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GREAT BOOK BY JOHN ADAMS' GREAT-GRANDSON

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HENRY ADAMS

The Discriminating Would Rather Have Written It Than Have Been President

America has produced no more remarkable family than that founded by John Adams, who succeeded Washington in the presidency. John Quincy, the son of John, also occupied the executive mansion in Washington. Charles Francis, the son of John Quincy, served as minister to England during and after the Civil War and made a reputation as a diplomatist second to none in the history of the country. The sons of Charles Francis have all been distinguished for originality and brilliance of intellect. They have not sought political office and they could not have obtained it if they had sought it, for they lacked the ability to win popular support.

When the autobiography of Charles Francis Adams was published last year, after his death, it was welcomed as one of the most remarkable books of the season, and unique among autobiographies for its calm dissection and analysis of the writer's character and attainments. Henry Adams, the brother of Charles Francis, Jr., wrote an autobiography which he had privately printed before his death. Only a few persons were privileged to see it, because the edition was limited. The book has been published this season and can now be obtained by any one who has the price. Every educated man or woman who can raise the money out of children now, as they have always done, will wish to read this book. Many a discriminating man after reading it will remark that he would rather have written it than have been President.

But there are more persons familiar with the name of Henry Adams, and many others who know that Henry was the grandson of one President and the great-grandson of another know little more about him. They will be interested to learn that he was born in 1838, was graduated from Harvard College in 1856, spent a year in Europe, and when he returned to America was taken back to London by his father to serve as his secretary in the American embassy. He remained in London until 1868, when he returned home and spent a season as a Washington correspondent for the Nation and one or two other papers; became an assistant professor of history at Harvard in 1871 and editor of the North American Review, holding these two positions for six or seven years, and then resigning to devote himself to his own devices. He published a book on Anglo-Saxon courts of law. He wrote a nine-volume history of the United States, covering the period from 1801 to 1817, in which he has produced a careful study of Jefferson and Madison. He wrote a life of Albert Gallatin and edited his works, and wrote the lives of John Randolph and Henry Cabot Lodge and published a volume of political and economic essays. None of these works is popular in style or treatment. Indeed, Adams confesses that, so far as he knows, the only serious readers of his study of Jefferson and Madison were Abraham S. Hewitt, Wayne MacVeagh and John Hay, a small reward, as he says, for ten years of hard work.

At first thought one would say that a man whose achievement in matters of general interest was so slight would have nothing to say in his autobiography which could be of importance. But who

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The Largest Unexplored White Spot in the World Far off in the Northwest—far west of Greenland—far north of Baffin's Bay, lay the largest unexplored white spot on the surface of the globe—one-half a million square miles in area. It was the goal which Donald MacMillan set out for in the year 1913.

They felt that before them lay "two years of uncertainty, of blasted hopes, of adventure, of wonderful and strange sights, of extreme happiness and abject misery" but the two years stretched to four with triumph at the end. The story of these four years is told with remarkable modesty by Donald MacMillan in his new book,

FOUR YEARS IN THE WHITE NORTH, by Donald B. MacMillan

MacMillan was with Peary when he found the Pole. The MacMillan expedition was known as the Crocker Land Expedition, and was sent under the auspices of the Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society.

It explored the Unknown land—found records of Peary and other great explorers—and much other material here published for the first time.

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Read **Ambassador Morgenthau's Story** History for now and all time. Net. \$2.00

Read **Old Days on the Farm** It is rather difficult to imagine a farm book which does not pretend to give advice to the farmer, but such a book has been written. "Old Days on the Farm" was contributed to a farm journal by A. C. Wood, and these have been rewritten and augmented and assembled in book form. For the city dweller who now and then longs to look back upon simple joys of early days spent on the farm these stories are full of reminiscent pleasures.

OLD DAYS ON THE FARM, By A. C. Wood. New York: George H. Doran Company, \$1.50.

Current Magazines

The place of honor in the December Bookman is given to an appreciative sketch of George Horace Lorimer by Irving S. Cobb, in the course of an article on the way to bring about a closer acquaintance of Americans with young English writers and of Englishmen with young American writers. The sketch is by Nicholas, who is visiting this country with the British mission, pays a tribute to Cobb, a writer of whom the English know little, and also to the prominent, reminded us of the popular idiomatic style of the Elizabethan Decker. Hugh Walpole's serial is continued and well-known writers contribute reviews of current books.

St. Nicholas for December is full of Christmas cheer. T. Morris Longstreth contributes a story, and "Blue Magic," a serial by Edith Hallinger-Price, begins with a installment of three chapters, and George E. Walsh also starts a serial, "The Boy Vigilantes of Belgium." The serial by Ralph Henry Barbour and Emily E. Knipe and Aileen B. Knipe are continued.



MRS. HUMPHRY WARD Who has published her literary recollections

ever said this would have to be ignorant of the fact of the descendant of two Presidents. The book, which he calls "The Education of Henry Adams," and which he writes in the third person, is a review of the history of Europe and America from 1840, or thereabouts, to 1905, as that history affected the processes of thought of a man seeking some philosophy of society and some key to the secret of human progress. He saw the education of the young in Italy while in process of formation. He passed through the trying period of American history in close contact with the British Government, whose leaders were committed to the recognition of the Confederacy. He had admirable opportunities for appraising Grant and his administration as President. When he later took up his residence in Washington and London, he came in contact with the most brilliant minds of his generation. He was intimate all his life with John Hay and Senator Lodge, Charles Sumner and Edwin Everett—Everett was his uncle. He served in the London legation with William M. Everts, who later became Secretary of State. And he got points of view from all these men. His autobiography contains the cream of his thinking for a lifetime. He confesses that, in spite of all his efforts to secure education, he had achieved only ignorance. But the discriminating reader will decide that every wise man makes when he has the door opened into the vast realm of knowledge and realizes that he can traverse only a little corner of it. Adams is brilliant, cynical, witty and infinitely suggestive. For example, he visited Russia with Senator Lodge a few years ago, and, after getting the Russian admiral to admit that he did not know the Russian language, he said to the admiral, "The progress of modern nations for two or three generations, he remarks casually that 'for him all opinion founded on fact must be error, and their relations must always be infinite.' A page could be written calling attention to the noteworthy comments on life without wearying the reader. It is a small, hauntingly beautiful book, and one to read and reread.

THE EDUCATION OF HENRY ADAMS An autobiography. With an introduction by Irving S. Cobb. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 45.

How to Cure Nerves An illuminating little book, especially for the parents of young children, is "Nervoumentation." It is the outcome of the experiences of a psychologist, Dr. I. E. Emerson, during service at the Massachusetts General Hospital. It holds that nervousness is largely due to weakness, ignorance, and disturbing ideas, and that a child should be trained in the habit of right thinking. The intimate relation of dream and the contemplative is clearly and most interestingly shown. He very firmly believes that the intolerable distress which is found in the mind of the child is due to the suppression of love, or, in other words, "a willingness to take one's share in the world's troubles."

NERVOUSENESS AND CAUSES, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION. By I. E. Emerson, Ph.D. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., \$1.25.

Felix Adler's Philosophy The aim of Prof. Felix Adler in his latest work is to sketch a certain "Philosophy of Life," and to trace the steps by which he reached it. It is the outcome of more than forty years of active social service and a ceaseless search for light on the great problems of life. As his system of thought and points of view as to conduct have grown out of his personal experience, in an "autobiographical prelude" he shows how, after separating from the Hebrew religion, in which he was born, he reaches the conception of humanity as a whole and the task laid upon each individual of showing his love for his neighbor. Then follow some of the applications of this philosophy to the three shadows of sickness, sorrow and sin, and also to the principal so-called rights to life, property and reputation.

There are many practical hints and suggestions, as, for instance, the forming of a community of an organized body of parents related to an organized body of teachers, for "home and school should not merely co-operate, but interpenetrate." This parental organization could render "signal service to a school by appraising its ideals, by keeping tally on the extent to which acknowledged standards are carried out, and by joining in the unceasing endeavor to advance the standards. Schools must be backed by the interest and appreciation of the community." His studies and his life-work have led him to the conviction that the culminating social institution is religious fellowship, its three main aspects being teaching, organization and worship. In his closing words he expresses the hope that through his faithful obedience to the call of humanity he will attain to the peace which "passeth understanding" upon whose boom "we can pass safely out of the realm of time and space."

AN ETHICAL PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. PRESENTED IN THE FIRST VOLUME, by Felix Adler. New York: D. Appleton & Co., \$1.

Sequel to "The Blue Bird" It requires considerable audacity to fix the scene of a play inside the mind of a sixteen-year-old boy and then have the inherited tendencies and the persons of whom he thinks serve as the characters in the play. But this was Maurice Maeterlinck has done in "The Betrothal," a sequel to "The Blue Bird." Tyltyl, the hero, has grown up and he dreams of marriage. The fairy Beryllune appears and asks him if he loves any one. He confesses after some hesitation that there are six girls whom he likes. He summons them, at her suggestion, by turning a sapphire, and they appear, one after another, in the kitchen of his home, where he is sleeping; but, of course, as the fairy reminds him, they are not in the kitchen at all, save as they are there in his own mind. He confesses that he cannot do better than his father, and is taken to the hall of his ancestors in order to get their help in deciding. A draped and veiled figure follows them. The ancestors, that is, his inherited predilections, find it impossible to make a choice. Then they all go to the hall of his children to see if his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren can be of any help. Finally, the littlest of the lot chooses the veiled figure, who proves to be the girl to whom he gave his love. And when Tyltyl awakes the next morning he finds that the girl has come back to the neighborhood to live. The whole thing is done with the utmost poetic imagination that characterized "The Blue Bird."

A Literary Gem If any one is looking for a book for a Christmas present for a literary minded woman, he cannot do better than buy for her "Adventures in Indigence and Other Essays," by Laura Spencer Porter. In the first place, the book has a charming title, and it is a small volume bound in white vellum paper with the covers and back stamped in a conventional design in blue and red and yellow. The volume will turn first, the titles of the last century. In the second place the contents are delightful. The author has produced essays that are pure literature. It is a pleasure to read the limpid, graceful sentences and it warms the heart to find essays that are kindly and human, filled with a great tenderness for all created things. Many a paragraph is so good that it will turn first, looking over the table of contents, to the essay on "The Disappointments and Vicissitudes of Miss," which nothing else in the volume will turn first, since Charles Lamb's "Dissertation on Roast Pig."

Whatever man buys the book as a gift for a woman should mark his watch for it, and he should buy it for her to read it himself before passing it on to the one whose joy he is conferring. He will conclude to buy another copy for himself.

ADVENTURES IN INDIGENCE AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Laura Spencer Porter. Boston: The Atlantic Monthly Press, \$2.

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MRS. WARD'S RECOLLECTIONS Two Volumes of Literary and Social Reminiscences of a Distinguished Woman

There are autobiographies which depend for their interest on the eventual career of the subject, and there are other autobiographies which fascinate the reader because of the literary charm of the style and the genial or cynical philosophy of life disclosed. The Recollections of Mrs. Humphry Ward, which have just come from the press, belong in part to each class. Mrs. Ward's life has been mainly eventful in its succession of adventures in acquaintance with distinguished persons, and she has a certain social philosophy which manifests itself occasionally in the course of her narrative.

As every one knows, she is a granddaughter of the famous Arnold of Rugby, but it is not so widely known that she was born in Tasmania and lived there till she was five years old. The first part of her recollections she devotes to the Arnold family. Readers interested in literary history, however, will prize most highly her story of "Robert Elsmere," the book which gave Mrs. Ward an international fame, although it was her first novel. She tells how she became interested in the religious novel which is the theme of the novel through a study of the church fathers from the fourth to the ninth century and their credulousness when confronted with evidence of alleged miraculous happenings. The higher biblical criticism was making a stir in the nineteenth century and their credulousness when confronted with evidence of alleged miraculous happenings. The higher biblical criticism was making a stir in the nineteenth century and their credulousness when confronted with evidence of alleged miraculous happenings. She worked at it for years, writing and rewriting until she had reached a point in what she thought an interesting manner. She exhibits a pardonable pride in describing its immediate success. More than half a million copies of it were sold in America, and for months it sold 5000 copies every thirty days in England. The circulating libraries were besieged for it. Gladstone reviewed it. Clergymen preached sermons against it. She was denounced as an enemy of Christianity on both sides of the Atlantic. But her book continued to sell. She has not been able to live down her reputation as one who attacks the religious faith of Christians, for although she makes no mention of such an American magazine to which an article by her on Italian art was offered twenty years after "Robert Elsmere" was published, rejected it because of her religious views, she would be offended if it printed anything that Mrs. Ward wrote.

Mrs. Ward confesses, however, that she has come to agree with her uncle, Matthew Arnold, that the main theme of her book was wrong—that a priest who withdrew from the world and the church, Matthew Arnold remained to the end of his life an attendant at the services of the Church of England and believed that the way to reform it was from within and that great national institutions were too sacred for iconoclast handling if any other method were possible. But Mrs. Ward does not express regret for having written "Robert Elsmere."

She brings her recollections down to her fiftieth year and summarizes her literary activities since then in a brief chapter. The book will take its place among the important collections of literary reminiscences in the English language.

A WRITER'S RECOLLECTIONS. By Mrs. Humphry Ward. Two volumes. Illustrated. New York: Harper & Brothers, \$6.

Can the Dead Speak to Us? In New York there is a quiet little woman. There are people who know her well, because she has done some simple and beautiful writing, but she is not of those who like to see their names in print. She is modest to a fault. And this woman, level-headed, clear-thinking, found one day that she seemed to be in touch with those who had died. She was startled—she was almost frightened—but that passed. She found that there was a stupendous message to be given to the world—that she had been chosen to deliver that message. She found that through her a husband whose life had been empty was to find comfort from the wife he thought he had lost forever; through her a dear son found his mother and his sisters.

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It may be that you are one of those who doubt. Of those who believe profoundly in future life there are many who feel that there never has been and never can be any communication between that life and this. But this book is so extraordinary—it is so stamped with honesty and sense—that you owe it to yourself to read it and weigh the evidence.

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This book is published by us in a most serious spirit—an earnest effort to contribute something to this biggest of all thoughts.

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