

THE WEEKLY DIRECTORY.

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Mr. H. C. Truitt being a copy of "Comedy of Errors." Miss Beulah Foster delightfully entertained with lovely piano solos. The refreshments served were delicious, consisting of chicken salad, sandwiches, olives, saratoga chips, and punch, followed by cream and cake. The hours passed only too quickly and the time for departure came. The guests all declaring they had spent a delightful evening with Mrs. Patton.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE.
 By Virgie Beale.

James Anthony Froude, an English historian and essayist, was born April 23rd, 1818 and died October 20th, 1894. His father was a clergyman, and the son was sent to Westminster School and to Oriel College, Oxford. In 1842 he became a fellow of Exeter and two years later he was ordained a deacon; an office which he did not formally lay down until many years later; although his earliest publications; "Shadow of Clouds" and "Nemesis of Faith," showed that he had come to hold views hardly in accordance with the character of a docile and unreasoning neophyte.

In 1872 he lectured in the United States on the relation between Ireland and England. In 1874 he was sent on a mission to the Cape of Good Hope. He afterward went to Australia and the West Indies. In 1892 he was elected regius professor of modern history at Oriel College, Oxford, as a successor of Freeman.

Froude stands before the English reading public prominent in three characteristics: first, as a technical prose artist, in which regard he is entitled to be classed with Ruskin, Newman and Pater; second, as a historian of the modern school; third, as the most clear-sighted and broad-minded of those whose position near the center of the Oxford movement and intimacy with the actors gave them an insight into its inner nature.

Froude was sometimes criticised for writing history under the influence of personal feeling. It would be difficult indeed to see how a readable history could be written except by one who at least takes an interest in the story. That Froude was an absolutely perfect historian no one could claim; for he was too intensely human to be perfect. It may be admitted however, that Froude possessed a larger share of the artistic than of the

philosophic qualities necessary to a great historian.

He wrote a "History of England from the Fall of Woolsey to the Defeat of the Armada," "The English in Ireland in the Eighteenth Century," "Short Studies on Great Subjects," "Caesar," "Oceana," "The Two Chiefs of Dunbay," "Life of Lord Beaconsfield." As executor of Carlyle he published "Life of Thomas Carlyle," and "Reminiscences of Carlyle."

MATTHEW ARNOLD.
 By Pearle Fogleman.

Matthew Arnold was born at Laleham, in the Thames valley, December 24, 1822. His father, the greatest of English headmasters, Dr. Thomas Arnold, transmitted to this eldest son more of the qualities which made Arnold of Rugby so influential and so famous than the son's contemporaries would have allowed. Dr. Arnold was a fearless liberal; so was the son. Both were uncompromising in their ideals of conduct, of personal purity, and in their love of truth, their hatred of a lie. How keenly the son appreciated his father's noble nature can be read in the beautiful lines of "Rugby Chapel."

In 1828 Thomas Arnold was elected head-master of Rugby, and moved thither with his family; but two years later Matthew was sent back to Laleham as a pupil of the Rev. Mr. Bucklard, an uncle, and remained there until 1836, when he went to Winchester. After a year, he entered Rugby, living with his father in the school-house. Readers of "Tom Brown's School-Days" will recall the scene when Tom is sent to the doctor's rooms and finds that awful person in the familiar play with the children, a picture drawn from life. We hear of a poem, "Alaric at Rome," winning a school prize for the boy of seventeen; and the next year, 1841, after obtaining a classical scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, and then a "school exhibition," he goes into residence in the university which he loved so tenderly and scolded with such amiable persistence.

Matthew Arnold is the poet of Oxford. His two poems, "Thyrsis," a monody on the death of his friend, Arthur Hugh Clough, and the "Scholar-Gypsy," abound in allusions to "that sweet city with her dreaming spires." In 1842 he gained the Hertford scholarship, in 1843 the Newdigate prize for a poem on Cromwell, and in March, 1845, he was elected Fellow of Oriel College. In 1847 Arnold became private secretary to Lord Lansdowne, a member of the English government. "The Strayed Reveller and Other Poems" appeared in 1849 in an edition of five hundred copies, of which few were sold. In 1852 he published "Empedocles on Etna, and Other Poems," but again few copies were sold, and the edition was withdrawn. The year before, he had been appointed inspector of schools under government, and was thus enabled to set up a household. June 10, 1851, he married Frances Lucy, daughter of Sir William Wightman, a judge of Court of Queen's Bench. The union was one of happiness and helpfulness.

Of his three main activities, poetry occupied his younger manhood, social and religious reform, later days, and literary criticism his entire maturity. In 1853 appeared "Poems, by Matthew Arnold" which contained "Sohrab and Rustum."

It is not too much if one calls the preface to this collection the beginning of a new epoch in English criticism. In 1855 came out a second series of poems, of which the most notable was "Bolder Dead." In 1857 he was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford; and the next year he published his "Merope" as a kind of manifesto of his poetical creed. But it was criticism in which Arnold was to make his main appeal to the public. His Oxford lectures "On Translating Homer," were published in 1861, and led to considerable controversy. If not a popular author, he was now one of the best known men of letters in England. He was now, since 1858, living in London, and the old monotony of provincial visits was further broken by a long tour on the continent. Articles in magazines, a collection of lectures such as the "Study of Celtic Literature," an occasional pamphlet like his "England and the Italian Question," revision of his poems, and the hard round of his professional duties, fill up these years. The family moved to Harrow, so as to be near the school; and here they lived until 1873, when they moved to Cobham, which was Arnold's home for the next fifteen years, until his death.

His "Friendship's Garland," 1871, is one of the most successful of his works, and satirizes that object of Arnold's keenest criticism, the great middle class of England, the Philistines, with an almost exuberant humor. He was now regarded as the first literary critic of his age and country, although the public was not inclined to rate his religious contributions as important. Many of his friends, even, thought this work a waste of time, and mourned for the poetry that he might have produced. A leading article in the "Athenaeum" seriously considered his claims to the title of best English poet, placing him in some respects ahead of Tennyson and Browning. He did excellent service to the cause of poetry in general by writing the introduction to Ward's collection of English poets, and by publishing selections from Wordsworth and from Byron. In 1833 Gladstone assigned him a pension of £250 from the literary fund, and the same winter he visited America to give a course of lectures. The newspapers made gentle fun of his manner, and there was nothing popular in the course, but it won many new friends for him, and he earned a fair amount of money.

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