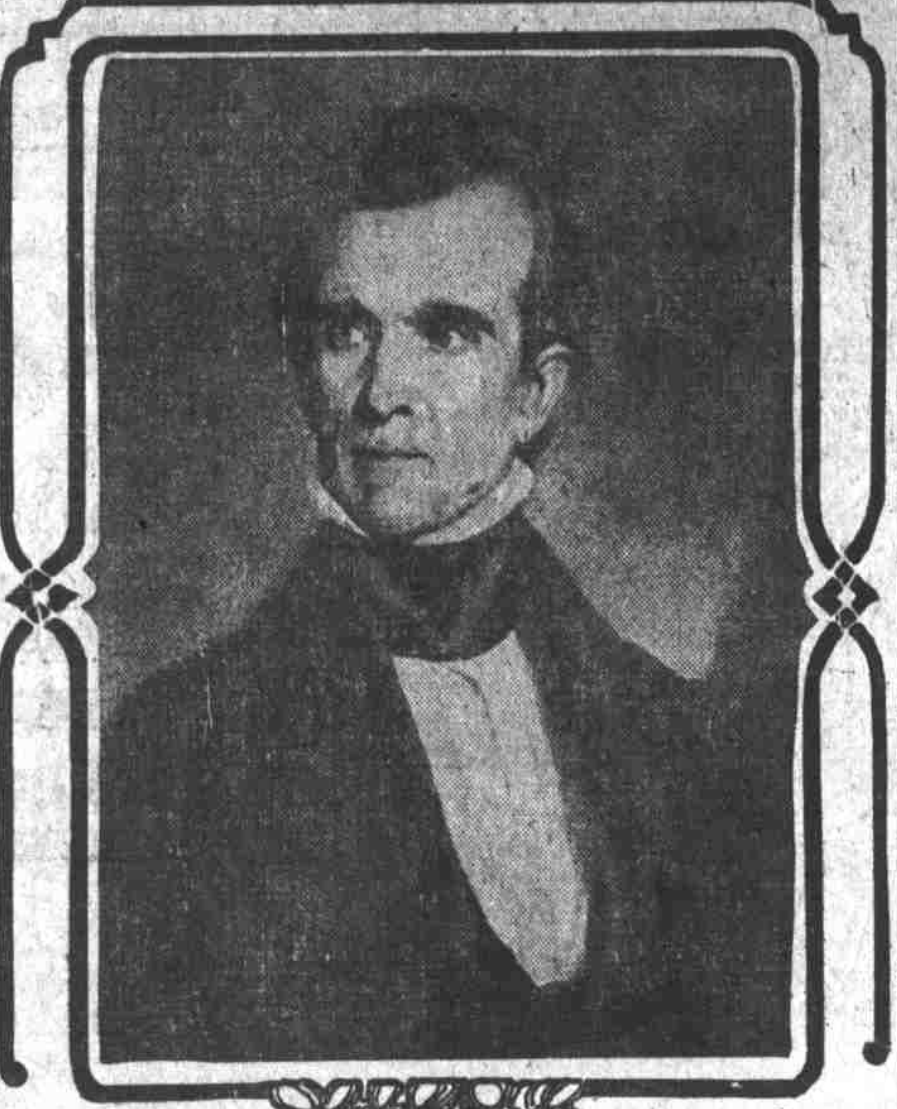


NEW BOOKS and their AUTHORS

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK, edited and annotated by Milo Milton Quaife, assistant professor in the Lewis Institute of Technology, with an introduction by Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin. This is, perhaps, one of the most notable and historically important books that has, or will be published this year. It is the personal diary of President Polk embracing the four years of his presidency from 1845 to 1849. It is printed from the original manuscript, now in the collection of the Chicago Historical society, for the first time. It is presented in four volumes of about 600 pages each. The opening entry is made Tuesday, August 26, 1845, and the closing date is Saturday, June 2, 1849. Compared with the momentous years that followed, a decade later, the administration of Polk might not be considered one of stirring events, or filled with great issues, but it was four years of ground preparation and careful cultivation for the fearful seed time and harvest of later events.



James Knox Polk, from the original painting made in 1846 by G. P. A. Healy.

Polk was not a great man, or a particularly strong one, but he had contentions within his cabinet and without, and much of the personal history of his conduct which has been misunderstood will be made clear through this diary.

In explaining how he came to keep this diary Polk says in his entry of August 26, 1845: "Twelve months ago today, a very important conversation took place in the cabinet between myself and Mr. Buchanan on the Oregon question. This conversation was of so important a character that I deemed proper the same evening to reduce the substance of it to writing for the purpose of retaining it more distinctly in my memory. This I did on separate sheets. It was this circumstance that first suggested to me the idea, if not the necessity, of keeping a journal or diary of events and transactions which might occur during my presidency. I resolved to do so and accordingly procured a blank book for that purpose on the next day, in which I have every day since noted whatever occurred that I deemed of interest. Sometimes I have found myself so much engaged with public duties as to be able to make only a very condensed and imperfect statement of events and incidents which occurred, and to be forced to omit others altogether which I would have been pleased to have noted."

This written diary comprised 28 closely written volumes of uniform size and size, containing each, from 100 to 150 pages. Together with a mass of miscellaneous papers preserved by the president, the diary remained in the possession of the Polk family until 1891, when it was purchased by the Chicago Historical society. In a preface the editor says: "It had been Mrs. Polk's desire that some friendly contemporary of her husband should make use of the papers left by him to write an account of his life and administration, but this wish was never realized. Mr. R. H. Gillett of New York, register of the treasury, under Polk and author of the 'Life and Times of Elias Wright,' defined the task on the ground of the inadequacy of his knowledge of Tennessee politics and George Bancroft, who, late in life, took up the project, went no farther than to have transcripts made of the diary and of a considerable number of the letters and miscellaneous papers placed at his disposal by Mrs. Polk. These transcripts passed at his death to the Lenox library of New York. But very little use has been made of the diary itself this far, although some scholars have consulted the Bancroft transcript. Af-

ter the diary came into the possession of the Chicago Historical society various obstacles arose to delay its publication until in the year 1905 the matter was taken in hand by the late Professor Charles W. Mann, of the Lewis Institute of Technology. He devised a plan whereby provision was made for inserting the most of the entries, and undertook the work of editing the diary. To his effort its publication at this time is primarily due. To his work his time and strength were given unstintingly, and he was stricken down with his last illness while in the Society library engaged upon it. At the time of his death he had outlined the task of editing the diary and had prepared tentative notes for approximately one-third of it. The present editor has adhered to the general plan of the work which he adopted and has made as much use as possible of the notes and other material collected by Professor Mann.

The editor then, in a lucid manner, explains the principles of editing, giving the reader a most understandable knowledge of the text as he goes along. In his introduction, Professor McLaughlin, who is head of the department of history of the University of Chicago, gives a very true and concise statement of the value of historical information received through the sources of a private diary, and points out the definite line between a diary which is kept with a view to publication and one, like Polk's which is kept for personal reference. He says on this point: "Diaries in-

tended for the edification of succeeding generations are, I imagine, peculiarly subject to the infirmity of prejudice; to make the worst appear the better reason, to give with assurance the items which one cannot really know, and to ascribe wrong motives to others—these are temptations which human nature finds it difficult to avoid. But any diary especially one written faithfully for one's own eye, without future readers continually in mind, artificial though it be, is necessarily of great value in letting us see the man that writes and giving us a view of passing events as he sees them.

President Polk's diary does not appear to have been written with the expectation that it would be copied by future historians. It lacks, therefore, affected self-consciousness at least. Probably he intended it to be a reminder of what actually happened, and he expected to use it himself as a basis for some formal narrative of his administration.

Though one needs to remember that the writer is a man of strong feeling and ever possessed of a certain inflexible prejudice, one needs not fear that he is posing or that his is intentionally distorting the truth."

The most burning question during Polk's entire administration was the Oregon question, for it was during Polk's term, as every one knows, that one of the greatest political and diplomatic games ever played in America was going on with Oregon the chief pawn. It was a game so ripe, so intricate, that the keenest intellects of the world almost were engaged upon it.

which people do most commonly and think least of; it gives other pages to the consideration of diet, other than "strippings," which the doctor does not by any means confine his patients to in short, whether one believes as thoroughly as Dr. Kendall does in the efficacy of "strippings" the book is immensely valuable for its general information, and may be had free by addressing Dr. B. J. Kendall, Geneva, Ill.

Although it has long been known that the numerals ordinarily employed in business, and commonly attributed to the Arabs, are not of Arabic origin, and although numerous monographs have been written concerning their derivation, it has remained for Dr. David Eugene Smith of Teachers College, Columbia University, and Louis Karplank of the University of Michigan to bring out in a single work the complete story of their rise and development.

The book, which is now on the press of Ginn & Co., will include a scholarly discussion of the entire question of the origin of the numerals; the introduction of the zero; the influence of the Arabs, and the spread of the system about the shores of the Mediterranean and into Europe. Both authors are well known scholars in the history of mathematics. Their treatise is based upon exhaustive research both in Europe and America. The text will be illuminated with numerous rare facsimiles from early inscriptions and manuscripts.

Such a contribution to history, to mathematics, and to education should find a place in every library of importance and upon the shelves of all who are interested in education in its broadest aspect.

"When Cattle Kingdom Fell," by J. R. Stafford.—A modern western story, written with all the emotional intensity and delicate feeling which this dramatic land of the west holds for the novel reader of today. The story overflows with love, hate, jealousy, revenge and breathes the atmosphere where its people are fearless, reckless, unconventional. B. W. Dodge & Co. Price \$1.25.

"Uncle Walt"—Walt Mason is now familiarly known to millions as "Uncle Walt," and is without doubt doing more to influence people toward a smiling route than any other person whose work appears in the newspapers of the country. George Matthew Adams, the publisher, is preparing in original and pleasing form the most popular and unique and beautiful of Walt Mason's rhymes that have appeared. There is put into the book an atmosphere that will go with it into the homes and into the hearts of the people who have easily learned how to love "Uncle Walt."

Nothing has been spared toward the production of the book into substantial, beautiful form. It will be printed in beautiful style, cloth bound, gilt top, and on a high grade deckle edge paper. Part of the book will be in colors. Price \$1.25.

Mrs. Florence S. Barclay, author of "The Rosary," is about to visit this country. She will sail from England late in August, and is due to arrive in New York early in September. Although Mrs. Barclay makes her home in England, she has always kept in close touch with America, where she has a few near relatives and many friends. Among those who will greet her upon her arrival will be her sister, Mrs. Maude Ballington Booth, who has found time in connection with her earnest devotion to the work of uplifting humanity, to write some charming books for children.

The last time Mrs. Barclay visited this country was shortly before the publication of "The Rosary." Coincident with her arrival this fall, will be published, under the Putnam imprint, her new novel entitled "The Mistress of Shenstone."

In "The Mistress of Shenstone" certain of the characters that endeared themselves to the reader of "The Rosary" again make their appearance in relations and under circumstances that

Oregon for itself at that time would not have been thought worth the candle but into the settlement of the Oregon question was injected slavery, the acquisition of new territory and above all the northwestern boundary line. It was in Polk's administration that "54-40 or Fight" became almost a declaration of war between the United States and England. To know the confidential thoughts and opinions of men and events at this time, of the man at the helm of national affairs must be of profound interest to every American, but will be of far deeper interest to the people of Oregon, especially to those who are interested in its history. The book is of too great proportions, and of such signal importance that it cannot be reviewed as a whole, and at later times, each volume will be considered separately.

That the A. C. McClurg Co. of Chicago has in hand the publication of this work is sufficient guarantee that it is well gotten up, and presented in a most creditable manner. The four volumes are sold at \$28.

"Poet Lore." The summer issue of this highly literary publication comes very near earning the title of "Spanish number," for two of the four articles deal with Spanish subjects.

The first is a five act drama, "The Grandfather," by Perez Galdos, and translated from the Spanish by Elizabeth Wallace. The action takes place in a city by the sea, in northern Spain, called for convenience "Jerusa." The principal scenes of the play take place in La Fardina, the lordly domain which once belonged to the Count of Albert. The time is the 19th century. The play was first given in the Teatro Espanol, February 4, 1904. It has but 11 characters, but is full of life and action, and modern philosophy. It is a drama one might expect to see enjoy a moderate amount of popularity, for it is of high literary merit, but devoid of the elements that catch the popular fancy, or feed the appetite for sensationalism.

The second number of the magazine is a most interesting and analytical article, by Katherine A. Graham, on the Spanish dramatist, Echegaray. The writer does not take him as a whole, but writes on "Some Aspects of Echegaray," concluding with an eulogy summing up: "Certainly in this easy-going day when the public likes to settle back comfortably into its chair at the play, when many dramatists justify Mr. Scott's complaint and exhort us to laugh at honor and mock at virtue, it is an event to meet a playwright who stimulates, who induces moral reflection, as does Senor Echegaray. We do not attempt in the present brief article to give academic judgment concerning him as an artist, but only to assert that his plays have what Mr. Edward Everett Hale calls, 'that something which lasts for awhile after one leaves the theatre.'"

"Poetic Language" by Ivan Calvin Waterbury, is as interesting as any, and perhaps the most instructive article in the book. It is scholarly as well, and the student of English cannot afford to miss reading it. The ornament of the book is a delightful, one-page poem "In Delos—in the Drifting Isle," by Mildred McNeal Sweeney. "Poet Lore" is published quarterly at 194 Boylston street, Boston. At mid-winter and mid-summer extra numbers are published. It is \$1.25 per number or \$5 per year.

"Diet That Cures Consumption," by Dr. R. J. Kendall.—This is a little book of pamphlet proportions, but contains volumes of information regarding the great White Plague.

Dr. Kendall believes he has found in a certain diet and method of taking it—namely, "Strippings, all cream, not milk," a surer cure for tuberculosis than any yet discovered. To the unlimited "strippings" means the very last milk given by the cow at each milking. This is supposed to contain all the cream of the milking, and before the farmer sent his milk to the creamery and the churning was done on the farm the milk must always carried a little pail for the strippings, which went directly into the "butter crock" for the next churning. This taken fresh from the cow and not allowed to lose the animal heat before it is drunk by the patient, combined with open air, and the regulation sanitary and hygienic rules observed, Dr. Kendall claims will prove an effective cure that is next to infallible.

This little book, however, does not help upon one string; it gives many rules for the patient to follow, with several pages of "Donts" about things

instantly solicit the reader's sympathy and that will hold his attention unflinching to the last page. The solid weaving of two natures through the power of love is presented with insight and dramatic force; but the misunderstandings and confused purposes for a long time postpone, and even render uncertain, the ultimate triumph of love. The new novel reveals an even surer touch and a more developed literary quality than "The Rosary."

The appearance of Dr. Strong's new book, "My Religion in Everyday Life" (The Baker & Taylor Co.), recalls an interesting parody for which Miss Frances Willard at the time president of the W. C. T. U., was responsible. Introducing Dr. Strong, whose book, "Our Country," was then the most talked of book in the world, she said, "Breathe there a man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath read 'Our Country'?"

PROF. HORNER WOULD KEEP OUT OF POLITICS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Waldport, Or., Sept. 3.—It is believed in Waldport that Professor J. B. Horner, who has been mentioned by the state press for the office of superintendent of public instruction, will not consent to run for the office. His daughter, Miss Pearl Horner, who is also his stenographer stated to friends today that her father had never participated in politics, knows nothing of the business, hence will be inclined to keep out of it. She said that the family contemplated spending their next vacation in Europe and that the "Oregon Literature" and "A Vacation on the Mediterranean" are both out of print for the reason her father has not had time to revise the copy for new editions. She also indicated that the material for another book which her father has not had time to complete is in his study. With this work ahead and with his strong attachment to his work in the Oregon Agricultural college, she expressed the belief that he would not break away from his life work.

BENNETT CLEARED OF MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Astoria, Or., Sept. 2.—The preliminary examination of Beris Bennett, charging him with manslaughter in connection with the death of the late Hans Jorgensen, was held in Justice Goodman's court last evening and upon motion of Deputy District Attorney Brownell the case was dismissed. He said there was not sufficient evidence to warrant holding the man for trial. Dr. Fulton, one of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the remains, said the blow struck by Bennett was not sufficient to have caused death or inflict any serious injury, and added that while the blow probably aggravated the case, the man's death was due to the fact that he was what is termed a "bleeder." The case was dismissed. He said there was not sufficient evidence to warrant holding the man for trial. 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