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Review: Early Travels

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pioneer voyage of Hippalus seems to imply that this was fairly ancient history when the 'Periplus' was written, and there is no conclusive argument against the end of the first century, or even the beginning of the second.

D. G. H.

GENERAL.

EARLY TRAVELS.

'Korte Historiae van verscheyden voyagiens gedaen door David Pietersz. de Vries, uitgegeven door Dr. H. T. Colenbrander.' The Hague: M. Nijhoff. 1911. Pp. xlv., 302. 10 *gulden* (16s. 8d.).

This, the third volume of the publications of the Linschoten Vereeniging—the worthy rival, though young in years, of our own Hakluyt Society—should be particularly welcome in this country. Of the work reproduced, only one copy is now known to exist in Europe, all others that have occasionally come to hand having been eagerly purchased for America. The voyages performed and narrated by the author, a merchant adventurer, between 1618 and 1644—more especially those made to New Netherland and Guiana—were frequently utilized by nineteenth-century Dutch and American historians, but never, strange to say, found their way into the great English collections of travel, whilst a translation of those parts dealing with America, made in 1853 by H. C. Murphy, United States Ambassador to the Netherlands, was issued in an edition of 250 copies only.

The editing of the present issue—evidently limited by the Society's rules—is well done so far as it is allowed to go, but there might well have been more and longer notes, and a fuller introduction; we say this the more sincerely, well knowing how capable the editor would have been of enhancing the value of the work by drawing more largely upon his own store of knowledge.

Of all the descriptions given by de Vries—and always with that fulness of detail characteristic of the early navigators—those of the early Dutch and English settlements, growing up side by side on the North American coast, are by far those which interest us most, and the author is fair enough to declare outright what far better material for colonists there was in the English Puritans than in the deep-drinking Dutch—more than once is the striking contrast drawn.

Besides much of general interest in these pages there is, moreover, one passage of particular value, one which bears directly upon the vexed question of the foundation of the Dutch settlement of Essequibo, the parent colony of British Guiana. According to a statement (in part correct and therefore doubly dangerous where it errs) first committed to writing by Major John Scott, commander of an English force that held Essequibo for a few months in 1665, a fort was erected there in 1616 by one Groenewegen, who is said to have governed the colony for forty-eight years, and who died in 1664. In the Dutch records of Essequibo, extant from 1623 onwards, the first mention of Groenewegen occurs in 1644, but Jan van der Goes is repeatedly spoken of, first as postholder, afterwards as commander, from 1627 to 1640, the former of these two dates being also given as that of the erection of the fort. The lines from de Vries corroborate the Dutch records and discredit Scott completely; incidentally, they are interesting from a humanitarian point of view.

"On the 30th [of October, 1634] we weighed anchor" [de Vries was then lying in the Saramacca, near the Surinam river] "and were boarded by some hundred and fifty savages, men and women, who begged us to take them to Demerara. They were a tribe calling themselves Sapayes, and were afraid the Caribs were going to kill them. . . .

"On the 2nd [of November] . . . We arrived at noon in the River Demerara . . . and disembarked the savages, who immediately cut timber to make dwellings, since they were nearer their friends here. *Whilst we were lying here there arrived in a canoe from River Essequibo Jan van der Goes, who is commander there on behalf of the West India Company.*"

It is only fair to add that the contention of Scott's defenders is that Groenewegen arrived in Essequibo on behalf of private traders in 1616, and that he entered the Company's service only in 1644. It is, however, extremely improbable that the Company's records would from 1625 to 1644 have omitted all mention of a man (had he been there) who is, by Scott, said to have been governor of the colony since 1616.

J. A. J. de V.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

The Story of the Forth.—There is a certain fascination in attempting to trace through bygone ages the evolution of the present hydrographical system of any region, but it may be granted that in every case clearness of vision varies inversely with the distance to which one attempts to penetrate into "the dark backward and abysm of time." Further, the credibility of the conclusions which may be reached depends entirely upon the truth and completeness of the premises upon which they are based. In a paper with the above title, printed in the May number of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, Mr. Cadell gives us what is in part a very suggestive essay in speculative hydrography, and there would be no reason to traverse his conclusions, if one could feel certain that he had taken into account all the possible conditions which may have affected the development of the present river-system of Central Scotland. Mr. Cadell assumes that the elevation of this region in Miocene times resulted in the formation of a great inclined plane, down whose surface flowed consequent rivers in a west-to-east direction. He takes no account, however, of the equally possible tilting of the surface in a north-west to south-east direction, as suggested by other authors; nor of the probability of a considerable amount of crustal warping having accompanied the general movement of elevation. Further, he gives little consideration to the effect of the formation of the Kilbirnie gap upon the earlier drainage of the Clyde basin. The Kelvinhead gap was undoubtedly at one time occupied by a river, but there is no reason to believe that it formed the only line of drainage for the western waters from the period of Miocene elevation to the date of the opening of the present outlet. The interpretation of the mutual relations of the Kelvinhead and Kilbirnie gaps is full of difficulty, and the matter is further complicated by the possibility of the occurrence of movements of relative elevation and depression along the present watersheds through the accentuation of earlier folds during the later oscillations of the crust. Mr. Cadell gives a most valuable detailed account of the formation of the present estuary of the Clyde, and every one will agree that phenomena of capture such as he describes have played a most important part in the establishment of the present hydrographical régime. With regard to the tributaries of the Forth, it is very doubtful whether the Avon, Almond, Water of Leith and North Esk should be regarded as true consequent streams. It is equally possible to assume that, like the Devon,