

Events proved, or seemed to prove, that for England the choice lay between royal despotism of the Continental type, and government by Parliament. That the English people should, when this alternative was placed before them, choose government by Parliament was inevitable. But crises occur when the best friends of freedom may regret that the Cromwellian experiment of a strong Executive, respecting and respected by an independent Legislature, never received a fair trial. There is little good, however, in wasting thought over the tempting but useless problem of "what might have been." The experiment was doomed from the first to failure. Cromwell, with all his merits, lacked the patience, and we must add the self-control, needed by the architect of a constitution. His innovations were in advance of his times; his conservatism estranged his natural supporters. Experience, moreover, showed that for at least a century after Cromwell's death the English aristocracy had the power and (let it be conceded) the capacity to rule the English people. The Republicanism of the Commonwealth, even under its most conservative form, was premature. A careful study, indeed, of a period which, from a legal and constitutional point of view, has been too much neglected, will, it may be conjectured, show that the legislation of the Long Parliament and of the Protectorate left much more permanent traces on English law than is generally believed. Still, the history of Puritanism and of the Puritan leader will always have in it an element of tragedy; it is a tale of heroic efforts and of splendid triumphs ending in failure. The Cromwellian Constitution of 1654 is a noble fabric planned by architects of original genius; but from the first it rested on no solid foundation, and students examine its details with the interest excited by the ruins of an uncompleted palace.

First Steps in Geometry: a Series of Hints for the Solution of Geometrical Problems, with Notes on Euclid, Useful Working Propositions, and Many Examples. By Richard A. Proctor. Longmans, Green & Co. 12mo, pp. viii, 179.

Easy Lessons in the Differential Calculus: indicating from the outset the utility of the processes called Differentiation and Integration. By Richard A. Proctor. Longmans. 12mo, pp. vi, 114.

MR. PROCTOR has written a great many books, most of them instructive, all of them interesting. How much he has contributed to the sum of human knowledge is a question we are not now called upon to discuss; but he has certainly done much to excite the curiosity of the many who know little, and impel them to seek information from the few who know much, in regard to a great variety of subjects. He seems lately to have been taking a retrospective glance at his own education, and to have been recalling the difficulties which he encountered and the incitements which urged him on. In this review two things appear to have especially impressed him: the difficulties he met with in the study of Geometry, and the surprise and pleasure he felt when he found that, by the processes of the Differential Calculus, he could solve, with wonderful ease and facility, certain problems in which he was interested. Neither of these experiences has anything very novel about it. Geometry, as usually taught, is, to the great majority of students, in its earlier stages a sort of mental torture; and when they have succeeded in learning the amount required to enter college, they are able to do hardly anything. The principal object of most text-books

of Geometry seems to be to teach logic rather than to give the pupil a knowledge of one of the most useful and beautiful of the sciences. They shrink from any departure from the traditional manner lest it should "lack rigor." As to the Calculus, Snell, in his treatise on that science, published nearly half a century ago, remarks that when we consider the nature of the problems with which it deals, its formulas seem to have about them something truly magical (*wahre Zauberformeln*).

But novelty or originality of ideas is to Mr. Proctor of far less importance than attractiveness of presentation. There is nothing which the readers of newspapers look for with more eagerness than the accounts of occurrences about which they already know more than any reporter can possibly tell them. In the same way, all are eager to see how a writer, who has often afforded them pleasure deals with even the most commonplace idea. For all this Mr. Proctor has a sense sharpened by long and profitable experience. He has accordingly, as is his custom, made the experiences above referred to the occasion for writing two new books, small but neat, ingenious, and taking—so far as these latter adjectives can be predicated of books relating to pure mathematics. From the general title, 'First Steps in Geometry,' one would almost inevitably infer that the book on Geometry was intended for those commencing the study of that science. It is not this at all. It is not a text-book, but a sort of companion to the text-book. It may be said generally that the book presupposes an acquaintance with the first two books of Euclid. In the solution of the first problem which Mr. Proctor treats there is a reference to Euclid, and two more before he goes to the next problem. The sub-title explains fairly well the character of the book. It is not an exposition of any regular system for the solution of geometrical problems, but is mostly made up of observations and illustrations, the former distinguished for their good sense, the latter for their ingenuity and attractiveness. Almost any one, teacher or pupil, will find the book useful, and, what Mr. Proctor always aims at and generally attains, interesting.

The little treatise on the Calculus is intended for a text-book. Mr. Proctor calls it 'Easy Lessons,' but tells us in his preface that "rather less" than it contains was sufficient for him to get his degree, at Cambridge, and to prepare him for further acquisitions in after life. To be easy, to contain enough, and more than enough to get a degree, and to be a sufficient preparation for acquiring more, should the occasion for more ever arise, and all this in the compass of 114 small pages in large type, is about all that either pupil or professor could reasonably demand. It is certainly unfortunate that in the very first equation in so promising a book (p. 4, near the top), and that, too, the corner-stone of the whole structure, by a "printer's error" and a proof-reader's negligence, the coefficient $\frac{1}{2}$ has been omitted from the last term of the left-hand member, so that the equation is no equation at all. Near the bottom of the same page, by a similar error, we have a minus sign in place of a sign of equality, thus again making nonsense. Mr. Proctor discusses (p. 59, *et seq.*) a problem in regard to the height of a light so situated that a point in a plane below may receive the maximum amount of illumination. In discussing one of the cases of this problem he says (the italics are his own): "Suppose, for example, a is equal to eight degrees, the slope of my desk, for I have taken the notion of working out this particular problem with the practical design of determining how high I should set the

moderator which illuminates the paper I am writing upon." Then, after showing in detail how the problem is solved, always in the first person singular, he concludes: "I find that the best height for the light of the moderator (above the surface of the table) is, as nearly as possible, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ in." This autobiographical manner of treating a problem in *maxima* and *minima* has real advantages. The young students who use the book can but be impressed by the wisdom of a man who fixes the height of his light by the Differential Calculus, and all this contributes to increase the sale of Mr. Proctor's next book, which, as we write, is already in process of publication. We cannot, however, withhold the expression of our conviction that, whatever may be the case at Cambridge, some of the treatises on the Calculus with which we are acquainted are better adapted to the wants of those seeking a degree at Harvard, or Yale, or Columbia than Mr. Proctor's.

The Art of Investing. By a New York Broker. D. Appleton & Co. 1888.

THE good judgment which characterizes most of this book manifests itself in the title. The author recognizes that investing is not a science, to be taught deductively, but an art, which can be learned only by experience. He therefore keeps well under control his happy faculty for coining aphorisms, and confines himself chiefly to giving significant facts drawn from business experience. Taking up, one after another, the various classes of investments, he shows in an interesting way the peculiar dangers attending each. In this portion of his work the only serious blunder made is where the author digresses into constitutional history, and maintains that "the Eleventh Amendment, which inhibits the suing of States by private parties, thus taking away a right previously existing, was meant to cut off certain claims growing out of the Revolutionary war, and for no other purpose whatever; no one at the time of its adoption dreaming that it would be used by the States to shield themselves from subsequently contracted liabilities." If the author will consult the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Chisholm vs. Georgia* (2 Dall., 479) he will find it expressly stated that claims against the States growing out of the Revolutionary war never could have been sued under the original Constitution. They represented the one class of claims which the Eleventh Amendment was not intended to cut off.

But an historical blunder of this sort does not reflect so seriously upon the author's credit as does the total loss of judicial temper which marks his concluding chapter upon "Speculating." This chapter is perhaps the most interesting in the volume. We have here the spectacle of a New York broker joining vigorously in the attack upon the Stock Exchange. Unfortunately, he follows the example of his eloquent comrades-in-arms (or, better, comrades-with-arms), and indulges freely in rhetoric. He represents the Stock Exchange as conducted solely in the interests of the stock-makers. It is merely "the conduit through which water is carried to the investor's pocket." "It is supposed to act as a sieve, but, . . . sieve-like, it is no obstruction to the passage of water." To his mind the Exchange does not even fulfil a useful function by supplying quotable values, and thus giving stability to business. "When securities are converted into footballs for gamblers to play with, they are pretty certain to be either too high or too low," and thus, "instead of being a balance wheel to the business of the country, the Stock Exchange is far more likely to be a disturbing factor."

In short, the entire institution is "an enemy to public morals and general business."

In support of these charges the author does state facts, and they are facts which deserve statement. It cannot, for instance, be too often repeated, that listing on the Exchange furnishes not the slightest guarantee as to the worthiness of securities. All brokers admit it, and the time may come when popular distrust will lead the Exchange to impose new duties upon its committee on applications for listing. Then, too, there is ground for the denial of the constantly repeated claim that the Exchange steadies values. When, as brokers admit, speculative orders outnumber investment orders a hundred to one, and the general tendency is to demand stocks that are rising and desert those that are falling, without thought as to dividend-paying qualities, there is grave reason to doubt whether the Exchange merits the eulogies which have been bestowed upon its steadying qualities. It may also be true that stocks listed yield on the average smaller returns than outside investments. In fact, there are two economic reasons why this should be the case. In the first place, they have the advantage of instant convertibility. In the second place, the gambling instinct which leads men to invest in lotteries, though the certainty of loss increases with the size of the investment, may also lead them to invest in stocks where the probable smallness of the dividend is compensated by the hope of adding to the principal. But these are merely tendencies which in no wise justify our author's characterizations of listed securities. Throughout the entire chapter the judgments are passionate and exaggerated. The obvious benefit which the Exchange confers, in enabling business men at any instant to convert their securities into cash, is ignored. The fact that the Exchange facilitates the sale of American securities, especially their sale abroad, by furnishing an index of their probable value, is apparently unthought of. The entire arraignment is that of a prosecuting attorney who permits himself to be carried away by his eloquence and indignation.

Most of the evils connected with the Exchange are those inherent in speculative human nature. There is, however, one which our author is justified in believing that the rigid enforcement of wholesome legislation may mitigate. John Bright once said that adulteration is a legitimate form of competition. This is true only when the fact of the adulteration is admitted. Otherwise, it is fraud. The adulteration of stocks is generally of the latter sort.

When our author advocates that, in all our States, corporations which exist by the authority of the law be prohibited from issuing debentures or scrip not representing moneys actually paid into their treasuries, or proprietary interests whose values are to be determined by disinterested parties, he advocates a measure which the protection of the public against extortion and the protection of private investors against fraud alike demand. Fortunately, such laws are becoming more general. Insurance stocks in some States and bank stocks in all can now be relied upon to represent actual cash investments. When this shall hold true of all forms of corporate securities, European investments will be more frequent, American investments will be more secure, and the idea of riches be less dangerously dissociated from the idea of earnings.

The Philosophy of Kant, as contained in Extracts from his own Writings, selected and translated by John Watson, LL.D. Macmillan & Co. 1888. 12mo, pp. 356.

Mr. WATSON rightly anticipates an objection to his extracts, that "the work of a great author should be represented 'all in all, or not at all.'" But he as justly replies that "the writings of Kant, which are full of confusing repetitions that really mar their perfection of form, hardly deserve the same tenderness of treatment" that must be accorded "a faultless work of art like the *Republic* of Plato." Nevertheless, admitting the good judgment shown in the selections, the excellent character of the translations, the good print, and the general value of the work for technical class-room work, we have a more general criticism to pass. We have had translations enough of Kant. What the general student of philosophy wants to-day is an exposition.

Kant's obscurity of thought and style, his tortuous sentences and peculiar phraseology, and his meagreness of fact and illustrations, are the proverbs of philosophers: Translations can only transmit these defects into another language, where they are made tenfold worse by the necessity of making concessions to foreign idioms. Every one knows how intolerable it is to read the 'Kritik' in a translator's dress, unless he has first been initiated into the mysteries of its terms. We are convinced, however, that Kant can be expressed in as plain and simple English as was the philosophy of Locke, if his disciples will only condescend to interpret him. Prof. Royce and Prof. Schurman have both recently expressed themselves

to the same effect. Until this is done, the merits of the Kantian philosophy will not be properly appreciated, as they have not been appreciated by the scientific mind—witness Herbert Spencer, George Henry Lewes, and John Stuart Mill. Kantian scholars would, therefore, do a lasting service to philosophic thought if they would perform this plain duty instead of merely translating their master, and talking only among themselves in a language that is essentially esoteric in its nature.

The Registers of the Parish Church of Rochdale, in the County of Lancaster, from October, 1582, to March, 1616. Edited by Henry Fishwick. Rochdale: James Glegg. 1888. 8vo, pp. 371.

In this well-printed volume, the historian of Goosnargh and Kirkham has published the christenings, weddings, and burials of the parish of Rochdale. The editing is invisible, but we doubt not that the copying has been carefully and thoroughly made. There is nothing to notice except the bare names, and of these the principal are Aspinall, Ashton, Ashworth, Atkinson, Bamford, Banks, Baguley, Battersby, Belfield, Birch, Booth, Bradford, Brearley, Bridge, Briggs, Brook, Buckley, Butterworth, Byrom, Casson, Chadwick, Clegg, Collinge, Cowper, Crossley, Durden, Dickson, Dodson, Dowson, Earnshawe, Eastwood, Entwistle, Farrer, Fielden, Fenton, Fish, Fitton, Fletcher, Frith, Garside, Gorelde, Greave, Greenhalgh, Greenroade, Greenwood, Gryme, Halliwell, Hallowes, Hamer, Hanson, Hardman, Haslame, Haworth, Healey, Heyward, Hill, Holland, Hollas, Holroyde, Holt, Hopwood, Ingham, Jackson, Kaye, Kirshaw, Leache, Lees, Leighe, Lightowlers, Lorde, Lomax, Ludson, Marcroft, Mercer, Milne, Newall, Nuttall, Ogden, Radcliffe, Redferne, Rodes, Romsbothom, Rudd, Scofield, Shaw, Shepheard, Shore, Stock, Stott, Sutcliffe, Taylor, Turnough, Walch, Ward, Warde, Whitehead, Whittaker, Whitworth, Wolfenden, and Wolstenholm.

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