

requisites as he here sets them forth are: Open-mindedness, which stands over against prejudice and dogmatism; expectancy, in view of the history and influence of the Bible, that it will reward study; the judicial attitude, involving discrimination, impartiality, and thoroughness; responsiveness, which is willing to yield the will to the truth recognized. We heartily commend the spirit and method of the author, and trust that the little volume, so admirable in make-up as well, will have a wide reading and use, not by women's clubs only, but by Christian culture classes and by earnest students of the Bible in general.

GEO. B. EAGER.

Francis Parkman.

By Henry Dwight Sedgwick.

William H. Prescott.

By Rollo Ogden.

American Men of Letters Series. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York. 1904.

These are welcome and delightful additions to what has thus far proved a series of most readable and often inspiring biographies. The first volume consists largely of the "studies afield" that made Parkman the author of those "glorious" and "stirring" pages which even a John Fiske said fill "the most brilliant and fascinating books that have been written since the days of Herodotus"—the accounts of those "studies" being chiefly by Parkman himself. "Journals" of two summer vacations and of a trip to Europe, some "erratic, scrappy notebooks," his own brief narration of his life known as the "Oregon Trail," and an unpublished correspondence covering twenty-eight years, constitute the fresh material for this new life of this brilliant pioneer of American letters. The "Life of Francis Parkman," by Farnham, and other important matter, letters, monographs, etc., were put at Mr. Sedgwick's disposal, and he has shown

rare skill in originating and presenting his material so as to produce this fascinating volume.

Parkman determined, it seems, while still a lad, not merely to write a history of the French and English war, but to be thorough in his preparation. "Preparation" with him meant no "emasculate scholarship," such as can be had in cloistered seclusion, but rather "hardening the muscles, aiming the rifle, riding bare-back," in order to qualify him to undertake the necessary "out-door studies."

To many, therefore, it will undoubtedly prove true that the most interesting period of his life will be this period of preparation, especially as he had to wage a life-long battle with physical weakness, lameness, and almost complete blindness. It is a thrilling and bracing picture which the biographer here presents of the boy, the youth, the man, intense of purpose, impetuous in pursuit, intolerant of idleness, effeminacy, and indifference, emphatic and by no means "orthodox" in belief, dependent on himself alone, a Puritan of the Puritans in spite of his protests, yet ever pleasant to his acquaintances and beloved by his friends, fighting his way through fifty years of achievement in the teeth of all sorts of odds, a worthy comrade to those great figures in his histories whom he almost unaided lifted to immortal fame.

The other volume under review concerns the man who won for "Ferdinand and Isabella" the instant recognition of scholars the world over; and of whom, apropos of a new edition of his works, so critical a paper as "The Nation" could say: He "knew all that was to be known upon a subject which he selected to write upon;" "Giving all credit to the historians who have done honor to our literature since his day, it is not too much to say that he still stands at the head."

The little volume makes no pretense to supplanting Ticknor's "Life of Prescott," but simply to supplement it. Ticknor wrote of his lifelong friend when he was an old man, and his view of life had deepened into something like austerity. To complete and correct the picture of Prescott's personality, to bring out more vividly the playful and engagingly human aspects of Prescott's character, has been "the sole task of the present writer." He has had ample materials for doing this at his disposal, not only in "The Prescott papers" furnished him by the historian's grandchildren, but in the family traditions of the beloved ancestor given him by surviving successors.

The chapters on "School and College," "Preparation," "The Quest of a Theme" and "Awaking Famous" are especially interesting and suggestive. To some, those on "Personal Traits" and "The Man of Letters" may prove even more engaging and instructive.

The personal purity, moral self-discipline and high ideals of the man, from first to last, as well as his home habits, habits of exercise, wonderful memory, active philanthropy and religious views, will claim the attention of those who especially desire to see beyond the "man of letters" the very man himself. "All who knew him," said George Bancroft, "will say that he was greater and better than his writings. Standing by his grave, we cannot recall anything in his manner, his character, his endowments, or his conduct we could wish changed."

If this "Men of Letters" series sustains itself to the end on this high level, it will merit not only our warm praise but our heartiest thanks.

GEO. B. EAGER.

The Expositor's Greek Testament.

Edited by the Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, LL.D. Vol. III. New York. Dodd, Mead & Company. 1903. Pages 547. Price \$7.50.

The two previous volumes have already now a secure place for themselves in the workshop of the New Testa-