

charge of his claim, the debtor should have two years in which to pay it without interest. A decision of the Kentucky Court of Appeals declaring the legislation void because violating the "obligation of contracts" clause of the Federal Constitution precipitated a long and bitter conflict between the adherents of the old law and the champions of the new order. During its progress an attempt was made to legislate the old court out of existence; and for a time Kentucky had two Courts of Appeal. But the old law and the old court triumphed in the State elections of 1826, while the new order was ignominiously defeated in its attempt to recall judges and judicial decisions.

Both in Kentucky and Rhode Island the statutes, annulled by the courts, were enacted in the belief that they were promotive of social justice. In each case they expressed the will of a clear majority of the people. In each case the will of the people was defeated by judges who interpreted Constitutional prohibitions according to the canons of the old law. In the Bull Moose terminology of to-day, they were reactionaries. And yet, no one can doubt that in each case it was the judge, deciding in accordance with the old law and not in accordance with the social, economic, and industrial philosophy of the moment, who deserved well of the republic. He was charged, as courts are charged to-day, with a disposition to defeat the will of the people as expressed by their chosen representatives in the Legislature. Undoubtedly, he had that disposition; but it was because he believed that his oath of office required him to defeat the popular will of the moment when it ran counter to a clearly expressed rule of either the Federal or State Constitution. Such rules were formulated for the very purpose of preventing the people from violating certain cardinal principles of justice, during periods of excitement, and of giving time for a sober second thought.

*The Formation of the Alphabet.* By W. M. Flinders Petrie. Studies Series III of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt. London: Macmillan (and Quaritch), 1912. 5s.

Dr. Petrie here gathers together from many sources in the Mediterranean region some sixty alphabetic signs that recent discoveries have made known to us, and essays to show the process by which our present alphabet, or, rather, its Greek progenitor, took selective shape and order.

The author, for conclusive reasons, rejects the old theory of a Phœnician (and ultimate Egyptian) origin of the alphabet. We are not to think of it as a system invented by a single individual or a single tribe in a somewhat advanced

stage of civilization, and then borrowed by other tribes from it:

On the contrary, it appears that a wide body of signs had been gradually brought into use in primitive times for various purposes. These were interchanged by trade, and spread from land to land, until the less known and less useful signs were ousted by those in more general acceptance. Lastly, a couple of dozen signs triumphed; these became common property to a group of trading communities, while the local survivals of other forms were gradually extinguished in isolated seclusion.

Of the Runic alphabet, which has recently been brought under fresh notice, Dr. Flinders Petrie says that it must be viewed as "a branch of the Mediterranean alphabets much older than the formation of the Greek and Latin forms, which at a later date barred it off from further communication southward. Whatever it has in common with Greek and Latin letters, it has merely in common with other alphabets as well."

The order of the letters in the alphabet is that as read from a primitive hornbook, of which a reproduction is given. The derivative Greek form, though it lacked certain letters, and had interpolated certain others, will be more intelligible to the general reader, as nearer to the Latin, and therefore to our own form. In this Greek hornbook the letters were arranged on the main tablet in four vertical columns perpendicular to the handle. The columns were originally of six characters each, but the Greek hornbook had discarded as needless the primitive characters at the bottom of all but the first column, as well as the third character in columns two and four. The first column showed the vowels A, E, I, O, T, Q; the second, the labials B, F (third wanting), H, Φ (sixth wanting); the third, the gutturals Γ, H, K, Q, X (sixth wanting); the fourth, the dentals Δ, Θ (third wanting), T, Ψ (sixth wanting). Then three later "liquids," A, M, N, were added in a single horizontal line on the flat handle of the hornbook, thus being opposite the middle of the columns on the tablet, and perpendicular to their direction. And, finally, the Greek, for its own needs, interpolated a few other signs, Z between the second and third columns opposite F and H, respectively; P and S together between the third and fourth columns opposite Q and T, respectively, and Ξ at the very extremity of the handle, next beyond N. Thus the hornbook was complete. But in learning the letters one naturally read them, not in the vertical columns, but in horizontal ranks, from left to right (A M N Ξ falling into line in the middle, after K), and thus the alphabetical order was established, which, with the few changes that belong to the history of the Latin tongue, and with the later differentiations of I and J, and of U and V, and the addition in its logical

place of W, we still follow. Some problems, however, it is plain to see, are here unanswered, and the author acknowledges the patent fact.

The original home of the primitive hornbook, which was the immediate ancestor of that which we have described, Dr. Flinders Petrie is inclined to find in northern Syria, chiefly on account of the disregard of sibilants in the primitive system, and the use of alphabetic signs as numeral symbols, both of which characteristics are peculiar to that region.

## Notes

Among the announcements of Henry Holt & Co. are "The Mastery of Grief," by Bolton Hall, and Miss Marjorie Patterson's "Dust of the Road," a novel of English theatrical life.

An authorized edition of the complete works of Arthur Schnitzler is in preparation by Richard Badger. Three volumes are already in the press for immediate publication, and the others will follow in rapid succession.

"The Inhumanity of Socialism" is the title finally chosen by Edward F. Adams for a book which Paul Elder & Co. will shortly publish.

In "The Story of California," announced by McClurg, Henry K. Norton begins with the summer of 1542 when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first set foot on the shore of San Diego Bay.

"The Poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt," edited by A. K. Forwell from the MSS, with variants, commentary, and facsimile reproductions, will be issued in the autumn by the University of London Press.

Sir Sidney Lee has been called by London University to fill the chair in English.

The Oxford Church Bible Commentary, it is announced, is to give a completely new translation of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the more important books of the Apocrypha. "The Book of Wisdom" (Macmillan), by the Rev. A. T. S. Goodrick, gives in considerable detail the apparatus for the criticism of this interesting Apocryphal work. The opinions of former commentators are examined, questions of date, design, and unity are discussed at length, and the views of the editor are embodied in footnotes, additional notes, and appendices. There are great differences among critics concerning the exegesis of the work, and Mr. Goodrick's conclusions will not all be generally accepted, but the volume supplies much information, it is written in a good spirit, and it will prove useful both to specialists and to the general reader.

In *Petermann's Mitteilungen* for May is the conclusion of the ethnographic description of the Balkan peoples by Professor Cvijic of Belgrade, in which he dwells especially upon their wanderings and assimilation and on the influence of Islamism. Dr. T. Herzog gives an account, with illustrations, of the Bolivian Cordillera, and in the military department Prof. A. Mar-

cuse, of Berlin, discusses the difficult problem of the navigation of an airship in a dense mist. Interesting, as showing the wide range of educational facilities in Germany, is the list of subjects to be studied by the pupils of seventeen high schools in the summer semester of this year, ranging from African religions and the history of the United States to the fundamental principles of business.

"Burdett's Hospitals and Charities" for 1913 comes to us from the London publisher, the Scientific Press Limited. The usual voluminous information is given, for this country as well as for Great Britain and her colonies. The work well deserves its sub-title, "The Year Book of Philanthropy and the Hospital Annual." The author, Sir Henry Burdett, repeats his plea that the fiscal year for all hospitals should end December 31, so that comparison of resources might be made easier.

Francis McCullagh's lurid account of "Italy's War for a Desert," published in London last year and reviewed by us July 4, 1912, has now been brought out in this country by F. G. Browne & Company, of Chicago.

Noel Buxton's "With the Bulgarian Staff" (Macmillan) is a record of hospital work with the armies of Thrace. As a representative of the English Red Cross contingent and as an old friend of Macedonian freedom for which he has done valuable service through the Balkan Committee, Mr. Buxton enjoyed the privilege of riding with the Bulgarian General Staff in the wake of the victorious armies from Kirk-Kilisseh to Tchatalja. He is sufficiently explicit in depicting the heavy cost of war in loss of life and human suffering, but his hospital sketches, while inevitably painful, make no attempt at horror for its own sake. His tone shows the moderation that comes from true sympathy and knowledge; he is savage only when he speaks of Turkish rule. There, he can see nothing but a record of massacre, plunder, and general bestiality. Conceding that the Balkan war was necessary, he is still an opponent of war. The war was necessary because one swift operation to rid the Balkans of a régime which by the slower processes of massacre was exacting a higher death toll than war exacts, had become inevitable. And yet the war could have been avoided if the Powers had done their duty, even as late as five years ago, by establishing self-government in Macedonia. With the familiar argument that war is a training school of national character and the field for the display of the manly virtues, he has no sympathy. How was it, he asks, that the Bulgarian people during centuries of subjection retained the manhood which spoke out so emphatically when the need arose? Of the actual course of the war it is Mr. Buxton's opinion that the Turkish downfall came not at Lule Burgas nor even at Kirk-Kilisseh, but in the very first days' fighting. Even before Kirk-Kilisseh there was a battle fought near the Bulgarian frontier of which the world knows almost nothing. The more one reads of Bulgarian operations in Thrace the more it is apparent that only a very partial knowledge of what really happened has reached us through the newspaper correspondents.

In two ways, at least, the title of B.

Granville Barker's "The Passing of the Turkish Empire in Europe" (Lippincott) is misleading. The book does not deal with the late war in the Balkans, to which there is only the very slightest reference. Neither is it a methodical history of the Ottoman Empire up to recent events. What Mr. Barker has written is a lengthy travel book in which personal experiences and description are supplemented in the approved style by historical reminiscence. Of the latter there is altogether too much, especially as the historical narrative follows no systematic course, but leaps backward and forward through the ages in a highly disconcerting manner. When one has overcome the prejudice created by a mischosen title and a pretentious manner, the reader will find much entertaining matter in Mr. Barker's account of Turkish scenes and character. His pictures, for the most part pen-and-ink sketches of his own, are exceptionally good.

The club topsail, or, as the English say, Jackyard topsail-jackyarder, is a kite in no wise entitled to the pride of good ancestry, according to R. Heckstall Smith and Capt. Du Boulay, authors of "The Complete Yachtsman" (Outing Publishing Company). It was born, not of the needs of the sailorman, but was "devised, or rather popularized, by racing men in America when the sail plan was measured in such a manner that one could get an additional bit of untaxed sail if the topsail extended beyond the gaff. . . . It was originally, thus, something of a rule-cheater." Whether the authors speak advisedly as to American responsibility or not is quite beyond our province to decide; at all events, it is a very useful stretch of canvas, and is used by the English and Germans, as by us. The assertion that cruising men, however, should fight shy of it is very well taken; they should. As for the rest, the book is complete, and justifies its title; it is the most comprehensive, most accurate yachting symposium yet placed between covers. Nothing is neglected, nothing overlooked. There are chapters on rudimentary work in sailing which convey valuable information to all beginners, together with chapters on more advanced points which will interest a yachtsman, however well versed in the sport he may be. The manner of building a boat is set forth in ample detail, as well as the handling of it when built. Motor-boating, its rules, and its general aspects receive adequate attention. In short, this is, a volume to which the youngster setting forth in his first catboat, as well as the tried yachtsman, may give his days and nights with great benefit.

A number of excellent qualities and one serious defect are made manifest in the first two volumes of "The Everyman Encyclopædia" (Dutton), an undertaking which is to be completed in twelve volumes. Selling at the regular Everyman price of thirty-five cents per volume, it is altogether one of the most accessible works of reference on the market. There are probably half a million words to the volume. The contents have obviously been planned with an eye to the needs of the ordinary reader. Titles like Abbreviations, Academies, and other lists to which one frequently turns for a missing name or word are exceptionally full. The useful arts are well represented, as for example, Bookbinding with

5 pages. Science and technology show well condensed articles on Astronomy, 10 pages; Biology, 12 pages; Aeronautics, 6 pages; Accumulator, 1,500 words, etc. Particular attention is given to Law. But here is where serious objection may be raised. The law is all British law and the encyclopædia as a whole a British work with insufficient concession to an American public. In a long article on Army there are two pages devoted to the history of the British army, but the United States is nowhere mentioned. American biography suffers very badly. To John Adams are devoted just 110 words, of which 40 are bibliography. This is considerably less than the space given to Abbas Pasha, of Egypt, or the late Chief Rabbi Adler. If the Encyclopædia is to have a sale in this country commensurate with its general merits a fair amount of revision is necessary.

In "Highways and Byways of the Rocky Mountains" and "Highways and Byways of the Great Lakes" (Macmillan), Clifton Johnson makes two valuable additions to a series of sectional guide-books which now covers all but the New England and Middle Atlantic States. The chief purpose of the series being to treat of country life, especially of the picturesque and the typically rustic, it will be seen that the present volumes exploit fields peculiarly rich in incident and color. Page after page is filled with pleasantly garrulous conversation with farmers, rivermen, miners, and woodsmen from Pennsylvania to New Mexico, and with descriptions of peregrinations through wonderful stretches of scenery. There are interludes in both volumes, too, of more formal exposition, as in the chapters devoted to the copper country, the Straits of Mackinac, an Illinois valley, the Texas oil fields, Pueblo life in New Mexico, and life in a Mormon village. The numerous illustrations, like much of the text, are mere snapshots of wayside experiences. The notes appended to each chapter give information concerning automobile routes and many facts and suggestions to tourists in general.

"Oblivion has scattered her poppy effectively enough over the name of Aurelian Townshend, who is now but a shadowy figure dimly discerned in the background of that bustling London of the early Stuarts and the Civil Wars. Yet in his day he walked with wits and poets, and, for certain touches of rareness here and there in his song, it becomes an act of piety to piece together what is known of him into a more complete account than has before been attempted, and to let it stand as a preface to this belated gathering of his scanty harvest." So Mr. E. K. Chambers opens the introduction to his edition of "Aurelian Townshend's Poems and Masks," in the Tudor and Stuart Library printed at the Clarendon Press from type made in the old matrices. The "act of piety" Mr. Chambers has made also a work of fine scholarship. Townshend, indeed, after all the editor's research, remains but a dim figure, but his family connections have been untangled and a surer individuality has been given him. As for the handful of poems, of certain and doubtful authorship, their ingathering has meant a considerable turning over of old song-books and manuscript anthologies. They add a little to that body of Stuart poetry,