The Italian Monument to Columbus

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been cut off a few hours before. The Was near Lün Long are said by the Shans to be "not so very bad," the principal difference being that they buy their heads instead of raiding for them. The country generally is hilly and populous, the villages are numerous and large and are connected with each other by very good roads, but there is next to no trade. The main road usually runs into the heart of the village, through a tunnelled entrance, which proved a great obstacle to transport. Much ground is given up to the cultivation of the poppy for opium, and large silver-mines undoubtedly exist; but though gold is also said to be plentiful, the surveyors did not see any. No actual fracas took place with the Was, but Captain Renny-Tailyour thinks that the next attempt to traverse their country may meet with considerable opposition.

The photographic, lithographic, drawing, and other head-quarter officers of the Survey did good work as usual. Among the more notable maps may be mentioned the sheets of the new survey of Calcutta, which are being rapidly turned out, and a third edition of the two-sheet map of the city. A new geological map of India, on the scale of 96 miles to the inch; a map on the same scale, showing the railway lines and distribution of coal; and three maps illustrating events in Mr. G. W. Forrest's 'History of the Indian Mutiny,' were also completed, besides a large number of plates of illustrations for archæological and other works published by Government. Colonel Waterhouse records his experiments for reproducing brush-shaded maps, and printing them in colours by heliogravure, one of which has been attended with decided success. In this case, the hills were drawn on ground-glass with a black creta-levis pencil, which drawing served at once as the positive transparency for obtaining the image on the copper plate. A capital specimen of this photo-etching, printed in three colours, is appended to the new volume, and there appears to be no doubt that the greater clearness, finish, and durability of the copper plate will render the process far superior to lithography for high-class map work.

THE ITALIAN MONUMENT TO COLUMBUS.

By CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, C.B., F.R.S.

ITALY has undoubtedly contributed the worthiest and best memorial in honour of the fourth century of the discovery of the new world by her illustrious son. A collection of all the contemporaneous documents relating to Columbus, with essays by the most learned men to be found in the land, on every disputed point and every question of interest relating to the great discoverer, is a noble monument. Many of the brightest intellects of his native country have devoted five years to the grateful task of elucidating the history of their immortal compatriot

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and of his discoveries. No less than six have died while the work was in progress. The Government of Italy appointed a Royal Colombian Commission, and spared no expense in the production of these fourteen splendid volumes which form the Italian monument to Columbus, either as regards paper, or type, or illustrations.

The first two volumes of the first part contain all the known writings of Columbus, and photographs of all his autographs, with a preface and elaborate dissertations by Signor Cesare de Lollis, who was formerly Secretary to the Historical Institute of Italy. This part of the work had been destined for Mr. Harris, if he had not separated himself from the undertaking. Here we are given the journal of the first voyage, the letters to Santangel and Sanchez, all the reports and letters to the sovereigns, the first entail, the correspondence with Roldan, Gorricio, and Ovando, and the Admiral's letters to his son. Then follow the 'Profecias,' and all the notes in the Admiral's handwriting, in the margins of the 'Imago Mundi' of Pierre D'Ailly and other books in the Colombian Library at Seville. All the scattered information that formerly had to be searched for in various works, and some of which was only accessible in manuscript at Seville, is now collected in these two volumes.

The second part is only second in interest. Here the disputed questions respecting the birth and family of Columbus, and his conduct on various occasions in after-life, are discussed by so competent a critic and historian as the Signor Cornelio Desimoni. He settles the time and place of the birth of the great Genoese—it is to be hoped finally—and discusses the dates of his arrival in Portugal and of the Toscanelli letters. There are, of course, some points which can never be cleared up owing to insufficiency of evidence, and among them is the legitimacy of Fernando. Desimoni believes that the evidence against the great discoverer kicks the beam, and adds, "Colombo infine era un uomo; chi oserà lanciargli la pietra." The Genoese historian also discusses the knowledge and the character of his famous fellow-townsmen. The evidence respecting the corsairs named Colombo, whose appearance in history has caused so much confusion, is fully treated by Alberto Salvaglini, who also has occasion to examine critically the meagre facts for forming a judgment on the date of the arrival of Columbus in Portugal, and of the Toscanelli letters.

Signor Achille Neri ably sets forth the history of all known portraits of Columbus, engravings of which are given in the volume. It is now admitted that the picture once in the gallery of Paolo Giovio, and now possessed by his descendant, Dr. Alessandro de Orchi, of Como, is the only one with any pretension to authenticity; and that all those of similar type are merely imitations of it, with various alterations. Such are the pictures at Madrid and Florence, the Cuccaro, Cogoletto, and Rouen portraits, and even that belonging to Roselly de Lorgues, as well

as the engravings in the 'Elogia virorum.' All others are simply the fruits of the painters' not very imaginative invention, from that attributed to Parmigianino at Naples, to the hideous caricature published in De Bry. The small panel belonging to Dr. Alessandro de Orchi is, therefore, priceless.

The third part contains diplomatic correspondence from Venetian and other Italian orators (ambassadors) relating to Columbus, and the letters of Pietro Martire, Vespucci, Vianello, Marino Sanuto, and others. In the fourth part we have an admirable series of essays by the well-known traveller D'Albertis on the ships of the Middle Ages, as an introduction to a description of the ship and caravels of the first voyage, and essays on early cartography, on the observations made by Columbus, and on the instruments used in his time. Signor Bertelli contributes a very learned dissertation on the discovery of the variation of the compass.

The fifth part has not yet reached us, but it will comprise monographs on the Italian precursors and continuators of the work of the great Genoese, such as Toscanelli, Pietro Martire, Vespucci, Caboto, Verrazzano, Pigafetta, and Benzone. It will comprise three volumes of great interest; and the sixth and last part is an elaborate bibliography of the works relating to Christopher Columbus and the discovery of America.

This is indeed a noble and imperishable monument to a great man. It will endure for centuries after all the carping criticism on the words and acts of Columbus has been forgotten, except for the few notices preserved to point a moral in its pages. It was a most happy idea, and Italy is to be congratulated on having a Government sufficiently enlightened to undertake so good a work, and so many learned sons ready and willing to devote their time and talents to advance the honour of their country. As President of the Geographical Society of a nation which has owed much to Italy, it is alike a duty and a pleasure to offer on the part of my associates, as well as on my own part, our most hearty congratulations to our Italian friends on the completion of their magnificent Colombian enterprise.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF MAMMALS.

By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S.

NO. II.—THE AUSTRALIAN REGION.*

SECT. 1.—BOUNDARIES OF THE AUSTRALIAN REGION.

THE Australian Region includes Australia, New Guinea, and the Moluccas, together with all the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. It is divided from the Oriental, the next adjacent region, by a line drawn

* Continued from vol. iii. p. 105. Map, p. 96.