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The Colonial Story

1774-1834 (Select documents), by Vincent Harlow and Frederick Madden: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, Eng-lish price, 35. COLONIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

(Reviewed by F. J. Foot)

HIS is a collection of the more important colonial documents, in some cases with omissions of passages not considered important.

It was the fashion during the Victorian era to say nothing good of the 18th Century, Carlyle, who took so much trouble about it, seemed to think the only sensible thing it did was to blow its own brains out in the grand universal suicide named the French Revolution. But it is becoming recognised that the Georgian and Regency period was an era of splendid administrators in naval and colonial matters. (The handling of American and Irish affairs must be excepted, but must be blamed on George III, who insisted on his own way in spite of plain warnings from Burke and the two Pitts.)

The field ranges widely over Canada, South Africa, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Malta and elsewhere. The New Zealand documents are of particular interest to us. One cannot help being impressed by the commonsense so evident in the communications of officials concerning New Zealand. The instructions to Captain Cook for his third voyage indicate that if the Earl of Sandwich was a dissolute scoundrel (he was a member of the Medmenham Club with Wilkes and Lord le Despencer) at least he had excellent assistants in the Admiralty, Indeed, we know this from the naval events of the succeeding generation. The same sturdy commonsense informs the report of Samuel Marsden.

All these men who had to do with the beginnings of New Zealand seem to have had the gift of being able to decide at once what was practically possible and yet to have had a cautious foresight of the place New Zealand would one day take. We find, for instance, Marsden's reply to a request for his views on the formation of a colony in New Zealand in 1824. He considered it essential first to establish law and order. And the southern whalers petitioning Lord Bathurst in 1826 say that New Zealand's capacious harbours and fine seamen would obtain ascendancy in the eastern seas. It is interesting to be reminded of the high importance of New Zealand timbers to the Navy in the 18th Century. Timbers from our forests played their part in some of Nelson's sea battles. There was also the trade in flax which contemporary observers agreed was superior to that being then imported into England for the manufacture of linen and sail cloth.

Although this is a short collection it is of use in the more elementary research work of students and historians. and serves as a preliminary guide to the whereabouts of important records.

CRITIC'S PHILOSOPHY

TOWARDS FIDELITY, by Hugh I'A. Fa set; Victor Gollancz. English price, 15/-

MR. FAUSSET well known as a literary critic and reviewer, has attempted in this meditation to express his philosophy of life for the benefit of a friend whose humanist faith has failed her in a time of trouble. Tentatively

and with considerable wisdom he weaves together different threads of knowledge and insight-to make a lifeline, as it were. The book is written in a spirit of quiet goodwill, and may well have been of value to the person for whom it was first conceived; but how valuable it may be to the unintimate reader, one finds difficult to assess.

Mr. Fausset leans heavily upon Buddhist and Hindu theology. And like Jung he is ultimately one who regards all spiritual experience as the expression of complementary opposites. Thus his approach to the problem of evil (the problem which most oppressed his confidante) is nearer to that of Christian Science than that of the main current of Western thought. For him, faith is a hold-all; faith in the Father-Mother-God and "an incessant multiplication of the inexhaustible One and unification of the indefinitely Many.'

The most unsatisfactory section of the book is that which discusses Christian belief. The unvielding materialism of Christian dogma, like that iron-grey stone of which Dante wrote, repels Mr. Fausset—an understandable situation. But to cite the ecstatic statements of Christian saints as evidence to support a view according to which the Incarnation is mythical, seems entirely unjustifiable; though one may readily grant that the knowledge and love of God is possible to the Buddhist as to the Christian. Mr. Fausset is plainly a sincere and earnest deist. He tends, however, like Jung and the Gnostics, to embrace all beliefs simultaneously. To a man in the pains of death Mr. Fausset's belief would hardly give consolation.

-James K. Baxter

UNDER THE ALPS

A SHORT HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND, by E. Bonjour, H. S. Offler and G. R. Potter: Oxford University Press. English price, 35 -.

N Switzerland women have no vote. conservatism is characteristic, heraldry seems to be a national passion, independence is more real than in most countries, compulsory military training is apparently regarded as a right and not a duty, international banking is highly developed, and neutrality has become a vested interest.

In the Alps tourists are entertained and hydro-electricity produced; in the band of hill country, stretching from Lake Geneva to Lake Constance, industrious people-400 to the square mileuse skill and imported raw materials to make a multitude of desirable factory goods, ranging from microscopes to locomotives; in the Jura are the craftslacemakers, clockmakers, silk weavers,

"THE MAKING OF A MORON," by Nigit Brennan, is to be reviewed by Eileen Sounders (below) in the ZB Book Review



session on September 13. Other books for discussion are: " wards Fidelity," Hugh l'Anson Fausset (reviewer, Anton Vogt); "The Intelli-gent Parents' Manual," by F. Powdermaker and Louise Grimes (Christine Cale); and "Crime and the

Police," by Anthony Martienssen (Superin-