
Review: François Coillard

Author(s): F. R. C.

Review by: F. R. C.

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Jan., 1908), pp. 97-98

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1777270>

Accessed: 25-06-2016 21:06 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

says, the beauty of the country, or the infinite variety of its climate, that exercises an irresistible charm over the settler, but it is a fact that the Scotsman who sings "Auld Lang Syne" with tears in his eyes does not want to go back to bonnie Scotland, nor does the German of Southern Chile yearn greatly for his Kaiser and fatherland. Chile is a comparatively young country. Undivided loyalty to the flag may yet prove the great safeguard of its national existence. There are not people enough, so far, to admit of much division of national sentiment. There may be too many lawyers, and there certainly is far too much of politics, but there is no room for a split in the camp of universal patriotism. The book, being chiefly historical, does not leave much room for the material progress of the country and the status of its army or its fleet, but what there is of both forms a useful summary of the present position, both commercially and strategically. The nitrate industry is well illustrated, and well-deserved attention is called to the extraordinary development of sheep-farming in the south. This led to a burst of speculation in 1905, after the boundary settlement with the Argentine was achieved, which is just now being balanced by an inevitable reaction. The best prospects of Chile's future, however, lie far more in the gradual clearance of the forest tracts adjoining the southernmost extension of the railway system, and the promotion of agriculture and colonization south of Valdivia (the Araucanian country), than in pastoral enterprise of the comparatively restricted grass lands of Tierra del Fuego or the Andine slopes east of the snow-line. The rising interests of commerce in the Pacific will also offer new openings to Chilean enterprise. Chile is a growing country. The pageantry of war and revolution has, we hope, passed from her for ever, and a new vista opens before her. There may yet be a federation of the Spanish-speaking states of South America, which appears to some politicians to be the one thing necessary to relieve the vague but ever-perceptible shadow which creeps slowly southwards from beyond the equator. The difficulty will be the flag. If that difficulty can be solved, there would appear to be nothing to prevent South America from competing with North America for the material wealth of the world. Mr. Scott Elliot's book is well worth attentive study. It is always a matter of interest to inquire into the processes by which great nationalities are formed, and it is just this which is so excellently well told and so well illustrated.

PERU.

'Peru in 1906.' With a brief historical and geographical sketch by Alexander Garland, member of the Lima Geographical Society. Lima, 1907.

This is a folio volume in English, of 303 pages, prepared by order of Dr. Don José Pardo, the accomplished and enlightened President of Peru. Mr. Garland's well-written historical and geographical chapters also include very full information respecting the educational system and the institutions of the capital. The fourth section contains chapters on the agriculture, mining, manufactures, trade, and means of communication, on the currency, banking, finances, and the press. It is quite a model for what such a report should be, and is well illustrated with portraits, views, and maps.

GENERAL.

FRANÇOIS COILLARD.

'Coillard of the Zambesi. The Lives of François and Christina Coillard, of the Paris Missionary Society, in South and Central Africa (1858-1904).' By C. W. Mackintosh. *Frontispiece, Map, and 77 Illustrations.* London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1907. Price 15s. net.

In the ranks of the great missionary pioneers in Africa, François Coillard occupies a position midway between that of Robert Moffat and David Livingstone.

No. I.—JANUARY, 1908.]

H

Unlike Moffat, his life-work was not confined to one region, and, unlike Livingstone, he never merged the missionary in the explorer. His direct contributions to geographical knowledge were not very extensive, neither is his biographer concerned to set them forth; Coillard's own book, 'Sur le Haut Zambèze' (English translation by the author of this biography, 'On the Threshold of Central Africa'), contains more information on that subject than the volume under review. Nevertheless, the life-story of a man who did much to give the map of South Central Africa its present political configuration cannot fail to appeal to other than purely missionary circles. Coillard was born in Asnières-les-Bourges, Berry, in 1834, of a French Protestant family, and went first to Africa in 1857 as a missionary of the Société des Missions de Paris. From that date until 1866 he was at work in Basutoland, and after an interval of two years, spent chiefly in Natal, he returned to Basutoland, where he continued his work of evangelization and civilization until 1877. In that year he led an expedition (promoted by Basuto Christians, who desired to start a mission on their own account) across the Limpopo through Banyailand, was taken captive to Lobengula's kraal, and by the Matabele sent to Bechuanaland. Thence, in 1878, he journeyed to the Zambezi, and in 1884 he founded the Barotseland mission. In Barotseland he spent the rest of his life, and there he died in May, 1904. In his forty-seven years' work he had but two furloughs in Europe, each lasting two years. In 1861 he was married at Capetown to Miss Christina Mackintosh, a lady of pure Highland blood, who, from that to the day of her death in 1891, shared all the joys and hardships of his journeys. Madame Coillard and a young niece who accompanied her were the first white women to see the Victoria Falls. In his Banyailand expedition, and in various journeys in the upper Zambezi valley, Coillard broke new ground, while his investigations into the manners and customs of the Basuto and Barotse tribes yielded rich material to the ethnologist. The great influence which he acquired with Lewanika and the Barotse in general was invariably used for the promotion of good government; it may be said without exaggeration that Barotseland as we know it to-day is the work of his hand. To his statesmanlike advice is due the fact that that country was added to the British Empire without the firing of a shot, and it is also largely due to his wise counsel that the Barotse have remained peaceful ever since.

Coillard throughout his life put his spiritual work first; the spread of Christianity was his absorbing passion, and it is rightly enough that side of his work which Miss Mackintosh emphasizes. Her narrative, brimful of excellent stories and pertinent comment on political questions, has at times a piquantly ironical strain. It is a fitting memoir of a noble, an heroic figure. A word in praise of the photographs should be added. They illuminate the text.

F. R. C.

SHORT NOTICES.

Europe.—'The Shaping of Lindsey by the Trent.' By F. M. Burton. (London: Brown & Sons. 1907. Pp. xi., 59. *Diagrams and Illustrations*.) This study of a characteristic district of England traces its condition through various periods. The writer shows how it is possible to distinguish four different islands in succession—those of the chalk, the oolites and the Keuper, and the more recent isle of Axholme; and how the Trent, during the first two periods flowing in its old course, during which it carved the "gap" at Lincoln, but subsequently captured by the Humber, had the strongest influence on their formation and shape.

'The Bernese Oberland.' Vol. 3. By H. Dübli. (No. 11 of Conway and Coolidge's Climbers' Guides. London: Fisher Unwin. 1907. Pp. xxiv., 136.) This work, conveniently produced in the form of a note-book, with pencil and