

# LETTERS AND THEIR PUBLISHERS

**"ROSES, Their History, Development and Cultivation,"** by Rev. Joseph H. Pemberton, vice-president of the National Rose Society—With colored frontispiece, nine lithograph plates and other illustrations in the text. With the whole state of Oregon preparing to pay homage next June to Portland's \$100,000 rose show; with every person almost in the city giving time and thoughtful attention to the planting and cultivation of roses, what could be more apropos than the appearance of this exhaustive work on the subject of rose culture at a time when we use the word exhaustively advisedly, for there seems to be no phase of rose culture which has not entered into and given careful and conscientious attention to. The position the author holds in the National Rose Society and his enviable reputation as an authority upon rose-growing gives the book the guarantee of authenticity.

The first chapter is a brief resume of the rose as it is related to English history, then the botany of the rose is taken up and treated in a scientific manner. The wild roses of England and of other countries are described in general and particular, with directions for growing them. A very interesting chapter gives, at some length, "Summer Flowering Roses," and among these we find many of the famous varieties but we would also find many surprises for ourselves in methods and ways of growing them, according to the author's views. This might be said of the following chapter on "Autumn Flowering Roses." This embraces about all varieties of roses and closes the first part of the book.

Part second takes up the cultivation of roses and treats upon such subjects as soil, manures, planting, pruning, budding, cutting, grafting, layering, raising roses from seed, etc. The author not only gives intelligent information upon each and every one of these subjects but valuable instructions as well, and the reader's attention could not imagine a finer, clearer, or more comprehensive work. Several chapters are devoted to the roses of the West, and the author does not hold out glowing hope that by following them explicitly the prizes will come easily to the hands of the exhibitor, for he says: "A grower for exhibition, if he would attain to the first rank, must be observant and alert, and to attain to the second rank, he must be diligent and industrious in all things and at all times. He must not expect to win a prize unless he has first learned the art of growing roses, and the way in which the flowers are prepared for the inspection of the judges. All this and more is a matter of experience; it cannot be acquired from a book, but the few hints and suggestions contained in this chapter, inadequate as the writer feels them to be, are set down with a view of giving a beginner some slight assistance. The practical part of the book is unnecessary, he will probably be inclined to criticize.

In an appendix the author gives a list of suitable roses for exhibition purposes with a description of them, and also a classified list of every variety of roses known. The book bears every mark of a work of authority and brought right up to the present season.

The illustrations are pretty and instructive and the book is substantially bound in dark green cloth. Longmans & Co.



Frontispiece of "Rose MacLeod," by Alice Brown.

complete, and comprehensive history of the great American sectional struggle in the form of readable and authoritative biography. The editor has enlisted the services of many competent writers. An interesting feature of the undertaking is that the series is to be impartial, southern writers having been assigned to southern subjects and northern writers to northern subjects, but all belong to the younger generation of writers, thus assuring freedom from any suspicion of wartime prejudice. The civil war will not be treated as a rebellion, but as a great event in the history of our nation, which after 40 years, it is now clearly recognized to have been.

The two colossal figures of this "great event in the history of our nation" are, of course, Lincoln and Davis, the presidents of the contending sections. Both dominated the policies of the nation over which they presided, yet each was held in leash by constitutional restrictions, and the superhuman weight of responsibility put upon them. These facts often make it difficult for historians to get close to the real man, but the series has largely measured the men by results rather than by their disposition. Lincoln, the successful, has justly passed into history as perhaps the greatest American that ever lived, and his life, crowned with martyrdom, is not so difficult to write. But to winnow from adverse public opinion the life of one who for years was considered the arch-enemy of his country and present a just estimate of the man, is a difficult task for any writer to do, but in the book we have under consideration Mr. Dodd has accomplished this task in a most satisfactory and careful manner.

To read these pages is to feel that there is no more pathetic figure in American history than that of Jefferson Davis. One page after another points which the author brings out, a striking resemblance between the life and character of Lincoln and Davis—they might be the two sides of a medalion, representing victory and failure. They started almost even in life, they were both the sons of a poor farmer, Davis getting the advantage in the fine lines through education, while Lincoln overbalanced this with the tough ruggedness of his experience. This likeness one can trace through the entire book, as they read of Jefferson Davis as the able statesman, the staunch friend and kindly husband and father, but the resemblance ceases when it comes to the large grasp of momentous affairs. The author writes apparently without sectional prejudice. There are some minor points that do not wholly agree with some other writers upon the life and work of Jefferson Davis, but they are unimportant; as, for instance, the date in which Mr. Davis was captured. Few southern people admit, as Mr. Dodd does, that "he put on the blue uniform," and that she threw a shawl around him to increase the disguise. Lincoln never could have done this, a smoking jacket has been the most that was ever conceded except by the newspapers and cartoonists. Mr. Dodd concludes every detail of the most authoritative historians regarding Jefferson Davis' incarceration at Fortress Monroe. This was a blot on American civilization and a reproach that will never cease to cry aloud against President Johnson and the little coterie of politicians dominated by Thaddeus Stevens.

The author of the present book is a clear, forceful writer, and his contribution to the series is a welcome and valuable one. George W. Jacobs & Co. Price \$1.25.

"Pearls at Random Strung," by C. H. Piggott.—In closing this book, when the last page is read, one has the irresistible feeling that the title is not appropriate to the contents. The pearls, indeed, they are precious, are not clear and translucent, and likewise somewhat faded, many of the thoughts of the author are good, and many of his epigrams are exceedingly truthful, yet they are not pearls. Incidentally you are strung at random.

The entire work shows a lamentable lack of concentration. The burden of the author's message is, "Remove the cause," and yet that cause is so obscure and non-contradictory that the ordinary reader could not find it, and most of them will seriously doubt whether the author is very clear on it himself. He is certainly not logical. Here is an example. Speaking of the loss of appetite, he says: "Find the cause, if it causes you a lifetime; then remove the cause. That's it. Incidentally you will be real 'cute' after ten or a dozen years."

This is a book, however, that does show a great deal of work on the part of the writer. It has a basis of common sense in many of its statements which indicate an originality of conception and some study along lines that would

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