

ROBERT BROWNING.

People literarily inclined will find, in the first of the "Westminster Biographies," the "Life of Robert Browning," by Arthur Waugh, a charmingly picturesque bit of writing. The book is a clear exposition of the poet's exceptionally sincere, strenuous, purposeful career. It shows Browning as a man who found poetry not inconsistent with the interests of a man of the world. He was a poet in whom there was none of the traditional madness. Even the ideal and idyllic love the poet bore his wife, in their perfect marriage, was eminently sane. Mr. Waugh shows the steadiness of Browning's growth in art. He explains, too, the Browning method of interpreting life by analysis of emotions, in which field Browning is second only to Shakespeare. The poet's message is likewise clearly explained as one urging the salvatory influence of simply doing one best by the best light attainable. Browning believed essentially that the duty of man was to perfect himself as far as possible here, and that the effort would be rewarded somewhere, somehow, in the hereafter. Browning is shown as being, in the highest sense, modern, and withal a man deeply and widely learned and sympathetic, though revealing his sympathy in a detachment of himself from the characters he interpreted. Browning took himself seriously enough, but never too seriously. He worked, but he always enjoyed himself. He was strong in his opinions, but he allowed his wife often to influence him. The world's slowness in recognizing him never caused him to complain, and when fame came, the Browning Club had simply filled him with a humorous dread. Mr. Waugh's little biography is marked by an enthusiasm well restrained, and by a quality of criticism which is sound, because it sets up no foolish, arbitrary standard, but accepts the man and his work as they were and are. It can do no one aught but good to read Mr. Waugh upon Browning, and especially his defense to the charge that Browning did not reflect the passing interest of his day, did not sing, as does Mr. Kipling, the topical things about him. Browning, says Mr. Waugh, was concerned not with the petty ephemeral interests of blood or party, but with the broad interests of humanity, with the problems which, in one form or another, confronts every man of every civilized race. He did not believe in failure. Failure counted, in his opinion, towards success in the end; to "other heights in other lives, God willing." Persons who have been confused by interpretations of Browning—and few of us have not—will find Mr. Waugh's little work a common sense corrective of much of the cryptic criticism which has gathered about the poet's work as a reflection of his life.—The Mirror.

A Sensible Woman.

A party of married men were talking about their wives, and it is worthy of note that every man was glad he had a wife and was anxious to tell of her good points. "I never heard my wife swear but once," said one of them when there seemed to be a lull in the praise-meeting. All the others looked shocked. If any of them had ever heard their wives swear, they were not telling it, and they resented the frankness of the one man who was apparently betraying family secrets. But the man did not regard the bad impression he had created. "And that," he continued in the same tone, "was way back yonder, thirty or more years ago, when the oil excitement in Pennsylvania agitated the whole country. I owned a farm up there that I had taken for a debt of a thou-

sand dollars, not because it was worth that much, but because it was all I could get. My business was very small then, and a thousand dollars represented the bulk of my capital. I had been married five years, and my wife was the very best investment I had ever made. One day I received word that oil had been struck on the farm adjoining mine, and right away I proceeded to go crazy, just as everybody else did when oil showed up anywhere in their neighborhood. My wife showed signs too, but she kept her wits about her. Inside of a week I began to get offers for my farm, and I got crazier every time there came an offer higher than the one before it. It went up like a balloon at first, until the figures got away up, and then the small bidders dropped out. At last an offer of a hundred thousand dollars came from the representative of a company that I knew was worth two or three millions."

"Let it go, John," said my wife when I told of this offer.

"I guess not," said I; "if it's worth a hundred thousand to them, it's worth a hundred thousand to me."

"She pulled down her apron with a jerk a peculiarity of hers when she meant business.

"You're getting a hundred times more for it than you gave," said she, "you never expected to make a hundred thousand dollars in a hundred thousand years, and you know it."

"But I'll make a good deal more than that now," I insisted, and started to my desk to write a letter declining the offer.

"She pulled down her apron with a jerk that made the string crack.

"John Martin," said she, "don't be a fool!"

"And I wasn't," concluded the narrator, "for I accepted the hundred thousand dollar offer, and it was ninety thousand more than the company ever got off the farm, for the oil didn't seem to run that way."—William J. Lampton, in the September "New Lippincott."

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MASTER'S SALE.

Docket T. No. 132. In the circuit court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, Hannah Oliver, complainant, vs. John J. Davis et al., respondents. In chancery.

Foreclosure of Mortgage.

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance and by virtue of a decree entered in the above cause on the 17th day of November, 1900, I, A. J. Sawyer, master in chancery of the circuit court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, will on the 10th day of September, 1900, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon of said day at the east front door of the county court house building in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, sell at public auction for cash the following described property, to-wit:

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A. J. SAWYER, Master in chancery. WEBSTER & FLEHARTY AND H. F. ROSE, Solicitors for Complainant.

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