

NO PUBLICITY.

John D. is a duffle smart man;
 He stays to his home an' looks arter his
 wealth.
 An' layn' low allers wuz part of his plan—
 The millions he's gathered he gathered by
 stealth.
 So John D.
 Rock'feller he
 Sez he can't stand much of publicitee.
 John sez the trust agitation must stop;
 Sez the imper'nence hez gone fur enough;
 Heard all he wants to of trust bustin' sloop,
 An' is all-fired tired of thet sort of stuff.
 An' John D.
 Rock'feller he
 Sez the senate won't "haw" if he hollers
 out "Geel!"
 My! ain't it terrible? Wut shall we du?
 We can't never search him, o' course—
 thet's flat.
 Guess we shall hev to submit (don't you?)
 An' let him continer to fry us for fat.
 For John D.
 Rock'feller he
 Sez he won't stand for publicitee.
 —Chicago Tribune.

I have seen the time when a political convention without a disturbance and the drawing of weapons was rare. That time is past in Colorado, and it is due to the presence of women. Every man now shows that civility which makes him take off his hat and not swear, and deport himself decently when ladies are present. Instead of women's going to the polls corrupting women, it has purified the polls.—Hon. John F. Shafroth, of Colorado.

While the Anglo-Russian row about the Dardanelles is unpleasant, it has not yet reached the acute stage which would justify clearing Rudyard Kipling for action.—Chicago News.

Heap big! The combined European powers want the world to understand that they are not afraid of little Venezuela. Whoopee! — Nashville Banner.

Instructor—"Mention some of the by-products of petroleum." Young Man—"Universities." — Chicago Tribune.

BOOKS

A BOOK OF GENIUS.

A few days ago I was looking through an old Harper of the year '84. As I turned the advertising pages, my eye caught the titles of books the very names of which have been forgotten. It was amusing to read the culled criticisms of some of these. In two instances there was confident prediction that the books would live as permanent additions to our American literature. Alas, their name is now Ichabod—their glory has departed!

And yet critics go on predicting. We must pardon them; but I think we have a right to demand that they give us grounds of their prophecies. This I shall attempt to do in the prediction I am about to make.

In order that a book may be of permanent value in the literature of a country, it must have at least three characteristics. It must deal with a great theme. This is the least important element, for, in a way, all themes can be made great. Secondly, it must deal with its theme in a fine way—let us say artistically; for art is a real thing, and no book can live without it, unless it be a dictionary, or something of that kind. Thirdly, the book must show insight and imagination, which is saying that it must show genius, whatever that subtle thing may be.

All these characteristics seem to me to be found in Mr. John S. Wise's book, "The End of an Era" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston). Its theme is the South, especially Virginia, on the eve of, and during the civil war. Its style is delightful—free and easy, yet correct—straightforward, and frequently eloquent. Its insight into social conditions and the thoughts that swayed men's minds in those eventful days seems to me clearer than that of any book I have ever read dealing with that period.

Let no one imagine that the book is a formal discussion of social conditions. There is not a dull page between its covers. What makes it so delightful is that it tells so much not by abstract discussion, but by living incidents. The life on a Virginia farm, the governor's house in Richmond, the slave auction—here you have them before your eyes, and everything is told with the art of a master story-teller.

It was my fortune once to hear the author argue a case before Chief Justice Waite. His associate was Gen. B. F. Butler; their opponent was Mr. Choate, now ambassador to England. Mr. Wise was the speaker that made even the details of the case interesting. I was struck with his fine gift of interesting presentation both on that occasion and again, when I heard him during the campaign in which he was defeated for the governorship of Virginia. The same gift of style which I observed in him then, I now find in his book. It is not "rhetoric;" if it were, the same quality would not be effective in both speech and book. It seems to be simply the power of clear, unaffected English.

A style like his makes any subject interesting, even a corporation law case. It is not surprising then that this book, telling of the most exciting events in our history, should be one of unique interest. He recalls these events, from his boyhood

memories, and presents them to us with the reflections of a mature thinker. How effectively these are mingled may be seen in the chapter on the John Brown raid. His father was governor at the time. He tells of the receipt of the news, of his amusing, boyish attempt to go with the troops; and in the same chapter he makes us feel the tragedy of a situation in which Robert E. Lee and his father, both opposed to slavery, were driven to become, in a way, its champions.

At that time the present humble critic was just getting born a few miles south of Richmond. Thus it happened that in a few years I could begin to remember something of the life and events of which this book tells. It is the true and vivid way in which the author recalls these recollections of my own scenes and impressions, that helps me to risk the prediction that few books of this decade will live as long.

J. H. DILLARD.

LITERARY NOTES.

The Seventeenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor of the United States, which has just been issued by Carroll D. Wright, the commissioner, from the government printing office at Washington, is devoted to the subject of trade and technical education in several leading countries of the world. The countries included are Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland and the United States.

The Manchester (England) Guardian published recently a letter from a correspondent on Christian Democracy in Italy, a movement under the leadership of a young priest, Don Romolo Murri. It would be interesting to know more definitely of his policy than the letter tells. It seems that he is opposed by both the Church and the Socialists. The writer speaks of him as having great ability and earnestness, and thinks that he and his followers may have an important influence upon Italian politics.

The Spectator (London) comments in a telling way upon the conditions in Germany following upon the modern strenuous policy of the government. It says: "The old, careful, and even penurious, fiscal system of the Germans has now been abandoned for many years. The results were at first apparently favorable, but now the reaction is being felt, and protection, subsidies, state interference, and direct state action over an enormous commercial area are beginning to produce their inevitable results."

Paul Tyner contributes to the December Medico-Legal Journal (New York) a paper on "Anarchism and Atavism" which might be a satire, but is probably serious. Inasmuch as "all progress, healthy growth, in humanity is based upon development and recognition of the social consciousness," he regards the absence from the individual make-up of this "consciousness of kind" as being, in our present stage of human evolution, "an abnormality, a diseased state of mind." Wherefore he looks upon anarchism as atavism, and, with "no more constraint than is necessary" would quarantine avowed anarchists as we now quarantine sufferers "from contagious diseases or mental maladies."

The Independent of February 6 begins a series of articles on co-education, which promises to be very interesting. The first writer, Mr. Henry T. Finck, in his first article begins in a breezy way to answer the question, Why Co-education is Losing Ground. He gives three reasons so far, and promises three more. He thinks the economic argument for co-education is passing; that co-education fosters flirtation and early marriages; that girls do not refine the boys, but, on the contrary, get to be rough themselves. Many will approve