Review

Author(s): E. A. P.

Review by: E. A. P.

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the exception of two ships from Cadiz, no Spaniards were allowed to trade with the Rio de la Plata, and the colonists were debarred from commercial dealings even with the other Spanish colonies. Sailing first to the coast of Guinea, the Dutch found the Portuguese hostile, and finally off Annobon the two vessels on April 19 accidentally parted company and never again met. Little is known as to what happened to the *Gouden Wereldt*, save that the ship arrived at the Bay of S. Vicente on the coast of Brazil, where Laurens Bicker and the survivors of the crew were made prisoners. Bicker's life was for a time in great danger, but finally he was released and returned to Holland.

The *Silveren Wereldt* meanwhile pursued her way to the Rio de la Plata, and threading her course amidst uncharted shoals, reached "the village" of Buenos Aires, where the ship remained from 29 July to 23 September 1599. Valdés, the Governor, under pressure from the inhabitants eager to traffic with the Dutch, gave Heemskerck a free licence and safe conduct to land and trade. Things went on smoothly for a time, but Valdés, apparently afraid to keep his word with heretics and enemies of his king, seized Heemskerck and several of his principal officers and crew and imprisoned them. For a month the *Silveren Wereldt*, now commanded by the skipper Ottsen, remained in the mouth of the La Plata, but, owing to a violent outbreak of dysentery, Ottsen put to sea. There was great mortality, and when at length, after touching at Pernambuco, Ottsen put in to Bahia, three men alone remained out of a crew of forty-six, and these were weak with sickness. They were made prisoners, but the captain-in-chief, Alvaro de Carvalho, was a kindly man, and the unfortunates were well treated. During the visit of a Dutch squadron under Pieter van der Does, which bombarded the town and burnt the *Silveren Wereldt* and other ships in the bay, Ottsen and his companions were strictly confined, but afterwards allowed as before considerable liberty. Finally, after ten months at Bahia, at the request of "a great nobleman with whom his cousin had been serving for four years," Ottsen was allowed to go away. He embarked on a Hamburg ship (October 7), which took him to Lisbon. Here after some delay he found another ship, and reached Amsterdam on 23 February 1601.

An appendix reproduces twelve contemporary documents bearing upon the narrative. Three maps, five engravings, a bibliography and index complete the volume.

G. E.

The Evolution of the Dragon.— G. Eliot Smith. Manchester University Press. 1919.

In this book the author gives the substance, and apparently a good deal more, of three lectures on "Incense and Libations," "Dragons and Rain Gods," and "The Birth of Aphrodite." It consists of a disjointed collection of a great many facts and inferences, put out in a manner which, to say the least, is not attractive. To do the author justice, he is evidently fully aware of the defects of his presentation of the subject, for in his preface he describes it "as little more than a collection of data and tags of comment." He excuses himself on the ground of pressure of other duties. But it seems a pity he did not defer the publication until he could work up his subject into a more coherent, presentable, and readable whole. If this was quite impossible, he might well have given at least a summary of his views and made clear what he was aiming at in each lecture.

E. A. P.