at length in his introduction. For himself he claims the merit of having lived for some time in Russia, and of having added the knowledge of its language to that of other Slavic idioms. Among these is the Polish, which opened to him sources unknown to other writers. Thus supplied with material of the most genuine originality, he lays before the public the results of his studies and investigations in six treatises on Ivan the Terrible, Peter I., early Russian literature, Peter III. and Catharine II., Pugatcheff's insurrection, and the conspiracy against Paul I.—all this in a little book which hardly exceeds the dimensions of a modest pamphlet.

The topics are certainly interesting, and the publication has the merit, nowadays so rare, of great brevity. It has, however, one con-