

Frederic Harrison in America.

It is probably true that the visit of no Englishman, since Matthew Arnold came to this country eighteen or twenty years ago, has excited greater interest among the intellectual people of the United States than the recent one of Mr. Frederic Harrison. He did not come here to be lionized, to gain money, or to investigate us for the purpose of writing a volume of impressions. He had two or three specific objects, and these were duly accomplished before his return. He had been invited by the Union League club of Chicago to address the club, February 22, on the character and place of George Washington in history. He also had as a particular mission the arousing of interest, especially in our leading universities, in the approaching millennial celebration of that great founder of English laws and letters, King Alfred.

He arrived on February 14, and after a day or two in New York, proceeded to Chicago, where his address on George Washington was received with very high praise. It is to be published by the Union League. Mr. Harrison's name was associated by one of the speakers, on that occasion, with those of Queen Victoria and John Bright, as one of the three people in England who had been most influential, in the time of our civil war, in preventing conflict between England and the United States, and in upholding the cause of the north.

Mr. Harrison took occasion while in Chicago to lecture before the University of Chicago, and also addressed the Positivist Society. He was especially interested in Hull House as a standpoint from which to study the industrial and social conditions of the people of the most typical of great American cities.

From Chicago, he went directly to Boston, and lectured before Harvard university on the writings of King Alfred. This very attractive address has now been published in pamphlet form by the Macmillan company. "I call to mind," said Mr. Harrison, "that this year is the millenary, or thousandth anniversary, of the death, in 901, of Alfred the West Saxon king, who is undoubtedly the founder of a regular prose literature, as of so many other English institutions and ways. . . . He and his people were just as much your ancestors as they were mine; for all we can say is that the 130,000,000 who speak our Anglo-Saxon tongue have all a fairly equal claim to look on him as the heroic leader of our remote forefathers."

From Boston, Mr. Harrison made haste to visit Washington in time to be present at the second inauguration of President McKinley, and he was the guest in Washington of Senator Elkins. He was on the platform in the senate chamber on occasion of the inaugural ceremonies, and was entertained constantly during his Washington visit by senators and high officials, and met nearly all the important public men at the capital. He was particularly interested in coming to know well Vice President Roosevelt. Mr. Harrison is the author of a very valuable monograph on the character and career of Oliver Cromwell, and naturally had read Mr. Roosevelt's more recent study of the great protector.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Harrison was the guest of the Johns Hopkins university, where he delivered an historical lecture on Alfred the Great to a general Baltimore audience, and spoke particularly upon the works of Alfred to the university students of English literature. Thereafter he spoke in succession at Princeton, Yale and Columbia universities, and made an address before the Nineteenth Century club in New York on the men and the characteristics of the last half of the nineteenth century. He made a second brief visit to Boston just before sailing, and took passage to England on April 3.

Mr. Harrison deservedly holds a great place among the real students and men of letters of Great Britain. Yet he has not confined himself to the pursuits of learning and literature alone, but has all his life been earnest and active in the practical promotion of his political, social and ethical opinions, with a view to the advancement of his generation.

He was born in London on October 18, 1831, and is therefore in his seventieth year. He was educated at King's college, London, and Wadham college, Oxford, where he took his M. A. degree and became a fellow and tutor. Subsequently he became a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, in 1858.

His interest in labor problems was early shown, and he was a member of the royal commission on trades unions that began its investigations in 1867 and reported two years later. He was secretary of the royal commission for digesting the laws during the following two years, and for twelve years, from 1877 to 1889, he was professor of jurisprudence and international law to the Inns of Court.

When the London county council was created for the government of the great metropolis, Mr. Harrison was honored by being made one of the first aldermen; and from 1889 to 1892 he rendered conspicuous services in that important body.

For twenty-one years he has been president of the London positivist committee. Those who would like to know what Mr. Harrison's religious views are, and what he means by "positivism," should be referred to his valuable article entitled "Positivism: Its Position, Aims and Ideals," in the March number of the North American Review, a summary of which we published in the April number of the Review of Reviews.

As the troubles between England and the Boer republics were coming to a crisis, Mr. Harrison, with Mr. John Morley and several others, was one of the most outspoken and convincing antagonists of the policy of Mr. Chamberlain and the present conservative government. It is hardly necessary to say that he has always been an advanced liberal in his political affiliations.

His contributions to general literature, to history, to philosophy, to political and economic science, and to the methods of education and culture, have been so numerous that we will not try to present any bibliographical data.—Review of Reviews.

The Country Colleges.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons, the octogenarian benefactor of small colleges, has been signally honored by the legislature of this state in the adoption of a complimentary set of resolutions.

The legislators, recognizing that Dr. Pearsons' wealth was accumulated in this state and that here his greatest benefactions have been made, took occasion, on Dr. Pearsons' personal visit to the legislature, to record with a rising vote their appreciation of his splendid work in furthering the cause of education.

The keynote of Dr. Pearsons' benefactions to the colleges is contained in the following saying by himself: "Not a penny to the rich or well-endowed institutions. I am helping the poor, struggling colleges because they are helping the poor boys and poor girls to obtain an education."

If, as Dr. Pearsons and a great many others believe, the best American types of the future are to come from the west and middle west this liberal giver to the cause of education is shrewd and far-seeing in confining his gifts to the small colleges scattered over the middle and western states. Dr. Pearsons sharply defines the work of the smaller colleges as distinct from the great, richly endowed institutions of learning. In the latter the tendency is ever to concentrate, consolidate and absorb. In the small col-

leges the opposite tendency is paramount, and hence they must ever remain "close to the soil," whence the best types of young America are recruited every year.

The great universities are constantly absorbing more wealth. They are also absorbing smaller and weaker institutions at an unparalleled pace. Dr. Pearsons believes, and a great many will agree with him, that this tendency is not representative of true democracy in learning. Nothing can ever supplant the beneficent work of the smaller colleges. It is in them that the moral fiber of students fresh from the country or mountain home is developed as it cannot be in the glamour of a great centralized university.

Probably the tendency of the future will be that the immensely endowed universities, with their magnificent equipment and facilities for special investigations, will devote themselves more and more to postgraduate work. The training of the raw material in the ordinary academic and college years will be left to the smaller institutions near the homes of the students.

This tendency is even necessary if we are to retain the principle of democracy in the field of learning. The attempt to consolidate and affiliate scores and even hundreds of small colleges into one centralized institution is an artificial policy that may ultimately fall of its own weight.

Long may the small college prosper and such prophets as Dr. Pearsons multiply.—Chicago Chronicle.

Flag and Constitution Divorced.

The decision of the supreme court declaring that congress has certain powers no one has heretofore dreamed of its possessing, and that the constitution is weak and ineffective where it was believed to be strong, clears the way for entering on the main question, which, after all, resolves itself into the power and duty of establishing a permanent colonial system as to our foreign acquisitions. The removal of the constitutional objection does not make it incumbent on the United States to acquire, establish and maintain colonies in distant parts of the globe, nor under the guarantees of the national constitution, which hold good in the states, but subject to such legislation inside and outside the constitution as congress may impose. Without this power it has been held the administration and its party would speedily drop the Philippines. If we can govern them outside the constitution and in disregard of its rights and guarantees, we want them. If they were to come under the constitution, let them go. We want none of them. In this particular case the court was divided five to four in dissent, and the dissenting judges were the chief justice and Justices Harlan, Brewer and Peckham. Judge Harlan, a veteran republican, the oldest member of the court, appointed in 1877, declared the principles announced by the majority would "result in a radical and mischievous change in our system of government," and that we "will pass from the era of constitutional liberty, guarded and protected by a written constitution, into an era of legislative absolutism in respect to many rights that are dear to all peoples who love freedom." This is strong language, but it is true. A great danger has been introduced in our system of government. We may weather the coming storms, but on the other hand they may be disastrous and perilous.—Pittsburg Post.

Just So.

Little Elmer (who has an inquiring mind)—"Papa, what is conscience?" Professor Broadhead—"Conscience, my son, is the name usually given to the fear we feel that other people will find us out."—Harper's Bazar.

The Little Country Paper.

It's just a little paper—it isn't up to date;
It hasn't any supplement or colored fashion plate.
It comes out every Friday, unless the forms are pried;
The outside is home-printed; with boiler-plate inside.
It hasn't any cable direct from old Bombay,
But it says that "Colonel Braggins is in our midst today."
It doesn't seem to worry about affairs of state,
But it tells that "Joseph Hawkins has painted his front gate."
It never mentions Kruger or Joseph Chamberlain,
But says that "Thompson's grocery has a new window pane."
And that "the Mission Workers will give a festival,
"And there'll be a temperance lecture in William Hooper's hall."
It tells about the measles that Jimmy Hankins had
And says that Israel Johnson "has become a happy dad."
It says that "cider making is shortly to commence,"
And cites the fact that Ira Todd is building a new fence.
It mentions Dewey's coming in one brief paragraph,
And says "that Charlie Trimble has sold a yearling calf."
And everything that happens within that little town
The man who runs the paper has plainly jotted down.
Some people make fun of it, but, honestly, I like
To learn that "werk is booming upon the Jimtown pike."
It's just a little paper—it hasn't much to say—
But as long as it is printed I hope it comes my way.
—Josh Wink, in Baltimore American.

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A former college athlete, one of the long distance runners, began to lose his power of endurance. His experience with a change in food is interesting.

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"I trained for the mile and the half mile runs (those events which require so much endurance) and then the long daily 'jogs,' which before had been such a task, were clipped off with ease. I won both events.

"The Grape-Nuts Food put me in perfect condition and gave me my 'ginger.' Not only was my physical condition made perfect, and my weight increased, but my mind was made clear and vigorous so that I could get out my studies in about half the time formerly required. Now most all of the University men use Grape-Nuts for they have learned its value, but I think my testimony will not be amiss and may perhaps help some one to learn how the best results can be obtained. Please do not publish my name."

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