WILEY

Review: Early History of Spitsbergen

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was, in 1902-1903, 220,010,811 dollars in imports, and 219,402,064 in exports. Internal finance and foreign loans are comprehensively treated, and M. Leroy-Beaulieu closes his chapter with the following tribute to Mexican administrative talent :—

“ This Latin Republic makes a good figure by the side of the great Anglo-Saxon Republic. It shows its ability to preserve its physiognomy, its traditions, its originality, and to do honour to the Latin race.”

Public instruction makes marked and healthy advancement, both as regards primary and higher education, while art and sciences are by no means forgotten ; and M. Claretie tells us of the great strides which literature has made since the days of President Juarez. Mexico now has four academies—languages, jurisprudence, science, and history.

General Niox states that the effective army consists of 3500 officers, 31,000 men, and 11,000 horses ; but that Mexico could maintain a force of 140,000 men.

The work closes with a very instructive chapter on “ Foreign Relations ” from the date of the independence of the country until the present time. It calls attention to the *Monroe Doctrine*, the result of Canning’s efforts to get the United States to join England in a declaration “ against all attempts hostile to the independence of the ancient colonies of Spain.”

Campaigning with Juarez against the empire, I recall that the imperial army was always accompanied by an artist, whose business it was, whenever the troops of Maximilian captured a city, to paint a crown upon the head of the eagle of the coat-of-arms of Mexico which was always found over the doorway of Government buildings. Our ragged, patriot force could only afford a common soldier with a paint-pot ; and, whenever we retook a city, it was his duty to daub out the emblem of royalty. He may not have been so good an artist as the one who painted it, but he did his work thoroughly, for he felt that he was making a Spanish-American translation of the Monroe Doctrine.

GEORGE EARL CHURCH.

POLAR REGIONS.

EARLY HISTORY OF SPITSBERGEN.

‘ Early Voyages to Spitsbergen in the Seventeenth Century. ’ Edited, with Introductions and Notes, by Sir W. Martin Conway, F.S.A. London : Hakluyt Society, 1904. 8vo, pp. 191. *Maps and Illustrations.*

Though not concerned with any of the more important voyages of northern discovery (which have been dealt with pretty fully in previous publications of the Hakluyt Society), this volume supplies some interesting information, not readily accessible elsewhere, on the doings of the English, Dutch, and Biscayan whalers in the early part of the seventeenth century. The longest and most important items are (1) a reprint of Hessel Gerritsz’s rare tract, published in French at Amsterdam in 1613, in which, besides a sketch of the discovery of the islands and a description of their general character, the grievances of the Dutch whalers against their English rivals are set forth at length ; (2) the journal, by Van der Brugge, of the successful wintering in Spitsbergen of seven Dutch seamen in 1633-34. With the exception of the wintering in the same region of the seven English sailors whose experiences were related by Edward Pellham in 1631, this was the first occasion on which the rigors of the Arctic climate had been successfully endured during a winter in Spitsbergen ; so that the details of the daily life of the hardy seamen, and the observations on the natural phenomena of that remote land which are recorded by Van der Brugge, will be read with much interest. Both these narratives now appear for the first time in an English version. Sir Martin Conway

supplies brief introductions to each of the pieces he has printed, thus linking together the events dealt with into a more or less connected narrative. It is the history of whaling enterprise, rather than of geographical discovery, that is kept in view throughout, and it might be wished that the editor had said more on the latter subject. Thus a brief summary of the conclusions reached by him with regard to the voyages of Barents and Hudson, already dealt with in the *Geographical Journal*, would have been useful, as would also a general map of the Spitsbergen group, the only part included in the one inserted being the extreme north-west. This was, it is true, the special field of activity of the Dutch whalers, but other parts of the group come also into question incidentally. The editor has paid much attention to the elucidation of the complicated nomenclature of Western Spitsbergen, and his conclusions will help materially towards an understanding of these early voyages.

Reproductions are given of John Daniel's map (1612), used by Gerritsz to illustrate his treatise; of the chart of Maurits bay (the scene of the Dutch wintering), published in 1655 in Doncker's 'Lichtende Columne'; and of the title-pages and illustrations belonging to Van der Brugge's *Journal*, and to another which appeared a year later. These illustrations, it should be remarked, are pretty close copies of certain of those in De Veer's account of Barents' voyages.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES.

'A Treatise on Rocks, Rock-weathering, and Soils.' By George P. Merrill. London and New York, 1904. Pp. xx. + 411.

The space devoted to the three divisions of this work follows the order indicated in the title; 171 pages of text are devoted to rocks, 127 to rock-weathering, and 100 to soils. The first part is an abbreviated treatise on petrology, which covers the same ground as many other text-books. The second is the important part of the work, and the collected analyses showing the constituents which disappear in the weathering of different types of rocks are especially useful. In the third soils are treated solely from the geological side—that is, with reference to their mode of origin. In this part we notice one curious omission: though the action of ants and termites in carrying organic matter down into the soil is referred to, no mention is made of earthworms. Are there no worms in America?

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

Evolution of the Map of Scotland.—Mr. J. E. Shearer, F.S.A. Scot., has contributed the first instalment of a paper on this subject to the June number of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*. The subject of the early cartography of the British Isles has never been adequately dealt with in the light of modern knowledge, the accounts given in the older works, such as Gough's 'British Topography,' being necessarily deficient in certain directions, in which recent research has added to the sources of information. But while the subject is thus one which lends itself to further discussion, and Mr. Shearer's paper will be of use in calling attention to one portion at least of the field, it can hardly be said that his treatment of it is entirely satisfactory. While possessing a considerable knowledge of early maps of Scotland, he occasionally shows a deficient grasp of the general course of cartographical progress during the middle ages, which leads him to choose as types maps