

lars of his relations with Tennyson, Bagehot, and many other prominent men of letters, as well as some lively recollections of the perils to which a publisher is exposed. On the business, as a whole, however, he pronounces the judgment that, "supposing any one to have the capital and the literary skill, I can imagine no more interesting work."

—The August *Century* has some fifty pages of interesting matter on earthquakes and volcanoes in general, and the Martinique and St. Vincent disasters in particular. The opening paper of the group is by Professor Kemp of Columbia University, who goes extensively into the causes of seismic and volcanic action. This is followed by a vivid description of the Martinique catastrophe in the form of a detailed report to the Bishop of Martinique, absent in Paris at the time, by the Vicar-General of the island, the Very Rev. G. Parel, whose sense of duty to the people under his care freed him of all fear and kept him alert to all that was going on. Another valuable addition to the record was secured for the *Century* by the chaplain of the *Dixie*, in the form of a file of the leading newspaper of St. Pierre, *Les Colonies*, for the week immediately preceding the disaster. Several pages of extracts from this paper are printed, and they warrant the conviction that it was for a time the policy of the editor to belittle the real danger. The St. Vincent disaster is described by two eye-witnesses, Capt. Calder, Chief of Police of St. Vincent, and T. McGregor McDonald, owner of one of the most famous plantations of the island. The group fifty closes with a translation of the two famous letters in which the younger Pliny describes to Tacitus the great eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79. Still further papers are to be added in the September issue. Aside from this collection, the most important feature of the number is "The Tragedy of the Range," Mr. Baker's continuation of his series of papers on the Southwest. It is a story of almost incredible mismanagement and waste of great natural resources, due no more to the folly and ignorance of the immediate agents than to the lack of concern manifested by the legislative and executive departments of the United States Government.

—Martha Baker Dunn, in the August *Atlantic*, writes helpfully of "The Browning Tour," but the logic of her argument is spoiled in the end by a mistaken application. Courage and endurance are good qualities, and the soldiers in the Cuban war doubtless displayed them in as great a measure as was possible when fighting for a dubious cause; but it does no honor to these qualities to invoke them in behalf of an attitude of silence towards suffering produced, not by the real necessities of warfare, but by the incompetence and dishonesty of officers employed to provide the men in the field with such food, clothing, medical attendance, etc., as will make them most efficient in the work they are set to do. An article on the poetry of Edward Rowland Sill, signed "W. B. P.," might easily be understood as distinctly unfavorable, but is better considered as showing the solid worth of the poet by calling attention to the disadvantages against which his fame is steadily making its way. Verner Z. Reed contributes some entertaining moral and sen-

timental reflections on the Desert, a subject which has taken a strong hold on the imagination of magazine writers, assisted, no doubt, by the recent volume of Prof. John C. Van Dyke. While Mr. Reed draws from the desert solitude the thought that "whatever is right," it is the temper of the age to draw from its material unproductiveness the idea that the desert itself is all wrong, and to proceed *ci et amis* to reduce it to cultivation.

—It may seem quixotic to recommend to the "summer reader" any rival to the "superb vitality" of Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall; yet if the summer reader has not parted with all his good sense and good taste and his intelligent curiosity as to the human comedy, he may well be allured by a modest and charming volume which has no fault except that it is instructive as well as amusing and entertaining. The title of this, we hardly dare to say, is "Translations from Lucian," by Miss Augusta M. Campbell Davidson, M.A. (Longmans, Green & Co.). If Lucian's vogue is on the wane, as Miss Davidson observes, it may be partly because he has been superseded, in a way, by Voltaire; but the Attic sauce with which his dissertations are served up might pique the appetite of the most faded and indolent mind. The reader who glances into this ancient mirror of a decadent age—if he has a grain of sense and seriousness in his composition—will see in it the reflection of our own times—our fashionable fads and crazes, our scepticism dashed and mingled with the grossest superstition; he will recognize that his own generation consists largely of Lucian's "dead people warmed over," as Dr. Holmes used to say; only the clothes and the scenery are just a little different. We need hardly go back to the memoirs of Mme. Roland to parallel the sycophancy and snobbery and bad manners that are pictured in the sketch of the sorrows and trials of "Paid Companions," nor to a Cagliostro to match the magnificent impudence and world-wide success of that juggler and impostor, Alexander of Abonotelehus, whose astounding career is described in one of these excerpts. As to his dupes, are they not the same people as our neighbors on the next street, if not our own friends and intimates? Besides these lively sketches, Miss Davidson has included "The Sale of Philosophers," "The Orator's Guide," "Hermetismus," the delightful bit of satire and burlesque entitled "Zeus the Tragedian," and also "The True History," a witty and fanciful extravaganza, the precursor of Munchausen, which possibly suggested some ideas for Swift's Gulliver.

—As to the quality of Miss Davidson's translation, there can hardly be two opinions. It is the work, so to speak, of a lady and a scholar—a rather remarkable specimen of well-bred, racy English, which recalls the letters of Dorothy Osborne. It is characterized by ease, urbanity, sprightliness, and an unflinching fluency of idiom without the slightest taint of slang. It reveals great skill and ingenuity in turning the phrases of a highly idiomatic writer so successfully that it reads like an original, not constrained by any foreign mould. It is naturally somewhat free, and occasionally becomes a discreet paraphrase; but it is entirely adequate for the purposes of the public for whom it was designed. We regret that we cannot illustrate these

virtues at length; but, as literature, we can commend Miss Davidson's workmanship to the attention of our own Ph.D.'s, masculine and feminine, who are too apt to scorn culture in their wooing of science, and, while learning foreign languages, to forget how to write their own.

—In the *Annales* of the Paris International Congress of 1900 that discussed Comparative History, the report of the fifth section, concerned with the History of Science, contains nothing of greater consequence than one might expect as the printed residuum of such a meeting, after the separate publication of several contributions. The leading spirit of the section was evidently M. Paul Tannery. Heiberg prints for the first time the Greek text of Anatolius on the first ten numbers, a Pythagorean Christian tract by an Alexandrian Peripatetic of the third century. It contains an otherwise unknown fragment of Heraclitus, and has a certain interest as probably representing a lost book of Nicomachus. Several of the longer papers of the volume relate to medieval medicine and surgery, and there is one by Nicaise on the state of anatomy and physiology at the time of Vesalius and Harvey. Tannery prints nine letters addressed to the celebrated Père Mersenne, who, at the time of Descartes, acted as a medium of scientific intelligence. Sigismund Günther gives an interesting account of the different compromises between Ptolemy and Copernicus that were proposed in the sixteenth and later centuries. In a paper by André Lalande, the pendulum of opinion about Francis Bacon swings to so wide a deflection that Descartes is almost represented to have borrowed from him the idea of explaining all physics on mechanical principles. It is the Valerius Terminus to which appeal is made for support of this. Galitzyne communicates letters and pictorial sketches sent to Catharine II. in 1783 by the Russian Minister in Paris, to inform her about the ballooning exploits of Montgolfier and Charles. There are some interesting papers about Comtism; for the rest, not very much to attract other readers than ~~mainly students in special departments~~ of the history of science.

—In the Historical section of the *Annales* the Abbé Pierling investigates a curious incident in the career of the False Dmitri, who, in 1605, after the death of Boris Godunoff, succeeded in imposing himself on Russia as the son of Ivan the Terrible, who had died in 1584. At Cracow, in 1604, the Pretender, in the hands of the Jesuit Sawicki, had professed Catholicism, and abjured the Orthodox faith; he had promised to render Russia Catholic and to lead a crusade against the Turks. To insure the success of his enterprise, however, his apostasy had to be kept secret, and he hoped to procure a papal dispensation to enable him to take, from the Orthodox Patriarch, the communion which was an essential feature of his coronation. Rome delayed, however, and Sawicki was distracted with doubt, both as to this and the complications that would inevitably follow. He consulted the nuncio at Cracow, and the latter referred the question to the Roman Holy Office. Dmitri was crowned July 31, and must have taken the Eucharist from the hand of a heretic (which was unpardonable), while the Inquisition dallied, and it was not until November 5 that it evaded

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