

not widely remote, the completeness of the hoops in one case against their incompleteness in the other not being an invariable distinction, and two other supposed essential differences being only a difference in the degrees of development of certain parts. Dr. Franz Boas, the distinguished anthropologist, treated of psychic associations in primitive culture, making some interesting remarks that nobody who heard them is likely to forget, although they may have seemed matters of common knowledge. Professor Woodward communicated a brief account of a paper by Mr. C. E. Mendenhall, son of the Academician of that name, concerning the determination of the absolute value of gravity by means of a pendulum in the form of a ring suspended from sixteen different points. The value of the method could not be judged without long and minute study. Professor Woodward described a pendulum of his own invention, in the form of a horizontal bar suspended by long steel ribbons without knife edges. Since this apparatus presents no problems that have not been completely worked out, it is certain that it would be an excellent way of determining gravity. The chief difficulty would be to ascertain the temperature; for unless the suspending ribbons are very long, the advantages of this form will not be secured. Professor Chandler performed before the Academy a determination of the oxygen in the air of the Subway by Hempel's method. It is a very elegant method, and was very beautifully executed by a student of Professor Chandler.

JEAN JACQUES WEISS.

PARIS, November 5, 1904.

Prince Georges Stirbey has published some 'Notes and Impressions, with a Selection of Letters' of his friend J. J. Weiss, one of the most gifted journalists of the time of the Second Empire and of the period which followed the war of 1870 and ended in the establishment of the Republic. Weiss belonged to the unfortunate and brilliant generation of writers who had attained their majority at the time of the December Coup d'Etat. He was a friend and companion of Prévost-Paradol, of Edmond About, of Taine, of Francisque Sarcey. They all entered life, after the most brilliant studies, as natural adversaries of a régime which suppressed the liberty of the press. Everything is known about Prévost-Paradol, who in the end became reconciled to the Empire, and Minister of France at Washington; about About, author of many popular books; about Sarcey, who became a theatrical critic; about Taine, the only one who left a lasting memory, as he wrote books instead of newspaper articles. Weiss was, more than any of his friends, a born journalist, and left no work of importance. As a journalist, he was equal if not superior to all his contemporaries; but the fame of the journalist is as ephemeral as the fate of the actor. Under the Empire, a clever newspaper article was an event; but, after 1870, journalism became absolutely free, and if Weiss had not achieved a reputation under Napoleon III., he would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to attain to any great notoriety amid absolute freedom of the press and the confusion which it creates.

Weiss was so fortunate as to be admitted

under the Empire to the staff of the *Journal des Débats*, the most highly reputed of French newspapers.

"It was," says Prince Stirbey in his preface, "an epoch full of difficulties and of dangers for a journalist; for people lived under a reign of warnings, suspensions, suppressions. Weiss knew with a consummate art how to avoid these numerous dangers. It was at this difficult period that he entered into full possession of himself. His talent acquired great surety, without losing anything of its vividness; his mind, an exactness and a clearness fine and subtle; his style, a new precision. Who is there, in our generation, that does not remember Weiss's leaders in the *Débats*? The politicians, even those whom he attacked, read them with a serious fascination; the Liberals were charmed with them; while the Imperial Government felt struck by them, and was powerless to restrain the liberties and audacities so adroitly managed. With what a clever hand, what a mixture of boldness and of caution, what ingenious allusions and citations, Weiss knew how to make his readers understand what he could not say overtly; with what foresight he knew how to prophesy the misfortunes of the foreign policy of France!"

His great success on the *Débats* opened all doors to Weiss; he wrote at times for the then famous *Courrier du Dimanche*, for the *Journal de Paris*, for the *Figaro*, the *Gaulois*, but he always remained faithful to the *Débats*, the most literary of our newspapers. He had received a highly classical culture at the *École Normale*, and occasionally he tried his hand at articles on purely literary subjects. Many of his essays, literary or political, have been gathered in several volumes. I will here give only their titles: 'À propos de Théâtre,' 'Autour de la Comédie-Française,' 'Le Drame Historique et le Drame Passionnel,' 'Essais sur l'Histoire de la Littérature Française,' 'Molière,' 'Le Théâtre et les Mœurs,' 'Les Théâtres Parisiens.' This list shows that Weiss had become a theatrical critic as well as Sarcey and some other of his friends; but theatrical matters were always to him a secondary object, and politics remained the great preoccupation of his life.

This new volume of 'Notes et Impressions' contains also a few essays, on the most various subjects, but its chief interest lies in the letters of Weiss which it makes public. I will, however, note a short essay which has, so to speak, a retrospective interest, at a moment when the separation of Church and State is daily discussed in France. It is thus entitled: "Are the ministers of the churches who receive a salary public functionaries?" and was written in September, 1881. It is well known that, after the period of the Revolution, in which all the Church properties had been confiscated, Napoleon made a treaty with Plus VII. which goes under the name of the Concordat. This treaty still subsists, after a century, but there is question of putting an end to it. The State gives a salary to the priests of the Catholic Church, to the ministers of the Reformed Church of France, and to the rabbis of the Jewish persuasion. Three churches are, what is called, recognized by the State—the Catholic, the Protestant, and the Jewish. Weiss maintained that the priests or parsons are not public functionaries, in the ordinary sense of the word.

Weiss's correspondence, which is published in the present volume, has a special interest. It would have been as well to leave unpublished some letters to Madame

... which are almost childish; but we can read with pleasure, for instance, letters from Taine to Weiss. In one, dating as far back as 1859, Taine sets forth his method:

"I am not an artist; I do not pretend to be one. I treat moral matters like physiology; I do nothing more. I have borrowed from philosophy and positive science methods which seemed to me powerful, and I have applied them to psychological sciences. I treat of sentiments and ideas as others do of functions and organs; what is more, I believe that the two orders of facts have the same nature, are submitted to equal necessities, and are the two sides of the same thing, the Universe. . . . All my ambition is to put my ideas in writing. As to the form, I make as little of it as you please."

Renan writes to Weiss in 1862, on the subject of the suspension of his lectures at the Collège de France, where he was professor of the Hebrew language:

"I delivered lectures in history, not in theology. It is quite true that the Collège de France is not a school of theology; but I was not theologizing when I treated, from the point of view of positive science, points of history which theologians treat from another point of view. Otherwise the finest and the most important pages of history would be suppressed."

The professorship of French Poetry at the Sorbonne was promised to Weiss in 1863, but Duruy, the Minister of Public Instruction, thought it incompatible with collaboration with the *Débats*, and asked Weiss to choose between the two. Weiss preferred to remain on the *Débats*. This was the occasion of a correspondence with M. Saint-René Taillandier, who obtained the professorship.

In 1867 and 1868, we find several letters addressed to Weiss by Thiers. He congratulates Weiss on his articles, and discusses several points with him. Alluding to a pamphlet which he wrote in 1830, 'La Monarchie de 1830,' now very rare, Thiers says: "It was written during the ministry of Casimir Périer; the monarchy of 1830 had been only six months in existence. . . . Its crime was that it struggled hard against the assaults of the Republicans in Paris and the Chouans in La Vendée." After the war between Austria and Prussia, Thiers writes (September 21, 1868):

"In 1866, on the discussion of the Address, I got it sent back to a committee, as the German question was omitted; thinking that France could not be indifferent in such a question. The committee conceived a senseless phrase, and, thanks to M. Olivier, the Chamber was content with it. As for myself, I advised, not war, which was unnecessary, but what was easy, opposition to the union of Italy and Prussia, by declaring that France would join the party which should be attacked by the other. There was but a word to be spoken, and I begged the Government to speak it. . . . The day after Sadowa, it was still possible to repair the evil—not the whole, but a part of it; but the Chamber had adjourned, and I could not speak."

In another letter, he returns to the question. He had told the Chamber:

"Prussia is going to become a formidable power if you don't arrest her. Nothing is easier. Prussia counts upon the alliance of Italy, and Italy depends upon you. Forbid her to ally herself with Prussia, and she will not disobey you. Say to Prussia that France is one of the guarantors of the German Confederacy, and has, therefore, the right and duty to defend its Constitution."

Such were the illusions of M. Thiers. He did not understand the strength of the movement which culminated in the

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from Isaac Cummings, is an intelligent and technically irreproachable family history. "Isaac Comins, Senior," whose will was probated June 14, 1877, was a settler in Ipswich, Mass. His descendants have taken great liberties with the spelling of his name, the majority following the New England tendency to change the ending -en or -in to -ing. The compiler has gone with this majority in his book, even to spelling his own name Cummings in its chronological place at page 557, but Cummins on the title-page as on his bank checks. His motive has been the simple truth so far as it could be ascertained, and he has not sought by embellishment to avoid a dry chronicle of facts. There is some good reading in extracts relating to collateral ancestors, and an occasional characterization is full-bodied. The stock appears to be simple New England, largely agricultural and mechanical in its occupations, with but few shining lights. College graduates are relatively rare. Loyalists and patriots divided in the Revolution; one solitary Cummings (of this line), having been born in the South, was subdued to it, and served in the Confederate ranks against his kinsmen. One turned Mormon, and his son had a "first wife" living twenty-one years after his death. Inventors have been numerous and clever: Joshua, of the sixth generation, removed from Leominster to Westminster, Mass., for the better education of his children, and was richly rewarded in them. There are a few portraits, all typical and suggestive; none more pleasing than that of the compiler.

The distinction of the 'Dexter Genealogy, 1642-1904,' begun by John Haven Dexter, carried on by Orlando Perry Dexter, and now arranged by Henry L. Miles (American News Co.), is that, by an ingenious system of "superior figures"—in printer's parlance—the authority for every statement is given where possible. No. 99, which stands for Family Bible, of course recurs constantly. The whole aspect of this genealogy is therefore most businesslike and self-commending. The family name is eminent in New England, and the more prominent descendants of Richard Baxter (1606-1680) receive relatively long biographies; that of Mr. O. P. Dexter being as interesting as it is tragic. Andrew Dexter (1779-1837), a native of Brookfield, Mass., founded the city of Montgomery, Ala. Samuel Dexter (1761-1867) sat in both houses of Congress, and was Secretary of War and of the Treasury. The one plate is a charming view of the old Dexter mansion in Malden, Mass., standing on property purchased from the Indians by Richard Dexter in 1663, and still occupied by his posterity. Only 400 copies of this work are issued.

The seventy-two laboratory exercises contained in Prof. J. C. Olsen's 'Text-book of Quantitative Chemical Analysis' (D. Van Nostrand Co.) appear to us to be judiciously chosen and admirably described, and altogether to be calculated to make a skillful analyst of the student. So much of the other matter as is naturally wanted along with the exercises, to furnish information about quantitative analysis that is indispensable to the young man entering upon it and acquiring his first skill, is also good. But whether, over and above that, it was worth while in a single volume to penetrate further into the vast

mass of details, or to undertake more than to direct the student to the different books and papers, with hints as to the use of them, is a question not easy to answer to one's own satisfaction.

An interesting attempt to give permanent value to a second-hand-book catalogue has been made by the newly established firm of Rudolf Haupt in Halle, who prefates a recent catalogue of books on bibliography and printing with a sketch by Professor K. Haebler, entitled "From the Beginnings of the Book Trade." It deals with early book advertisements, and traces their development from circulars about single books to lists of books printed by the same printer or for the same publisher, and finally to the appearance of catalogues of books issued by several publishers or printers, and collected in the shop of the same dealer. The early development of the book trade in Venice is described, and it is shown how the printing of books became in that city for the first time a branch of manufacture, and the selling of books a business pure and simple. Here were to be found, as early as before the year 1500, nearly all the features of the modern book trade.

The *Magazine of American History*, with Notes and Queries, is to be revived after a long eclipse. It will be published monthly at \$5 per annum by William Abbott, at No. 281 Fourth Avenue, New York. The first number will probably be issued in January.

Prof. G. Frederick Wright assumes the editorship of *Records of the Past* (Washington), which enters upon its fourth year in January.

In the *National Geographic Magazine* for November Prof. F. H. Bigelow describes the new research meteorological observatory at Mount Weather, Bluemont, Virginia, about sixty-five miles northwest of Washington, and its work. It is proposed to establish a physical laboratory there "to accommodate experiments in meteorological physics, in the improvement of instruments, in atmospheric electricity, ionization, and radioactivity of the air and of soils, and other research investigations." Another paper deals with the methods of Government assistance in handling forest lands. A résumé of an essay on the "Foreign Commerce of Japan since the Restoration, 1869-1900," is by Yukimasa Hattori, a student at Johns Hopkins University. In referring to the probably large increase in importations of food products in the near future, he calls attention to the fact, almost without a parallel, that the Japanese farmer understands his work "so thoroughly that, by elaborate means of irrigation and the skillful use of fertilizers, he has been able to obtain rich harvests from the same land during fifteen or twenty centuries." There is also given the substance of Sir F. D. Lugard's address before the Royal Geographical Society on northern Nigeria, with numerous interesting illustrations.

The *Geographical Journal* for November opens with an illustrated description of the little known country between the Niger and Lake Tchad, by Col. Elliot of the Anglo-French Boundary Commission. Among the scientific results of this expedition was the discovery of fossils showing that the Mediterranean once extended to this region. Some of them are distinctly of an Indian character—a sea-urchin being of a kind

hitherto described only in Sindh—which would indicate, according to Dr. Bather of the British Museum, a connection of India and the Sahara in early geologic ages. Col. Elliot referred to the lawlessness of the country when he passed through it in 1902, which was before the British occupation. Now, says Major Burdon, the officer in command of that district, "that lawlessness does not exist; and there is nothing more striking or encouraging in the result of British occupation than the way in which the people allow all their fortifications and walls to fall into decay at once. They say openly they no longer have any need of them." The remaining contents are an account of the survey of the fresh water lochs of the Ewe Basin, Scotland, and Dr. Sven Hedin's interesting and characteristic preface to his forthcoming "Scientific Results" of his last journey, to which we have already referred.

African railways are the subject of the article of most general interest in the *Annales de Géographie* for November. The accompanying map, showing the roads in operation and those under construction, as well as the lakes and rivers on which there is steam navigation, gives a vivid impression of the number and extent of these paths of commerce through the Dark Continent which have been opened during the past half century, for the first railway was constructed in Egypt in 1852. Other topics are instruction in topography as preparatory to the study of geography, and the cartography of Spain, with an account of the principal maps of the country, from that of Lopez published in 1765-98 to those very recent ones of the French Alpine Club, chiefly of the Pyrenees. In an interesting notice of the changes wrought by the industrial "boom" in northern Spain, mention is made of the fact that the change of Santander from being merely a port for colonial commerce into a mining and manufacturing community is due mainly to the Spaniards who left the West Indies in consequence of the war and settled there.

—In a very real sense, Andrew D. White's initial paper on Hugo Grotius, in the December *Atlantic*, might be called the most timely contribution of the number, though it is too much to expect that many readers of to-day will stop to recognize and reflect upon the lessons which the career of the great Dutch publicist has to offer to the present generation. The first important work of Grotius, the *Mare Liberum*, became the herald of a new and better epoch, we are told, because it laid its foundations in the doctrine of the inalienable rights of mankind—a doctrine not exactly popular just now, as it does not square with dominant tendencies in national development. This study of Grotius is one of the series of papers which Dr. White has prepared under the general title of the "Warfare of Humanity with Unreason." Samuel P. Orth contributes a paper on "Our State Legislatures," a large portion of which is devoted to a minute analysis of the make-up of four typical legislative bodies, leading to the conclusion that they are really fairly representative of the people by whom they are elected, however unsatisfactory their legislative product may be. This conclusion is true enough if one has in mind a representation merely of the average ability and honesty, but it is not true at all if

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