

vision therefor, and I believe the manufacturers and dealers in food products will welcome such legislation.

"Well, Snowball," said the patron to the dusky waiter, "how did you ever come by a name like that?"

"Well, sah, I was born in Chicago. Reckon yer never seed a Chicago snowball, sah!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Sunday School Teacher—I hope all the little girls in my class love God?

Eva Brown—I do.

Sunday School Teacher—That's right, Eva. Now tell us why you love Him?

Eva Brown—Got to.—San Francisco Star.

## BOOKS

### AN IDEAL PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Twenty years ago, Elroy M. Avery was asked by the head of the great publishing house at Cleveland, now known as The Burrows Brothers Company, to join that house in the preparation and publication of an ideal popular history of the United States. It was supposed that less than one decade would be long enough for the task, but a second has almost rounded out as the first of the contemplated 12 volumes appears. If the succeeding volumes equal this one in breadth of historical research, effectiveness of editorial condensation, beauty of publication form, and captivating literary style, the long period of labor devoted to the work will have been well expended.

Of the historical accuracy of the work we disclaim qualifications for expert judgment; but upon this point the assurance of so distinguished an expert as Prof. Edward G. Bourne, of Yale, that Dr. Avery seems to meet disputed questions "with a thoroughly sane judgment," and that his conclusions "are not open to the criticism of ignoring adverse evidence or of distorting the case in any way," is the highest kind of recommendation. The other excellences need no expert approval; they are plain upon the face of the print.

The first volume is described by the author as "the beginning of an attempt to tell the story of the men and measures that have made the United States what it is." This grammatical singular, implying political solidarity, will grate upon the ear of the traditional Democrat; but the fact that these States have almost sunk to the level of larger counties, and the national federation has risen to the power, whether for good or ill, of a Nation, with a big N, is very obtrusive. That fact appears to have been, more emphatically than the abolition of slavery, a result of the Civil

War. Perhaps the historian may no longer be criticised, then, for recognizing it in his literary forms. The attempt which Dr. Avery thus describes begins back in the fogs of prehistoric America. Through this mist he feels his way, confirming himself by submitting the different parts of his work to appropriate experts, down to the appearance of the Northmen, and thence to the advent of Columbus. A tangled skein of fact and fiction is then untangled, so at any rate as to make a consistent and interesting narrative of the period of adventure and discovery, which does not suffer in the least from the author's frank declaration of ignorance whenever research fails to reveal facts heretofore guessed at. The narrative is carried down to the year 1600, and the volume ends with a chapter on the Indians of North America.

Not only is this volume very readable simply as a story so well arranged that it seems almost to tell itself, but glimpses of a staid humor may be caught now and then through the interstices of serious narration. In connection with the Cabot adventures, for instance, we are told that "almost from Cabot's day to ours, the codfish has risen, at short intervals, to the surface of diplomatic correspondence." Nor is the humor always so playful. Sometimes it is tipped with a wholesome sting. An example appears toward the close of the volume, in an explanation of the international law of discovery. The author correctly attributes the law to two principles—the pagan principle that anything which nobody owns belongs to the finder, and the Christian principle that the heathen are nobody. It was by virtue of this theory of dominion that America was parcelled out by grants from European potentates. Our author tersely comments thus upon it all: "Granted these two premises, there is no escape from the conclusion known as the law of the right of discovery. The premises were assumed and the conclusion universally acted upon. The luster is one of law rather than justice."

A book the preparation of which seems to have been a labor of love with publisher as well as author, calls for some reference to its mechanical side. This is really artistic, and adds greatly to the value of the text. For besides the fine paper and the clear, black, legibly leaded type, there is a wealth of judiciously selected and neatly printed pictures and maps correctly illustrative of the text and not confusingly supplemental to it. Most notable of these illustrations, is a richly printed reproduction, reduced in size but a facsimile in every other respect, including color, of the famous Juan de la Cosa ox-hide map of 1500. The original is the oldest known map of America, and belongs to the Spanish government. Much less pretentious, but quite as interesting in

a minor way, is a reproduction of the earliest known print of an American buffalo. The modern maps, of which there are many, make a free use of color with apparently two objects, both of which are secured—beauty of effect and clearness of distinction of the features intended to be distinguished. A color reproduction of the Madrid Marine Museum portrait of Columbus appears as the frontispiece.

Recurring to the literary part of the work, it may be said that Dr. Avery is not a new hand at exact authorship for popular needs and tastes. Although this is his first important volume in the historical field, it is not his first in kinds of authorship with which the writer of a really valuable popular history ought to have familiarity. Dr. Avery is distinguished as the author of works on physics which are largely used in American and Canadian schools, and has scored a success as an author of books on English composition. He is, moreover, a sociological and political student, and has served with honor as a Senator in the legislature of Ohio; he has been a soldier in actual warfare; he has put out historical monographs of distinctive worth; and, as already stated, he has been engaged for nearly twenty years in gathering, sifting, weighing, arranging and describing the material for the ambitious history of his country on which he is now engaged. ["A History of the United States and Its People, from the Earliest Records to the Present Time." By Elroy McKendree Avery. In twelve volumes. Volume I. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company. MCMIV. Price, per volume, cloth, \$6.25; half leather, \$12.50; full leather, \$17.50. Sold by subscription, but subscribers not obliged to take entire set].

L. F. P.

### POEMS FOR TO-DAY.

Frances Margaret Milne's poems "For To-day" (San Francisco: The James H. Barry Company. Price \$1.50) possess a sweetness of expression and sound a depth of feeling which may well make them poems of tomorrow as well as of to-day—even more than of today.

Their chief fault is lack of emphasis and climax. It is difficult to find in them any crisp quotable lines, and such as appear are apt to be in obscure places. Sometimes, too, the meter does not seem the best for the sentiment, as, for example, in the requiem to Henry George, which begins:

Hast thou a requiem strain  
Glad, free and strong?

Though glad and free, the strain is not so strong, we think, as it might have been with an additional foot.

But strong thought pervades these verses, and their sweet pathos and sane optimism appeal touchingly to minds attuned to love of justice. Especially welcome are they to those who