

note that, if practical good is to come from the Hague conference, there is abundant need for publicists to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the material which the industry and learning of Professor Moore have here provided.

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As a presentation of what may be called the corporate life of China, Professor R. K. Douglas's book on *China* ('The Story of the Nations : 'Fisher Unwin, 1899) merits no little praise. What one more particularly would like to know would be how the Chinese came to be where they are, and how the Chinese state came to be what it was a thousand years ago, and is, in all essentials, still. To these questions no very definite answer is attempted in this volume, which is rather concerned with the chronicle of events during the last three centuries, and especially with the beginnings and character of intercourse with the West. The narrative is clear, succinct, and interesting, and at such a crisis as the present deserves close study. It is a pity no bibliography is given, but that feature probably does not form part of the plan of the series. One may indulge, too, in some slight regret that the opportunity was not taken of rendering a tardy justice to the Chinese people. In all essential human qualities they are inferior to no race, white or yellow. Their geographical isolation has caused medieval states of civilisation to become crystallised into forms incompatible with the necessities resulting from the violent, impatient, and ruthless irruption of the West; while their peculiar self-complacency, the outcome of centuries of justifiable pride in a civilisation immeasurably superior to their environment, cannot be expected to yield—especially under the existing conditions, external and internal, of Far Eastern politics—within the space of a few decades: for the true opening of China to the West goes back no further than the forties.

F. V. D.

The merits of M. Gaston Boissier's books are so widely recognised that it is unnecessary here to do more than call attention to the appearance of the latest of them in an English version—*Roman Africa : Archaeological Walks in Algeria and Tunis* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1899). The indefatigable researches of his countrymen into the antiquities of the Roman provinces in Africa have provided him with abundant material, which he has utilised with his accustomed skill. M. Boissier is too much of a *savant* to fall into the common errors of popular writers, but at times his easy generalisations recall the journalist rather than the scholar. So long as publishers are content to employ for work of this kind translators who are not also classical scholars, a certain number of mistakes are inevitable. In the present case it is only fair to say that they are neither numerous nor important. But carelessness in names, such as 'Bunberry' (for Bunbury), 'Lampride' (i.e. Lampri-dius), and 'Monsieur Cecil Torr,' might easily be avoided.

J.

*Trajan's dakische Kriege, nach dem Säulenrelief erzählt*, I. 'Der erste Krieg' (Leipzig: Teubner, 1899), by Dr. E. Petersen, the director of the German School at Rome, is essentially a review. The book reviewed is the great edition of the Column of Trajan, lately commenced by Cichorius on behalf of the Berlin Academy and completed so far as the first of Trajan's