

pure water, make the location ideal from a sanitary and healthful standpoint; in fact, our section has all the health-giving qualities that have proven such a valuable resource to Colorado.

JAMES P. CADMAN.

BOOKS

VILLARD'S LIFE OF JOHN BROWN

John Brown, 1800-1859: A Biography, Fifty Years After. By Oswald Garrison Villard, A. M., Litt. D. Houghton, Mifflin and Co., Boston. 1910. Price \$5 net.

The hero of Kansas and of Harper's Ferry has had many biographers, but Mr. Villard's book is likely to be for all time the authoritative work upon that most picturesque figure in American history. Details of fact as Mr. Villard has gathered and sifted them will no doubt be questioned, and his appraisal of John Brown's character, and of his conduct as a whole and in specific instances, will fail to command the assent of many readers now, and of some hereafter; but no candid man can deny the fair and painstaking spirit with which the facts have been sought and weighed, and the temperance, wisdom and charity with which the biographer has judged the character of his subject. In wealth of detail, in the careful citation of authorities, and the impartial quotation of evidence and opinion, the work far surpasses anything upon John Brown that we have seen.

Mr. Villard has no foolishly exalted notion as to the appropriate eloquence of historic style, but he recognizes the great dramatic moments in John Brown's career, and records them in a worthy fashion. Long as the book is, it could not well have been shorter; and few intelligent, truth-seeking readers will find it in any part dull.

Almost every fact and incident of John Brown's life, almost every phase of his character, and his motives upon all occasions, have been the subject of eager and acrimonious debate. Perhaps the questions most earnestly disputed are those concerned with his business career and character, the length of time during which his plan for the emancipation of the slaves by force was a main preoccupation, the midnight killings on the Pottawotomie, the mixture of motive in connection with the Harper's Ferry raid, and the plausibility of his hope that the raid would really result in a rapid freeing of the slaves in accordance with his plan. Upon all these matters Mr. Villard presents a mass of carefully weighed evidence, and we think his conclusions are in the main irresistible.

The author fails to find any convincing evidence that John Brown entertained for more than ten or twelve years a steadfast and clearly con-

ceived purpose of attempting to free the slaves by some such plan as he put into execution at Harper's Ferry. Any one who reads Sanborn's fascinating biography of John Brown must find it exceedingly difficult to discover in its pages the facts upon which the biographer bases his conclusion that Brown had entertained some such plan unswervingly for more than twenty-five years. Mr. Villard's conclusion upon this point is presented in the most convincing fashion.

Writing with the greatest desire for fairness, and with the utmost charity, Mr. Villard is forced to admit that John Brown did commit a serious breach of trust when handling a large sum of money turned over to him by others in his character as a wool factor. The transaction does not seem to have differed materially in its moral aspect from instances in which bankers and others have used speculatively or, otherwise money not their own with the full intention and expectation of making it good to the owners, though Mr. Villard does not draw any such parallel. We think, however, Mr. Villard is not sufficiently impressed with a certain largeness of vision that Brown exhibited in his business plans. In business he was not quite the mere thing that we call visionary, but rather a far-sighted man whose plans often failed through the unscrupulousness of competitors, or the unfavorable condition of the times. Some of his transactions in Ohio the biographer finds reprehensible, but almost excusable.

As to the Doyle and other murders on the Pottawotomie, Mr. Villard is extremely detailed, extremely careful as to the weighing of evidence, and definite though in the main charitable in his conclusion that "no plea can be made that will enable him to escape coming before the bar of historical judgment." Possibly Mr. Villard has not sufficiently allowed for the mental disturbance accompanying the awful period of distress, danger and struggle that led up to the murders. We are inclined to believe, in part from Mr. Villard's own evidence, that John Brown's fervor and exaltation of that time came nigh to madness. His extreme reticence afterward as to his bloodthirsty eagerness of the time, something that he had never exhibited before going to Kansas, indicates the natural revulsion of his cooler moments, and it is hard not to read in his concern to avoid unnecessary bloodshed at Harper's Ferry a symptom of remorse for the hideous night on the Pottawotomie.

The biographer finds that John Brown really hoped success for his fantastic scheme of attack at Harper's Ferry and of maintaining a ridiculous camp of freed slaves in the mountains under an equally ridiculous form of government, but that he faced with calmness and joy the probable martyrdom as the alternative of success, and as only another form of success. As to the execution of

the raid itself, it proves, as Mr. Villard abundantly shows, the unfitness of John Brown for any warfare involving plan and foresight, but as to the utter heroism and disinterestedness of the man, Mr. Villard fully agrees with all intelligent historians, and with the unwilling admissions of some conspicuous Southerners and their Northern sympathizers.

Mr. Villard examines with care the accusations as to the undue, and as many have thought, cruel and indecent hastening of John Brown's trial, and while he thinks Governor Wise blundered in not giving the prisoner more time to prepare for trial, he exonerates the official world of Virginia from the bitterest accusations of the period. He shows, indeed, that there was a somewhat surprising humanity in the attitude of the Virginians toward their chief prisoner and his companions, except in the pursuit of those who attempted to escape. The mighty power of courage, sincerity and unselfish devotion to a cause was marvelously exemplified in the attitude of a part of the Southerners and their sympathizers who came in contact with John Brown, and nearly fifty years later a Southerner on being asked by a New Englander what he regarded as the most dramatic incident in American history, promptly answered, "John Brown's raid, by far." Mr. Villard has omitted one of the most surprising tributes of the time to the heroism and sincerity of Brown. It is not the avenger of Kansas, but the devotee of the gallows in Virginia that men will love in John Brown, thinks Mr. Villard. What will probably be accepted in all future time as a truthful estimate of John Brown's adventure at Harper's

Ferry, is summed up by the author at the close of this very notable volume in these eloquent words: "And so, whenever there is battling against injustice and aggression, the Charlestown gallows that became a cross will help men to live and die. The story of John Brown will ever confront the spirit of despotism, when men are struggling to throw off the shackles of social, political, or physical slavery. His own country, while admitting his mistakes without undue palliation or excuse, will forever acknowledge the divine that was in him by the side of what was human and faulty, and blind and wrong. It will cherish the memory of the prisoner of Charlestown in 1859 as at once a sacred, a solemn and an inspiring American heritage."

EDWARD N. VALLANDIGHAM.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—World Corporation. By King Camp Gillette. Published by the New England News Co., Boston. Price, \$1.00, postpaid.

—The History of the Telephone. By Herbert N. Casson. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1910. Price, \$1.50 net.

—Social Justice. By Percy Vivian Jones. Published by the Cochrane Publishing Co., Tribune Building, New York. 1910. Price, \$1.50. Postage, 12 cents.

—Suggestion. Spiritism. Clairvoyance. Hindu Philosophy. Psychic Science Series, Numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8. By Edward B. Warman. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., New York. 1910. Price, each 50 cents, net.

DR. CHARLES L. LOGAN OSTEOPATH

Suite 701, Cable Building
28 Jackson Boulevard
Tel. Harrison 6296
Hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Suite 66, Hotel Warner Annex
Cottage Grove Av. & 33d St.
Tel. Douglas 673
Evenings by Appointment

CHICAGO

THE SINGLE TAX BLOTTER

A business-like method of propaganda
10 CENTS A DOZEN BY MAIL

JOHN J. EGAN, 510 W. 169th St., New York City

The Land for the People! The Land Value Tax Party is gradually organizing all believers and making new ones. You are urged to help. Send 10 cts. in stamps for Platform, Constitution and other literature. Buttons 25c. B. T. Sample, Provisional Sec'y, 13 Cranberry St., Brooklyn N.Y.

Real Estate and Investments
R. E. CHADWICK
1141 D Street San Diego, Cal.

3 SUBSCRIPTIONS

(yearly)

FOR

2 DOLLARS

☞ Don't forget this proposition when you solicit subscriptions for The Public.

☞ Two dollars pays for three yearly subscriptions (new), four dollars pays for six, six dollars pays for nine subscriptions, etc.

☞ Give the new subscribers the benefit of the reduction, if you choose.

☞ Try it. You will be surprised to see how easy they come.