

**Cardinal Newman.**

By William Barry. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1904.

John Henry Newman was one of the most interesting and important figures of the nineteenth century. His tragic ecclesiastical career, his position as the intellectual leader of a powerful religious movement, his finished English style have combined to make him an object of universal interest. Few lives have been more elusive, more replete with contradictions and contrasts, more difficult of portrayal. With all his intellectual keenness, Newman was in some respects singularly ignorant and insular. He was almost entirely unacquainted with the great currents of thought that moved the continent, especially Germany, in his time. He was a platonist who never read Plato, a poet who preached and wrote prose, a thinker who accepted without question the dogma of papal infallibility, a defender of the Anglican church who rent her asunder, an opponent of the Catholic Church who accepted and defended its doctrines, a convert to Rome who was soon at war with his superiors. Such a man is the storm center of controversy while he lives and a fruitful theme for the biographer when he is dead. Several lives of Newman have already appeared, notably that by E. S. Purcell. The present work is brief and approaches the subject rather from the literary than the theological or ecclesiastical standpoint. It is in the series of "Literary Lives," edited by Robertson Nicoll and its character is largely determined by that fact. The facts of the life are given briefly and the remainder of the space is devoted to an exposition of his writings, an estimate of his style, influence, etc. The author is in apparent agreement with the views of his subject, and writes very sympathetically. He regards the *Apologia* as one of the most beautiful autobiographies in the language. He finds Cicero to be Newman's only master in the form-

ation of his style. Though he was a stylist of the highest order, he never wrote for the sake of writing. He believes the *Apologia* will live as literature while the rest may be ephemeral.

Mr. Barry's style is not the best. He is sometimes wanting in the lucidity and vigor which he so much admires in Newman. His analyses of arguments, and his statement of the contents of given writings are not always what could be wished. Still the work is the result of a sympathetic study of Newman at first hand, and must take its place among the important attempts at the interpretation of Newman's life and works.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

**The United States in Our Own Times, A History from Reconstruction to Expansion, Being an Extension of "The History of the Last Quarter Century."**

By E. Benjamin Andrews. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1903.

This stout volume of nearly a thousand pages deals with our history for the third of a century from 1870 to 1903. It is the most ambitious attempt that has been made to write the life and doings of the last generation. It deals largely with national politics and political parties, but also gives generous space to other matters such as labor troubles, expositions, floods, industrial and economic progress, the Spanish war, the acquisition and government of the Philippines, affairs in Cuba, etc. History written so near the events can of course never be final. Many of the subjects treated are still matters of controversy and must continue to be so for many years. The style is discursive, abounds in quotations and is marred by frequent repetitions. The matter has not been digested and condensed. Often the selection of material is bad. For example, there is a full description of the decorations of the White House at Mr. Cleveland's marriage; but even the names of his cabinet officers fail to