

# WOMEN'S CLUBS

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

## The Chautauqua Season--Woman's Part in It

Again the Chautauqua season is upon us and ere this you have seen a city of white tents will have been raised at beautiful Gladstone, and out over the rippling waters will be the white canvas of the Willamette which will gleam the lights of a thousand electric lamps and float the music of many voices. By day beautiful, by night enchanting! The very name Chautauqua has become a synonym for stately woods and placid lake. It reminds one of the lovely Red men who came from year to year and gathered on the banks of the beautiful lake, to attend the lectures of the most humane statesmen, the Chautauques of this coast are placing the very best attractions of the country at their disposal, while providing ways and means for a charming and delightful summer outing.

Not so very long ago from the banks of Lake Chautauqua in New York he organized the great assembly which was to appear in the form of a series of lectures and a play in this broad and mighty land. It was equally a happy thought when the Chautauqua students in Oregon City conceived the idea of placing the lectures on the banks of the Willamette. The little three-day assembly, when we all sat in the open, breathing rain, and again scorching with heat, but first the enthusiasm and delight that "home talent" would give us of their best. Eleven years is not a large span, but it has been long enough to carry that little amateur effort over the years and make it a thing and this, the eleventh season, will stand as the greatest educational factor in the state of Oregon.

Our universities are great, our schools fine, lectures, entertainments and concerts we have in plenty through the year, but with them all there is not another such aggregate of educational features together or so many advantages offered in the same time and space as we will find at the Chautauqua this year.

But 10 miles from Portland and two from Oregon City, it is conveniently reached by both the trolley and the Southern Pacific, the latter, however, carries one through the most beautiful perhaps the most desirable. A short walk and the most ideal grounds for a Chautauqua assembly are reached, a perfect wonderland of magnificent trees, groves, lawns, covered by the sun. Nothing has been left undone by the management to increase the natural beauty of the scene or add to the convenience and comfort of guests. Good water, improved sanitary arrangements and a restaurant and service is promised.

The grounds are high and dry and perfectly free from dampness, and away from any malarial influences.

**Camping Privileges.**

A season ticket entitles the holder to the privilege of camping ground. One may take their own tent or rent one from the manager, having it pitched close, or out on one of the tree-lined avenues, or if more seclusion is desired, even in the very primeval forest itself.

Each morning one may have delivered at their tent flap their bread, groceries, milk, meat or ice, or they may take their own provisions for the day. One of the charms of Chautauqua camping is the entire liberty one has, and the freedom from every restraint and the do-as-you-please atmosphere that prevails everywhere.

Even the "camping privileges" for children are ideal. Not a single "keep off the grass" raises its terrorizing finger to little feet, no pitfalls for the feet, no notices of "no swimming" and the great blue dome under which they can scream their little lungs full of good, pure, health-giving air without a danger of disturbing any one—a Paradise truly for the little mother.

It means that once a year a great concourse of people throng together for educational purposes. What that means to a community or state would be its excuse for being if nothing else. But it means more; for the time they have determined to make a "royal road to learning" at last by rendering it thoroughly democratic. It is not conducted so that one set of faddists may exploit their theories to the exclusion of all others, but every branch of learning, every influence that makes for the up-building of man has there an equal chance to gather around it. Its little circle of devotees and teachers meet together learning and teaching and becoming better men and women for these council hours. To the studying of what

each one enjoys best, the morning hours of the day are given over to. Each afternoon and evening a program has been arranged, which will present to the people of Oregon some of the best talent in the United States.

There will be several lecturers there, who, if they came to one of our theatres would demand, for a single seat, more than a 12-day ticket, which admits to every lecture and to the most interesting of these intellectual feasts there will be music, games and sports to serve as recreation. In short it means that for a nominal sum, a price within the reach of the most humble circumstances, the Chautauques of this coast are placing the very best attractions of the country at their disposal, while providing ways and means for a charming and delightful summer outing.

**Woman's Part.**

To the women who sit Sunday after Sunday and hear learned discourses from the eminent ministers of Portland, who attend the theatre several times a week and can pay for a seat to hear the best of the human voice, they could not feel drawn to Chautauqua simply for the intellectual treat, nevertheless they have a duty to perform in going.

Portland must support Chautauqua, just as any city that supports the adjacent country and if every woman of means in the city could realize that by her patronage it is giving a large number of women, farmers' wives and daughters, in advantage they could not be able to do otherwise, it would not be long until the fear of financial failure would be lifted from the management and each year bring onto its programs better and greater attractions. This patronage would have its own reward, for increased means would improve the grounds, afford better sanitary arrangements, create baths and generally increase the pleasure of the city at large, while being a great object lesson for people from the country who are usually careless of these things.

Women very largely control the attendance of these Chautauqua assemblies, and woman's work has always received most generous recognition from the management, and to the women who really have the educational interest of the community at heart, who delight to reach out a helping hand to those less fortunate than themselves, there is no better field for your endeavors than Chautauqua, while at the same time it would be presumptuous for any woman in this city or state to say that she herself was beyond its intellectual influence.

**Clubwomen Pin Faith to Mrs. Decker.**

A New York paper, commenting on the outlook of the general federation, says: "Clubwomen are waiting rather anxiously for the announcement of the new officers of the general federation. Mrs. Decker, the newly elected president, has said frankly that she intends to make some unexpected appointments, her desire being to get into the service some new influences. The general federation, like most large organizations, has a tendency to fall into a routine. This is true especially of those committees having the biennial in charge. For three successive biennials almost identically the same speakers have appeared. What they had to say was admirable, and their own standing in the world of education, philanthropy and letters was not to be questioned. However, Mrs. Decker intends to have a brand-new set of speakers and topics at the next biennial. Altogether it is safe to predict a strenuous administration in citizenship. It is not too soon for Mrs. Decker to begin the work of radical changes in the personnel, programs and committees of the general federation. As a matter of course, we must assume that a radical change in the personnel of the general federation, both in officers and in committees. Here and there a new name occurs, but again at the next change in administration recurs the same names and the same names have long usage. The same flow of oratory, the same addresses of welcome and "responses from the mayor," etc., etc., come again and again, and Mrs. Decker will make a record for herself if she can invent some way to get down to business without the everlasting twaddle of complimentary nonsense that means nothing but a weariness of soul and a distaste for the subject itself.

Next let us examine the committee reports. Almost identically the same reports are said, the same committees

report year after year; their work, of course, shows many returns and an increase of efficiency, still very little that is new appears. And why should it? An old wagon with the same breadth of tire that created the rut is very apt to stay in it, unless hustled out of it for time at least by a newer machine. We look to Mrs. Decker to launch the machine. We have every confidence in Mrs. Decker's ability to bring out of the chaos of ever-changing numbers of women, each with a particular tad to air or hobby to promote, a rational systematized endeavor.

From the reports brought to us from Oregon delegates the conviction is an unwieldy body of women, each bent upon getting the most out of it for herself, and not representative of anything but the purse that is long enough to pay the expense of the trip. Notable exceptions—there were—noble women with high ideal, representing the very best of club life; but these were the exception. It would be too much to expect that any respect to Louisiana some years ago, as she has little to do with the delegates that are sent there; but, as Kipling says, "that's another story." We hope ere long to have an article for this paper on the subject of the condition of our representation. At this time we can only express the hope that Mrs. Decker will take a long look ahead, see the deficiencies in the part that she can control, and by her example of renovation and progressive ideas to impress upon the club body throughout the United States the necessity for better methods and more unselfish conduct in their work.

**Distressing Woman Visits Portland and Is Pleased.**

Mrs. Marion White, editor of the Fine Arts Journal of Chicago, and secretary

general of the National Association of Artists is spending a week at the Hobart Curtis, preparatory to her stay at the Chautauqua-assembly where she gives 10 morning and two platform lectures on art.

Mrs. White is a woman of charming personality, rare conversational powers and a sweet magnetic manner. During her stay in Portland she has been the recipient of many social attentions, and of the many who have called to pay their respects to her she speaks in glowing terms. The west has always held a peculiar interest for Mrs. White and since childhood she has devoured everything she saw or heard of the west country and its people.

In her popular lecture, "Our Patriot Painters of the West," she paints so vividly the people and scenery that it is said one can scarcely believe it possible she has never been west of Chicago. "But," she says, "my father and Charles Dickens sang 'To the west; to the west; to the land of the free! Where the mighty Missouri rolls down to the sea,' and the picture has ever remained, and the yearning for the west became stronger and stronger."

"I feel as if you out here are really the backbone of the country—the national type—American in spirit and intention and with opinions as broad as your sweeping horizon line."

It is pleasant to have Mrs. White express herself so delightfully of the west and of the people she has met in Portland, as she expects upon her return to Chicago to devote one number of her magazine to Oregon.

**Settlement Workers Relieve Sufferers of Slocum Disaster.**

The benefit and usefulness of the district settlement workers was demonstrated in the relief of the sufferers from the Slocum disaster. The Woman's Health Protective Association of New York, was at once mobilized to send a committee of settlement workers to the scene. Ralph Trautmann, who explained the object of the meeting to be to render some service to the sufferers and survivors of that awful catastrophe. Many of the women who were in the boat with the president, and large sums of money were offered, but this the officers declined, as they considered the benefit fund raised by the city sufficient.

It was decided to appoint a committee to confer with the pastor of the stricken parish. It was not thought advisable for these women themselves to go into the district and attempt the relief work. Professional nurses would not do this kind of service except at exorbitant prices, so the work had to be undertaken by the settlement and

chair and the sturdy westerner, Frans Waldorf.

Each page of this charming book brings with it the freshness of the English air, the color of the autumn leaves and the murmur of distant streams, the loving of cattle and the song of birds.

It has a strain of pathos and a glint of humor, and is altogether a humanizing uplift.

It is a story that lingers into the future and passes not entirely with the closing of the book.

The book is nicely presented with a strikingly suggestive cover design and a typical New England scene, done by C. C. Emerson for a frontispiece. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Price, \$1.50.

"Nancy Stair" by Elmer Macartney Lane. This is an intensely powerful and strong story, with dramatic interest from beginning to end.

The heroine, for whom the book is named, is the beautiful and gifted daughter of Lord Stair of Stair House, near Edinburgh. About this woman of rare beauty and genius the story centers, and in the telling of her life and work Miss Lane brings in some of the strongest and purest types of the Scotch gentleman; indeed, it is a book of strong personalities, each character being clothed with a peculiar individuality, noble and self-reliant, but each in such marked contrast to the other that one unconsciously throws onto the other a light of happy criticism, bringing out the fine points in each.

Hugh Pittwater's remark: "Ye can't educate women as ye can men. Theirs elemental creature; and ye can no more change their nature than ye can stop fire from burning," is the keynote to the whole story.

Lord Stair, after a most remarkable and romantic falling in love at first sight, marries a Gypsy maiden who dies at the birth of the child Nancy. As the child grows she displays such marked genius her father determines to educate her as he would have edu-

district workers, with the women of the protective association, the settlement workers furnishing ways and means to accomplish a work and relieve distress and suffering, unparalleled in the history of New York City.

**Susan B. Anthony Collection in the Library of Congress.**

A great deal of interest has been shown in the collection of books recently presented to the Congressional library by Miss Anthony. She had without doubt the largest number of books on subjects relating to women, and she collected them, partly because of her interest in collecting them and partly because the authors or owners of such works took pleasure in presenting them to her. After the completion of her biography and the last volume of the "History of Woman Suffrage," she gladly accepted the invitation of Mr. Herbert Putnam and Mr. A. R. Spofford to place her collection in the magnificent building at Washington.

Miss Anthony made a careful selection of several hundred volumes, which comprises not only those on the "woman question," but also those on "the woman's part" in the history of the United States. There are also her grandmother's Bible, her own old, her mother's Bible and hymn book, over 100 years old, and some quaint and ancient medical works that supplemented in early households the services of the country doctor.

What has added infinitely to the value of this gift is the fact that in every volume Miss Anthony has written her own autograph and a few lines regarding the book. In one we read: "This was presented to Frederick Douglass by Abigail Mott, who taught him to read." Last winter Miss Anthony consumed over a month of her precious time getting these books ready to send away.

Not the least interesting are files of Garrison's famous abolition paper, the Liberator, begun about 1832, and of the Anti-Slavery Standard, which numbered Parker Pillsbury, Lydia Maria Child and Anne Pillsbury among its editors. There are also files of Miss Anthony's own beloved paper, The Revolution, edited by Mrs. Stanton and herself, and of various women's papers long since forgotten.

Mr. Spofford gives it as his opinion that the most precious part of the collection is Miss Anthony's scrapbooks, which she began to collect in 1840. The gift will be catalogued as "The Susan B. Anthony Collection," and a handsome bookplate has been made for it. There are only four other collections of this kind in the library of Congress. This is the only one presented by a woman.

**"Women Are to Blame for It All"**

Melville E. Stone, manager of the Associated Press, in an address to the general federation of Women Suffragists at St. Louis, said: "Let me tell you that the scandal papers of the country are supported by women. No large metropolitan newspaper can live unless it meets the demands of the women." The Birmingham, N. Y., Herald, in commenting upon this, says:

"Of course the woman is always to blame for it all. She was the one who gave Adam the forbidden fruit. She is always the one who drives her husband to drink and evil ways, and who causes him to get gray-headed because of her horrible temper. If there is anything particularly wrong in the world it can all be traced back to woman. We did not believe that the sensational newspapers were the outcome of a desire for their existence by the debased female sex of the country, but it seems that such is the case. Epidemics of crime are probably due to the careful and watchful eyes of the women. It has been highly demonstrated in caring for the sufferers from the Slocum disaster. The Woman's Health Protective Association of New York, was at once mobilized to send a committee of settlement workers to the scene. Ralph Trautmann, who explained the object of the meeting to be to render some service to the sufferers and survivors of that awful catastrophe. Many of the women who were in the boat with the president, and large sums of money were offered, but this the officers declined, as they considered the benefit fund raised by the city sufficient.

## American Liberty--Its Meaning to Cuban Women

With the echoes of our own American eagle still ringing in our ears, and the wounds of the too patriotic boy still fresh in the mind of his anxious mother, it is not amiss to turn our attention for a moment to other lands, and to ask what means this liberty cry to other nations—to other women specially.

Francis Willard once said that: "When Priscilla Mullins stepped on Plymouth rock the American people were born—and she might have added that there began a new manner of woman. The hardships, suffering and work of the early New England women bred in them a stern sense of justice in the right to participate in the privileges, and to share the privations of the men, and early implanted in their hearts the seeds of liberty and freedom which to this day is bearing fruit."

To the women of the south this has never been so much a part. Conditions of life were easier and the invasion of slavery fostered an indolence inconsistent with American characteristics and the enjoying of the protection of men. The war which gave freedom to millions of colored people, while bringing many lessons writ in blood and fire to the women of the south, proclaimed the right of freedom from a tyranny of idleness which was propagating the best energies and sinking them into the slough of selfishness and dependence. Some times the lessons of liberty have been hard, and the way grievous to the feet of the women, but the expression of the bread earner, but it inevitably leads to the liberty crowned goal of self-respect and independence. The same flag that guaranteed to the women of Boston their tea without prohibitive tax, carried to the south a new idea of the liberties and privileges of a nobler life, but nowhere that the Stars and Stripes have ever been planted has it meant so much probably as to the women of Cuba.

The old patriarchal ideas of Cuba obtained to the time of American occupancy of Havana. Their ideas of property were often and severely shocked that they were ready to give up the man's rights of army officers walking upon the streets and visiting the stores unveiled and unescorted. Next came the advent of the woman teacher, the stenographer and the clerk. At the close of the war came the epoch of the condition of the island. Men were un-

struction of male teachers they would remain in school for a longer time.

Two-thirds of the men lay the blame to the women for the injustice done by not allowing women to give us their choice of men and measures at the polls on election day. They tell us the reason they do not allow women to vote is because women do not want to vote and do not know how to vote. It is a cruel lot as soon as we manifest any general desire for it. It is the same old spirit of laying all the blame to the women that has been in existence from the beginning of time. We have become accustomed to it that we seldom stop to consider the ridiculousness of it all.

ELNORA MONROE BABCOCK

**The Decline of Courtesy and Some Causes**

Apropos of the above subject, the Saturday Evening Post has the following to say:

"The familiar toast—'Here's to woman—once our superior, now our equal'—is much more than a clever bit of banquet fooling. It was a jest when first spoken; it is taken very seriously. We have seen in recent years a steady diminution of the deference to woman which in the past century was a part of every boy's education. Even the bow, once a conventional part of the man's dress, has deteriorated into a fashionable shrug; the kiss is unmentionable except as a microbe exhibit, and as for rendering comforts from a sense of duty, here is the very latest article from the very latest book of etiquette: 'The old custom of a man giving his seat in a street car to a woman is being gradually done away with. This is due largely to the fact that women are now so extensively engaged in commercial business that they are constant riders at busy hours, and thus come into direct competition with the men; and we find this in the very latest book of etiquette: 'A man should not look with a pained and injured air at the men passengers because no one of them has offered her a seat.' Really it comes to this: a man is to be told that 'A man should never give his seat to a woman, for his feet, standing in the passageway.' Custom rules, and it does little good to sigh for the good old days before the decline of courtesy."

able to properly house and feed great swarms of female relatives, and the Spanish and Cuban girls began to wonder why they, too, might not do as the American women, and enjoy the freedom of independence, a result the American teacher is fast disappearing and the schools are almost entirely filled with native women.

About five years ago a kindergarten system of elementary schools was established by the Cuban republic society. Just before the transfer of the government it was turned over to the American government by the Orphan's society, so that it might not go to the state independent day. The Cuban government as a part of the public school system. A normal training school in Havana is now under native superintendence. It provides kindergarten training for all young women who are paid, during their two years' course, \$20 a month, and are guaranteed positions at the end of the course. Certain conditions are imposed which make it necessary for them to teach three years after graduation or reimbursement for the expense of their education. Thus are the schools of Cuba being rapidly filled by natives—much too rapidly, some American educators of long experience think. The Cuban women have, as a rule, a very superficial education.

With all this advance Cuba has not reached that high state of glorification which makes her howl herself hoarse on their independence day. The Cuban 12th, or endager the lives of young Cuba as we do on our "glorious 4th," and there is still that deep note of resentment, borne in the breast of every humanist philanthropist, but the Cuban girls are, therefore, afraid to let their eagle scream too loud, lest its shriek be heard by Uncle Sam. Contrary to the feeling in our southern states, the Cuban women are getting over this feeling more and more. The Cuban girls rarely resent their women going into public positions, as the most abominable child of their recently acquired liberty and obligation to the United States. But the Cuban girls, the Philippines, or the United States, the planting of the flag has brought to the women of the nation more happiness and greater possibilities than was in the mind of man to conceive, or tongue to tell.

shall cling to the belief that good manners cannot go wholly out of fashion, that deference to women is excellent, not only for the woman but for the man, and that the gentleman who is guided by the better promptings of his nature, and the higher teaching of his youth, get more abiding satisfaction out of life than by ignoring woman simply because she dares to try the only way of becoming independent—by making her own living."

This is a subject calling forth almost as much interest as the "manly" and "ant girl" problem," with about as many and diverse reasons for its being. What the fundamental cause is would be hard to tell, but, like almost every other "problem," it can be traced directly back to family conditions, or as Mrs. Chant, the English lecturer, says, "our present day American methods of raising children."

"A boy that is taught deference to his elders, specially to his mother, runs little danger in after years of being discourteous to a workingwoman. There is no real cause or reason for a workman to rise and give a woman his seat in the car, and yet every time she sits still and watches a man clinging to a strap he casts a reflection on his mother or whatever woman had the raising of him. If she had not allowed him to sit in his tender years to occupy a chair while she bustled one for him, he could not have in later years remained seated while a woman stood in his presence. Discourtesy is neither sin or crime, but it is always the dividing line between the gentleman and the boor. It is the little niceties that win for men the hearts and admiration of women. No rules of society or good breeding exact the removal of a man's hat in public assembly, but what woman's heart doesn't yearn to the man that does it, specially if he be a man younger than herself and just about the age of her own son. Her first thought flies to the mother that raised him to be so charmingly polite, where they carry a seat or where they may be, and they carry us right back to first principles: there is no decay of courtesy, but a lack of proper home training, and until women learn to train their sons better they have no right to complain of men for 'the good old days before the decline of courtesy.'"

## GOSSIP OF SOME CURRENT BOOKS

"The Tendencies of Recent Fiction"—In the current number of the "Athena" Frederick W. Nicolls takes a most decided stand against many of the books and writers of present-day fiction, and most justly, without gloves, some of our "best sellers."

He says in opening: "The first 25 years of the nineteenth century were the golden age of the English novel. Scott, Dickens, Thackeray and Eliot were the great masters of English fiction, and even those of lesser name compare favorably with the writers who preceded and followed them. The death of Thackeray marks the close of this epoch and recent literary history embraces the period from that date until the present day, roughly speaking about 25 or 30 years. During that time there has been a literary flood of the most overwhelming nature and the torrent of it has completely overwhelmed all other forms of composition. But unfortunately this flood has not been the rising of a clear, pure stream, strong, deep and beautiful, but of a muddy, shallow one, often filled with refuse and filth."

Mr. Nicolls seems to treat or group his periods of fiction like epidemics that attack the literary world, and in this he is not so far wrong; indeed he is mainly right in the way he says about recent fiction. We can almost draw the line around the years when Mrs. Alexander and William Black wrote the sentimental novel. Then set the period of realism. Here Mr. Nicolls pulls off the gloves and lays bare the sickening, nauseating materialism of the "Maxims"; "Sir Richard Calmady" and several others of that class. Then he takes up "The Tale in the Night" with moral degenerate and bemoans anyone taking delight in two consumptive "loving out their woe on each other's shoulders." He laments Mrs. Ward's lack of humor and gives a column or two to the historic epidemic, "Kipling, Stevenson, Howell, Hardy and perhaps a few others will

probably live in future generations," he says.

The article throughout is a readable one and well worth serious thought and study. The closing paragraph, however, reveals it of the pessimistic coloring which prevades the whole article and leaves a joyous prophetic note for future thought.

"The Wood Carver of Lympus"—By M. E. Waller. The story tells itself through the diary of the hero and the letters of his friends. This mode of narrative, while not exactly new, gives the reader a closer, more intimate relation with the characters, drawing them into the intimacy of friends rather than set figures on a stage of fictitious action.

The scene of action is in New England. Hugh, the hero, meeting with an accident at the age of 20—just as he was about to enter the second year at college, becomes a hopeless invalid, and with Uncle Shira, Aunt Liza and the little niece, Twiddle, make up the dramatic personal. The four live upon a small farm, and the story is weighed down with sorrow and troubles over Hugh's misfortune.

A chance call by Philip Vanever changes the whole current of the four lives. Through his interest and endeavor Hugh Armstrong became a woodcarver of great merit and relieved the strain upon the family finances, besides transforming into a strong, noble character the shabby, almost insane wretch. Other strong, good characters weave themselves in and out the story, but it is Hugh Armstrong, the invalid, the wood carver, his counselor and friend and strong right hand, the family that holds the reader spellbound with admiration. There is a sweet, pure little love story winding its way through the book, but the reader is scarcely conscious of its existence in the character studies of "Twiddle"—or Theodora after she has grown to womanhood—Hugh upon his invalid

ated a son, and surrounded only by men she grew to womanhood. Hugh Pittwater, the great criminal lawyer, was her friend, counselor and advisor, and with him she studied the great criminal cases of England and Scotland. With Father Michel, the good priest, she studied out the labor problems and succeeded in mastering the labor situation on her own estate, establishing labor schools for the women, and training schools of other kinds for the men; with her father she read and wrote poetry until her name, through her two volumes, was known throughout Scotland.

Such a life of activity, which influenced hundreds of others, must needs pass through some strenuous and being circumstances, and the author shows herself quite equal to the task of conducting her through them.

One of the finest scenes in the book is the meeting of Nancy Stair for the first time with Robert Burns and their exchange of rhymes.

Then (in connection with Robert Burns) to discover or as Nancy Stair herself puts it: "It took me two weeks to discover that the famous Scotch genius has no more to do with a person called after than the chair he sits in; that a man can write like a god and live like a beast. That he can write lines surpassing Pindar's advice to his son, and leave them uncopied on the fire house table to go off with the first loose woman who comes by and be carried home to drunk to walk." A murder at Stair's house and Nancy's working up the case is quite equal to Sherlock Holmes, while the fine Scotch lad, Danvers Carmichael, and his father, Sandy, make the story complete, and compel the critic to say "it is one of the finest, best and clearest books of the year, inspiring in its tendency."

In binding, the book has that neat elegance which makes it a pleasure to look at and handle and which is so characteristic of the publishing house from which it comes. D. Appleton & Company, New York. Price, \$1.50.

"History of the Northwest," Vol. I. "Discovery and Exploration"—A volume in this series is devoted to "Prehistoric Research," but because of certain expedient and fitting to make the first that of the discoveries and explorations of Alfred Brittain, author of many authoritative histories. In the preface to this volume, the author, in reference with George Edward Reed, president of Dickinson college, and sometime librarian of the state of Pennsylvania. This, like the 13 volumes to follow, is edited by Guy Carleton, L. S. P. D.

It is based upon the narrations of the explorers themselves or of contemporaries having access to the original records of the voyages. It presents for the first time in a general history, not only the entire text of the journal of the first voyage of Columbus, as edited by the celebrated missionary Las Casas but also the original accounts of the expeditions of Vesputci, De Soto, Cortes, Ponce de Leon, Verrazano, Joliet, and Champlain, and of the voyages of Cabot, Gilbert, Hudson, Barin, Hawkins, Drake, Smith, Amidas, Barlow, etc., etc. It is unique in the field of history in that it takes original journals and manuscripts, and presents the narrative from actual words and records of the discoverers. The author has preserved the value of the quoted material as a basis of the study of the evidence of the period by his method, and has increased the value of his work by the style of the original matter which he uses as a setting to the quotations from the sources. The first chapter, which is on "Pre-Columbian Discoveries," opens with this statement: "The record of the beginnings of American history, unlike that of the origins of the history of countries of the old world, is established and attested by contemporaneous documents," and through the entire volume this fact has been utilized to bring into reliable and consecutive form the great events which

led up to the discovery of America, with subsequent voyages and explorations.

The early discoveries of the Norsemen, of which there is good documentary evidence, the writer considers demand nothing more than referential treatment in the history of America, and are only important as they help to establish the scientist and seaman of Europe a curiosity concerning what might lie on the western confines of the Atlantic.

The greatest interest in this period of time is to watch the gradual development of a scientific study of geography which led up to and culminated in the voyage of Columbus, which was the first discovery of America, considered from a scientific point important enough to take its place in the great events of the world. Leading up to this, Professor Brittain gives a brief history no less interesting than comprehensive of the parts the various nations of the world took in this development. Much, however, of this first chapter is devoted to the early settlement of Iceland, and particularly to its "wajjas," an old Scandinavian word signifying "a story." This literature which blossomed in Iceland centuries before Dante and Petrarch is particularly interesting to Americans.

In the third chapter the writer takes up the early life of Columbus, and his advocating his project. He does not treat Columbus nor his discoveries as a fortunate accident, or the thought of one man at one particular time, but as a sequence in a long train of events having at their base deep scientific thought and profound study, every stage of which is substantiated by documentary evidence of the highest order. This method of presentation, in this first volume, should not be overlooked as it sounds a keynote of portentous moment to the following chapters and volumes, promising scholarship in what is to follow. It is also deeply significant of the conception of an overruling wisdom, to whom a thousand years are but as a day and

that time finds no place in shaping the destiny of the world.

The succeeding chapters of volume I first take up in chronological order the various voyages, their causes and effects, and then take up the voyage of Columbus and closing in the year 1850—when Captain MacClure went in search of Sir John Franklin, passing through Bering Strait and sailed eastward to the Arctic sea far enough to establish the fact of a north-west passage. It is a far cry from Columbus to MacClure, but a great study never, we believe, so authentically given or so profoundly interesting as this. No student of history, science or literature, can afford to be without this great precursor of those to follow.

Both author, editor and publishers are to be congratulated upon this initial volume.

In technique the work is good and the many water-color facsimiles of portraits, the maps and photographs enhance both the beauty and value of the book.

The 20 volumes will be issued at the rate of one a month. There is to be but 1,000 copies of the University edition, each numbered and guaranteed. Until the entire 20 are published when the issue is complete the price will be advanced to \$7.50.

Particulars, specimens, text, and illustrations may be had from the publishers, George B. Harris & Sons, 1213 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

**A Ffection.**

From The New York Sun.

Stella—"Isn't she going away for the summer?"

Ben—"No, she won't go and leave her husband lonely and she won't go and leave him to have a good time."