VII.-HOMER AND THE GREEK EPICS BY CHARLES FORSTER SMITH, PH. D.

It is a commonplace of criticism that and fresh and fair; things and ideas were still in large part unnamed, and the Greeks had the instinct to give names that would describe. Homer portrays a life that he knows, and describes things naively, simply, directly and unashamed. The "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" are the eternal books of youth, and a perpetual lesson in good taste, because their form is perfect. But the "Hind" and the "Odyssey," though the earliest Greek poems extant, are not the work of a primitive poet, nor do they describe an initial stage of Greek civilization; rather they mark the close of an epoch. They presuppose long periods of development, and the form of the verse was unquestionably the growth of centuries of literary culture. The great Ach-aean age, which Homer represents, and of which the siege of Troy was doubtices the most notable event, culminated before Homer and its cataclysm came no great

while after in the Dorian invasion. The real theme of the "Iliad" is the wrath of Achilles. Paris of Troy had carried away from Sparta Helen, wife of Mene-laus, and most beautiful of Greek women, and all the chivalry of Helias, under the leadership of Agamemnon, was besieging Troy to recover Helen. The poem opens in the tenth year of the war, and the period of the action is only about 42 days. With consummate art the poet plunges at once in medias res, as if all the previous course of the war were known Achilles had advised Agamemnon to stay a pestilence in the camp by restoring his captive Chrysels to her father, the priest of Apollo. The haughty Agamemnon reand the maiden, but insulted Achilles by taking his own captive, Brisels. Whereupon Achilles, obeying the Goddens Athena, had not slain Agamemnon, but re-nounced the war. Persuaded by Achilles' goddess mother. Thetis, the supreme god Zeus sent defeats and disasters upon the Greek host, and Agamemnon soon recognized that without Achilles, the Achaeans could not take Troy. In vain, he humilfated himself by sending an embassy of the bravest and most honored chiefs to offer fullest reparation to Achilles, even Agamemnon's own daughter, as a bride. Achilleg was inexorable. Worse disasters followed. The greatest Achaean leaders are wounded. Hector is storming the Greek camp, and only Ajax saves the ships from fire. At last Achilles permits Patroclus to lead out the Myrmidons against the foe, but he falls a victim to own recklessness, and his body, stripped of Achilles' armor, is rescued only by prodigies of valor on the part of Ajax and Menelaus. Achilles' grief was terrific. He threw himself on the ground, cast dust on his head and dress, and writhed in agony. Desire for revenge now took the place of anger. He appeared on the rampart and gave a battle-shout which dismayed the gravest Trojans and made their very horses cower and tremble. As soon as Thetis could procure his other armor from Hephaestus, the artificer of the gods, Achilles attacked the Trojans and slew their bravest, last of all Hector. Patroclus' dead body then received splendid funeral rites and Hector's corpse was restored to the aged Priam.

The "Iliad" and "Odvesey" are not di-dactic poems, but they present a remark-able picture of Achaean life. "In a manner chiefly incidental." says Mr. Gladstone, "there is supplied to us a mass of
information in history and legend, relig'on, polity, justice, domestic life and habits, ethnical and social relations, the conditions of warfare, navigation, industry "Iliad" and the "Odyssey." Even the and of the uneful arts, exceeding in unity of the authorship of these two was amount what has ever at any other peature attacked, but the authority of Aristarchus, and then of the Roman civilization, for both of which they form an original liter-ary base, entered far more largely than any other book, except Holy Scripture, into the formation of modern thought and life." In the Greek drama, characters are apt to represent types, but in Homer the charseters are marked by the clearest and subtlest distinctions. In the "Iliad" the protagonist is easily the most conspicuous

and attractive figure. Of all the heroes he is the tallest, strongest, fleetest and most beautiful, an orator whose supre-macy is acknowledged by Ulysses, and whose chief speech (in book i) is consid-ered by Mr. Gladstone unsurpassed in the annals of eloquence for 3000 years. A mu-sician he is, too, and next to the divine Paeon, perhaps, best understands the art of healing. His love for Patroclus passes that of women; he is the soul of honor and above decett; trascible and inexor Greek race, "a lustrous figure, ever po-tent, ever young, but with the ash-white aureole of coming death around his forehead." Under the hands of the dramatlets his immortal character never degenerated as did even that of Ulysses.

As Achilles represented the element of cassion, so did Ulysses the function of in-ellect. He is pre-eminently distinguished by forethought, presence of mind and selfcontrol—the shrewdest and willest of the Greeks, a profound and astute man of the world. The "Odyssey" especially glorifies his youthful curiosity and spirit of adven-ance combined with a passionate yearning for home and native land; but even in the "Iliad" he is second only to Achilles. The two prefigure the manly ideals of the Hellenic race. Other clearly drawn characters are the stubborn fighter Ajax, "tower of battle," and the garrulous old Nestar, whose "speech flowed ewester than honey." Among the Trojans most conspicuous are Hector, the knightly gentleman and bulwark of Troy, and his aged father Priam. who has suffered unmeasured ills, and yet must sue to Achilles for his son's body. maying; "I have borne such things as no man on the earth hath ever borne—to lift to my lips the hand of the man who hath

slain my son." Of women in the "Riad," two are of surpassing interest. Helen "has exercised more, perhaps, than any of the creations of poetry a profound effect on men's imagination." Lessing has pointed out in the "Laokoon" how Homer conveys an impression of surpassing personal beauty, not by describing her, but by giv-ing voice to the old men's admiration:

the wall, only to see her husband dragged came, inscribed with the words cear her bitter lament at his funeral.

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE sey" by heart, and his example was probably not unique. The roting Alcibiades indignantly struck a schoolmaster who confessed that he had nothing of Hoindignantly struck a schoolmaster who confessed that he heal nothing of Homer's, and Liexander the Great admitted that he had formed himself on the character of Achillos. The elegiac poets develop verse and language out of the epic, and all the greatest lyric poets show Homer's influence—no more than Pindar. In an important sense Homer was the master of Head. of the world, and Matthew Arnold is doubtless right in considering the Homer's influence—no more than Pindar. In an important sense Homer was the master of Herodotus and Thucydides; and Greek grammarians, as well as German orities, have discussed the Homeric style and thought in both historians. Associated in so much good to rallway men. These and other matters to the world's young springtime. The Greeks were the first people that came with eyes to see; the world was young and fresh and fair; things and ideas were Homer. The Homer's great banquetts," and Sophocles received no higher praise than "the tragic he'd. ceived no higher praise than "the tragic Homer." The Homerie sty e and language are noticeable in Plate, as well as the 'at-ter's freetent citation of the epic poet. Even Demosthetes is said to have imitated Homer. In the Alexandrins poetry Homeric influence was predominant, ex-pecially in Theocritus. Indeed, Homer

THE MOST FAMOUS POET OF ANCIENT GREECE | uite to the host of the evening, Other shoft and indreduces were delivered by Mr. Westergard, Councilman Cameron, L. Younger and others. The addresses were interspersed with huste and lively reparted. The openiors referred to the fact that Mr. Cultbert was mainty instrumental in organizing the Southern Pacific band address on the strength of the problem of the free difference of the free difference of the original control of the free difference of the free dif

A NEWSPAPER'S WARNING. Good Work That May Help

Make History.

Here is the Chicago Times-Herald's ed-



erature, as no other poet has ever been lington the other day. We give it as the

Who was Homer? When and where was he born? What works did he compose? TAKE. There is perfect agreement on y as to the name. We do not know who Homer was.

According to a Greek epigram, seven cities claimed to be Homer's birthplace; but, in fact, far more places, on both sides of the Aegean and among the islands, arrogated this distinction, and the state-ments as to the date of his birth range over more than 400 years. This is in real. mingles with the amazement of Republility perhaps a tradition of the rise and cans throughout the country that their arship denied his title to all except the ried been brought for use into one focus the greatest of ancient scholars, silenced by a single mind, except possibly by the the so-called "separators." Early in the by a single mind, except possibly by the the so-called "separators." Early in the philosophical works of Arietotle, if we listh century a Neapolitan claimed that possessed them entire." "The Homeric poems," says Mr. Gladstone again, "have also through the intervention of the Greek first, but proofs in support of this view. poets and not committed to writing at first, but proofs in support of this view were first given in F. A. Wolf's famous "Prolgomena" (1795). Wolf argued that our Homer was originally many small unwritten poems, the unity being due to a commission in the time of Pelsistratus (sixth century). Wolf's followers, especially Lachmann, attempted to dissect the "liked" into the original land the control of the press dispatches from Washington all teetify to the fact that one word from 'Iliad" into the original lays. All great Greek scholars of all lands have in ast century been arrayed on one side or has been almost as far-reaching in phil-ology as the Darwinian theory has been in cience. By a natural reaction, the trend of opinion is again rather toward an original nucleus or central poem, greater or smaller; but critical opinion does not tend oward unity of authorship of both "Iliad"

and "Odyssey."
Of translation of the "Iliad," Lord Derby's in verse, and Lang, Leaf and Myera, in prose, may be especially mentioned; and above decett, inscide and inexpressions, such as Chapman's, belpless. He idealizes the youth of the but other versions, such as Chapman's, Pope's, Cowper's, Bryant's, have many claims to consideration. For the "Odyssey," Worsley's translation in verse and Butcher and Lang's in prose are doubtless unequaled, though Palmer's mical prose version merits especial com-

mendation. Valuable helps to the general reader in appreciating Homer are, besides the histories of Greek literature, Jebb's "Introduc-Leaf's "Companion to the Illad"; Agnes M. Clerke's "Familiar Studies in Homer"; Jebb's "Classical Greek Poetry." Chapters II and III: Symonds' "Greek Poets," Volume I, Chapters III and IV: Mahaffy's "Social Life of the Greeks," Chapters II and III; Gindstone's "Homeric Studies" and "Juventus Mundi"; Bonits' "Origin of the Homeric Poems," and Matthew Arnold's "On Translating Ho-

Charles Froter Smith. University of Wisconsin.

Banquet to T. W. Cuthbert. The Southern Pacific band, employes and numerous friends tendered T. W. and numerous friends tendered T. W. Cuthbert a banquet amd farewell reception last might at Foes' hall, on Grand and Hawthorne avenues. On the first of the month he severed his connection with the company, after having been connected with it for the past six years, and during that period Mr. Cuthbert became prominent in many ways, and the large attendance at the hall last evening attested the esteem in which he is held in

Well may the Trojans and Achaeans strive, And for a long time bear sorrow and unrest. For such a woman, in her cause and quest. Who, like immortal goddesses in face Appeareth.

But Andromache is the most lovable of Homeric women. Her parting from Hector in the sixth "iliad" is the best-known part of the poem, and Hector's love for good of the poem, and Hector's love for the hold played an appropriate selection.

tor in the sixth "lind" is the best-known part of the poem, and Hector's love for his young wife is as touching as anything in modern romance. We next see Andromache in the 2d "lind," when, hearing "Hercuba's cry of anguish, she rushes to the band played an appropriate selection. He was given the place of honor, but T. C. Devlin quickly stepped forward and in few appropriate remarks presented Mr. Cuthbert with a beautiful gold-headed the words. T. W. Achilles' charjot wheels, and then we are her bitter lament at his funeral. Band." He was so overcome that for the She has appeared but for a few moments, and yet no woman of the "Hind," and few in literature, have had such a hold on hearts, both ancient and modern.

Homer was the universal text-hook in Greek schools. A young man in Xeno. Breek schools. A young man in Xeno. Sould say the whole "Had" and "Odys-Pacific Band," in which he pand high trib
Rand." He was so overcome that for the masspicious of the occult influence of great trusts on National legislation, and that—

Trifles light as siz. Are to the judges confirmations strong hours the time was apassed with witty and grave speeches. District Altorray Sewell responded to the tonat. "To the Southern Pacific Band," in which he pand high trib
Ricans and yet no woman of the "Hind," and followed with a selection. After an intermission, the whole company gathered are to the judges confirmations strong hours the time was a specific at the part of the

to any other literature, even the influence of the English Bible being less determinative in our own literature.

Times-Herald printed it, double-leads, black type and all.

Not since the speech of Senator Proctor, setting forth the harrowing sufferings of Cuba under Span'sh misgovernment, has American sentiment been so universally aroused as at the present moment over the bill to exclude Puerto Rico from free access to American markets. Indignation mingles with the amazement of Republi-

affairs responsibility for the reversal of the Republican policy toward Puerto Rico is laid directly at the door of the President. It is credibly reported that but for Mr. McKinley's change of front the bill reported by the ways and means committee would have been defeated with or without the compromise that went to the percentage and not the principle of the wrong. Congressman Watson, of the Sixth Indiana district, says that the Presi-

all testify to the fact that one word from the White House reaffirming the President's declaration of last December would the other of the Homeric question, and it have railled Republican Congressmen from every section of the Union to the performance of "our plain duty" to Puerto Rico. The President falled to utter that word, which, like a blast from the horn of Roderick, would have carried dismay and consternation through the lobbles of sugar and tobacco in Washington. This was a mistake of omission of a

dent sent for him and induced him to vote

plain duty. Then followed the mistake of commis-Instead of preserving what might have been pardoned as dignified silence leaving to Congress its responsibility and reserving to the executive its freedom to follow the course of plain duty in accord with the almost universal will of the people-the President permitted it to be understood that he favored the action of the ways and means committee and wished to see free trade with the United States denied to Puerto Rico.

In this we think President McKinley committed the first almost irreparable mistake of his administration-a mistake that we fear will not down-unless through his influence with Congress he can induce the Senate to throw out the House bill for the substitute that shall enact free trade with Puerto Rico as an integral part of the United States.

We are told from Washington, and especially we of the Mississippi Valley are told that we do not understand the motives behind the President's altered attitude toward Puerto Rico.

Neither do the Republicans of the country understand these motives. But they understood this, that with all the light before him, that he and the people now possess, hast December President McKinley declared:

The markets of the United States should be opened up to her prod-ucts. Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the Unither products free access to our mar-

kets.
Moreover, the Republicans understand that if there were any sufficient secret reason why our duty in December should not be our duty in March, there is no art under heaven that can reconcile the about face in this case, where the impression has gone forth that it was brought about

in the interest of two great trusts. The President and the Republican party must remember that the people of the United States are at this time peculiarly

American people or lull to sleep the suspleions that insist that gross injustice is being done to Puerto Rico because the Sugar and Tobacco trusts dread Cuba and the Philippines looming in the future.

President McKinley's mistake is big with the possibilites of serious disaster for his party in this year's elections. It may not jeopard his own renomination and election; but it puts a whip in the hands of every Democratic speaker with which t8 scourge Republican Congressmen wherever they appear for re-election. What answer, for instance, can Congressmen Mann, Boutell and Foss make to the charge that they preferred to serve the ulterior interests of the Sugar and Tobacco trusts than to obey the dictates of "our plain duty" as pointed out by the President last December?

Not one of these congressmen voted for the Puerto Rico tariff without warning. They all knew that the sentiment of their constituents was solidly for free trade for Puerte Rico, not only because it was simple justice, but because it was the best policy sustained by the reports and reasoning of every official or commission that had investigated the subject,

The Times-Herald knows that it voices the sentiment of the entire Mississippi Valley when it says that by abandoning the attitude of his message in regard to Puerto Rico President McKinley has imperiled Republican control of the next Congress. Even his own prospect of reelection would be in jeopardy were it not for the utter impossibility of the Democracy to get from under the load of Bryan and its own futility.

But the Republican party should remem ber that the people sometimes shut thei: eyes to all risks when they wish to punish neglectful or recreant parties.

AIDING RUSSIAN FIRMS.

Poreign Factories Will Not Supply Materials for Siberian Road.

NEW YORK, March 7 .- According to the statements of a gentleman representing the Russian government, who has just returned from a visit to St. Petersburg American manufacturers must not look for the immediate receipt of any large con-tracts for equipment and material for the trans-Siberian Railroad. The gentleman referred to, who is in close touch with the officials of the Muscovite Government,

"Prince Hilkoff, the Russian Minister of Ways and Communications, and M. Le witte, the Finance Minister, are entirely opposed at this moment to sending heavy contracts out of the country. This decision has been arrived at in view of the fact that several of the large Russian manufactur-ing concerns are shutting down through lack of work. Orders for 5000 freight cars for the trans-Siberian Road were being awarded just as I left the capital to four Russian concerns that were on the eve of suspending operations because of the duilness in trade. In fact, these firms were actually in the hands of receivers, owing to financial embarrassment. The cars are be delivered inside of one year. I was told by one of the principal engineers in the Ministry of Ways and Communications that the trans-Siberian Road will require 15,000 cars in all, so that as contracts for 5000 have been placed as above stated, 10,000

more will be ordered. "Contracts for bridges estimated to be worth some \$500,000 have just been placed with Russian manufacturers. Such pro-ceeding was actuated partly by the minlater's policy, but it was also found that while further fostering native industries by awarding the contracts to Russian bridgemakers, the latter offered additiona advantages, as they undertook to deliver the material by June, whereas, the best inducement as to delivery that American bridge manufacturers could make was completion of the contracts by Nevember

As to the prospect of orders for the Chinese Eastern roads, the speaker, who acted last year as purchasing agent for that system, said: ect to see a goodly nun

stantial orders emanate from Port Arthur before long. I know of three Americans out there now, and I feel assured that the result will be most pleasing to man-ufacturers in the United States. Reverting to the prospects of purchases abroad for the trans-Siberian Road, he said:

"As I mentioned before, the Russia Government is very rejuctant at present to send heavy contracts out of the country but it would undoubtedly welcome an influx of foreign capital, and is prepared to offer many inducements for the building of manufacturing plants in many desirable localities throughout Siberia and Southern

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A Hindoo believing in the transmigration of souls, ate no animal



food, because in destroying even a worm he might be destroying the body occupied by an ances tor. A traveler the Brahmin taking his veg etable told him it was avoid destruction of animal life and, to prove it, fo-cused a micro-

scope on the fruit the Brahmin was eating. That pious person drew back horrified at the living forms he saw. What did he do? Throw away the fruit? Not he! He smashed the microscope and went on with his meal.

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