generation and seamen managing V .--- Washington Irving, Hamor-The National Period ist and Historian.

N the year which saw the United States admitted into the commonwealth of nations a child was born in New York city who should eventually be considered worthy to sit among the makers of literature in England. This honor had not been accorded to any of his predecessors, however interesting theological, political or scientific

emanations from America had been to foreigners devoted to such discussions, The Irving family, though with a proclivity for letters, were not descendants of a long line of cultivated ancestors, as was often the case with New Eng-mand authors. Young Washington himself was through his school days at 16 and, though a bookish boy, was also a stroller over Manhattan Island with a keen eye for what was going on and a wistful gaze after the sails that tilled away for lands remote

of American

Literature

BY LORENZO SEARS, LIT. D.,

Professor of American Literature in Brown University.

"The History of New York From the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty," with its accounts of the mutterable proceedings of Walter the Doubter, the disastrous projects of William the Testy and the chivalrie achievements of Peter the Headstrong, came very near being what the author asserted, "the only authentic history of the times that ever hath been or ever will be written." If history is a reproduction of life, as well as a record of events, no better representation of a former age to illustrate and ridicule the ongoings of a later one will likely be made by any successor of Diedrich Knickerbocker. For example:

"Such was the happy reign of Wouter Van Twiller, celebrated in many a long forgotten song as the real golden age, the rest being nothing but counterfeit, copper washed coin. In that delightful period a sweet and holy calm reigned over the whole province. The burgomaster smoked his pipe in peace. The substantial solace of his domestic cares, after her daily toils were done, sat soberly at the door with her arms crossed over her apron of snowy white without being insulted by ribald street walkers or vagabond boys, those un-lucky urchins who do so infest our streets, displaying under the roses of youth the thorns and briers of iniquity. Then it was that the lover with ten breeches and damsel with petticoats half a score indulged in all the endearments of virtuous love without fear and without reproach. Happy would it have been for New Amsterdam could it always have existed in this state of blissful ignorance and lovely simplicity; but, alas, the days of childhood are too sweet to last.

"The Sketch-Book of Geoffery Crayon, Gent," is what its title implies, a colfection of short, suggestive outlines of narration and incident struck off with the fidelity to nature and certainty of touch which belong to an accomplished artist. A few masterly strokes reveal much more than themselves and intimate possibilities far beyond the limited range which the author allowed himself. For example, everybody knows how Rip Van Winkle has been expanded by the dramatization to which Joseph Jefferson has given a masterly interpretation, and yet it is a dull imagination which has not seen the vagabond Rip. his dog and gun and termagant spouse and what was left of these after a 20 years' nap as clearly portrayed in suggestive lines of Irving. "He looked round for his gun, but in place of the clean, well oiled fowling piece he found an old firelock lying by him, the barrel incrusted with rust, the lock falling off and the stock worm eaten. He shook his head, shouldered the rusty gun and turned his steps homeward. He had now entered the skirts of the village. A troop of strange children ran at his heels, hooting after him and pointing at his gray beard. The dogs, too, not one of which he recognized for an old acquaintance, barked at him as he passed. Strange names were over the doors, strange faces at the windows—everything was strange." This is a portrayal to whose realism little can be added by brush or the living picture. It may be superbly represented, but it was all there before the ordinary reader, set in simple words, but always the right ones in the right place. "It was



with some difficulty that he found the way to his own house, which he approached with silent awe, expecting every moment to hear the shrill voice of Dame Van Winkle. He found the house gone to decay, the roof fallen in, the windows shattered and the doors off the hinges. A half starved dog that looked like a wolf was skulking about it. Rip called him by name, but the cur snarled, showed his teeth and passed on. 'My very dog.' sighed poor Rip, 'has forgotten me?'" This seems simple and easy to do. The reader thinks that it is the very way he himself should have described the old fellow if he had seen him. To test the matter, let the habit of Franklin be imitated. Read the story once more and rewrite it; then compare revisions. After this the greater achieve-

Irving.

ment remains of inventing or, if it was an adaptation of a German legend, of adapting the character to the drowsy atmosphere of the Catskills. The genius which produced this, the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and 30

other sketches was instantly recognized in England. Walter Scott's quick appreciation and generous assistance brought the new author into pleasant and profitable relations with the chief publishers of London, and after Scott, Byron and Murray led there was nothing that did not follow. An American had found his place in the fraternity of letters and without bating a jot of his patriotism or sparing the truth in speaking of English prejudices, established himself for five years in the literary metropolis, where he could best do his work and find a market for it.

Irving, however, was coming to be a cosmopolite. England did not keep him too long. By 1820 he is in Paris hobnobbing with Thomas Moore, following up the theaters, catching notes of applause from across the channel, then going back to win an English triumph on English soil in his "Bracebridge Hall.

No native could have pictured the life of a country squire more to the satisfaction of all England. There was much in it with which the author himself had sympathy, as well as with the people he describes. As if in half apology to Americans he says, "I can never forget that this is my fatherland, and get the circumstances under which I have viewed it have been by no means such as were calculated to produce tavorable impressions." He then remarks that close observation will often change opinions, hastily formed, of a national character which shows its rough side first. Special mention is made of the reception accorded to the essay in "The Sketch-Book" on literary feuds between England and America and the "generous sympathy in every English bosom toward a solitary individual lifting up his voice in a strange land to windicate the character of his nation. This indeed is the eminence which Irving occupies, higher than that of being our first man of letters in the order of time. He was a peacemaker in an age of misunderstanding, jealousy and hostility. The ill feeling consequent upon two wars had not wholly subsided. In letters there was independent aspiration on one side, complacent supercillousness and sharp censoriousness on the other. In this very year Sydney Smith contemptuously asked, "Who ever reads an American book?" The one man who was able to reply to the taunt could do it in his "English Writers on America." A few sentences will show the large and generous spirit in which this was done. After observing that impressions of this country had been gained from the worst kind of travelers he remarks that the prosperity founded upon political liberty and the general diffusion of knowledge cannot be overlooked; that it is of more consequence to England than to us that justice be done and resentment allayed; that, "possessing the fountain head whence the literature of the language flows, it is in her power to make it the medium of amiable and magnanimous feeling, a stream where the two nations might meet together and drink in peace and kinduess." And to Americans he said: "Let it be the pride of our writers, discarding all feelings of irritation, and disdaining to retaliate the Illiberality of British authors, to speak of the English nation without prejudice and with determined candor. While they rebuke the indiscriminating bigotry with which some of our countrymen admire and imitate everything English because it is English, let them frankly point out what is really worthy of approbation." The entire essay shows Irving in the character of a broad minded, fearless daysman between the two countries in a sphere more important than diplomacy. "The mere contests of the sword," he says, "are temporary, but the slanders of the pen pierce to the heart. They rankle longest in the noblest spirit; they dwell ever present in the mind. Trace hostilities to "their cause and they will be found to originate in the mischlevous effusions of mercenary writers who concoct and circulate the venom that is to inflame the generous and the brave." Of Irving's later and more pretentious labors a corresponding amount might be said. They were the result of a wish, that came with advancing years, to do more monumental work. After the "Tales of a Traveller" had been thrown off as in his opinion the climax of his lighter diversions, for writing was no task when the mood selzed him, he then entered upon the most prolific period of his career at the age of 46. The year 1826 found him at Madrid to begin his "Life of Columbus." This occupied two pleasant years and was succeeded by the "Companions" and this by the "Conquest of Granada" and "The Alhambra" before 1852, when he returned to America after a 17 years' residence in Europe. These larger achievements brought him academic honors from Oxford and the medal of the Loyal Society of Literature, with no end of applause abroad and at home. Then, after ten years of light writing about this and that, tours, recollections, legends and biographies, came the "crowning honor of his life" in the mission to Spain, to be signalized by his crowning work, the "Life of Washington." With the last volume of this he may be said to have ended his days at the Sunnyside retreat on the banks of the river he loved and whose borders he had peopled with legendary beings recalled from the shadowy and dreamy years of the old Dutch dynasty.

Move.

The Anniversary of Sir Walter Raleigh's Attempted Settlement to be Observed by the State Historical Association.

address:

ing the motion of my friend, Major Graham Daves. The mo-tion is not made too soon; indeed unmixed Anglo-Saxon people are and a success.

"He has conquered the earth by in any event might come to him." his love of home and has found success in curbing his own desires and passions. The leader of the great movement for the colonization of the new land may well be declared to be Sir Walter Raleigh.

We tell of thy doom without a sign, For thou art Freedom's now, and Fame's One of the few, the immortal names,

That were not born to die.'

action I had occasion to seek in-formation and I naturally sought it in our State Library, but I could not find a history of the bad settled our State that we have in it no life of this be counted on certainly from his career shall be rendered easier be raised each year.-Ex. in the future by the purchase of many books relating to his life. It is high time that we learned something of him who first colonized our State and the celebration of that colonization on the island where his colony first landed will in itself teach us something the blood coming in contact with the of the great man for whom we have named our city. "In the morning of the twen-tieth century, in the dawn of an educational revival, we can do nothing better than to turn back to our beginnings and study care-fully the heroic self-sacrifices of those who planted in order that we might reap. Among the pion we might reap. Among the pion- it will keep the skin irritated. eers there was none so great, DAD FORM OF TETTER. there was none so good, as Sir Walter Raleigh, and if we could had Tetter on my learn from his life and his dooth learn from his life and his death the lessons which they teach us we would have the greatest State in the world. On the night before he was to have been executed he wrote a letter to his wife from which it is not inappropriate that I should quote. 'I can no more,' he said, 'time and death call me away. The everlasting, power-ful, infinite and omnipotent God, L. B. Jackson, 1414 McGee St., Kansas City, Mo. who is goodness itself, the true life and true light, keep thee and thine, have mercy on me, and teach me to forgive my persecu-tors and accusers and send us to meet in hisglorious kingdom.' In this spirit he lived, in this spirit he wrought, in this spirit he died he wrought, in this spirit he died and I can but think while we have forgotten the man we have remembered his teachings, and that help you by their advice; we make no the uprightness and virtue of our charge for this service. All correspondence is conducted in strictest confidence. people, their confidence and hope

TO CELEBRATE AT ROANOKE, in God have found a strength and support in the life of this admirable man. Let us, therefore, with Governor Aycock's Eloquent Address in Seconding the united purpose celebrate the set-thing of this colony. Let us pub-lish to the world our admiration for the man who did so much for Let us declare to the earth that we appreciate his work and that we glory in his noble life and in his unjust death. In doing this thing we are but publishing ourselves in line with the new educational zeal of the State. Those of us who have passed out of the At the meeting of the State schools and can never more at-Literary and Historical Associa- tend them will show to the childtion held in Raleigh, October 22, ren of the State that the history proposed that the Association spiration and is a subject worthy of their study and appropriation. observe the landing of Sir Walter 1 earnestly, as the Governor of Raleigh's colony at Roanoke Is- the State, speaking with the auland by holding a meeting there thority of the people of North next year. Governor Aycock, our Carolina, second the motion for next year. Governor Aycock, our Educational Governor, seconded the move in the following able the celebration on Roanoke Is-land of the landing of the first colony of the province of North 010 2m. Carolina. The event ought to be "I rise for the purpose of second- made one of great significance, of

we have neglected this important not only capable of self-governduty until it becomes almost a ment, but have long memories make it. The event which we through centuries, for no people big stock of Farm Implement who are ungrateful can ever be truly great. I promise you, la-Blinds, &c., always on hand. province of North Carolina was dies and gentlemen, that no power though the first attempts to set- be exercised shall be wanting to tle this State proved unsuccess- make the event which you proful they laid the foundations for the later settlement which meant so much to the world. Wherever the opportunity of thus identifythe Anglo-Saxon sets his foot he ing myself and my administraacre and will not for any con-sideration yield them to another. you have inaugurated. In con-junction with your establishing Where he has once become estab of rural libraries this event gives lished he is a fixture and he car- you the right to the gratitude of ries with him the infinite love of all North Carolinians and parhome and out of that grows a ticularly to the gratitude of him respect for government and the who would prefer to be known as power of self-restraint which one who favors the education of makes government a possibility all the people of the State than to have any other honor which

Booker Washington's School.

The 19th annual report of the Tuskegee institute for the year A soldier, a scholar, a statesman, ending with May shows an at-a navigator, a discoverer, and tendance of 1253 students. The admiral, he was, taken all in all, average age is 18½ and none a most remarkable man and his under 14 years have been admitdeath endears him to us as one ted. Twenty-nine states are who suffered much for the great represented and six foreign counthings which he had done. We tries, including Cuba and Porto can say of him with Fitz Green Rico, which furnish 14 students. Halleck, of Marco Bozzaris, Besides the regular students there is a training school of 160, and a night school, which has an attendance of 88. An afternoon

"Still if his fame had been de-pendent upon North Carolina people he would only have been people he would only have been remembered by the naming of our perous and encouraging year of capital city for him. "In studying his illustrious ca-reer with a view to seconding this the school. The total amount of money received for the school for general purposes was\$189,-



97Er

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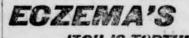
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promise you that the study of imately \$68,000 additional to



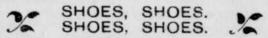
ITCH IS TORTURE.

Eczema is caused by an acid humor in skin and producing great redness and in-flammation ; little pustular eruptions form and discharge a thin, sticky fluid, which dries and scales off ; sometimes the skin is hard, dry and fissured. Eczema in any form is a tormenting, stubborn disease, and the itching and burning at times are almost unbearable; the acid burning

hands, which caused them to swell to twice their natural size. Part of the time the disease ning sores, very ful, and causing much discontfort. doctors said the Tette had progressed too fail to be cured, and they could do nothing for could do me. I to bottles of

S. S. S. neutralizes this acid poison, coolathe blood and restores it to a healthy,

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