

dull pursuits of civil life," I am still awake to your happiness and prosperity. If, therefore, these can be augmented by my talents and assiduity in the impartial effusion of JUSTICE, I shall act with the same happiness and effect, if elected to the office of

ASSISTANT JUDGE.

I would not, my Countrymen, have you imagine that pen and paper are the only testimony of my capacity and eloquence:—Ask the Soldier whose tongue directed him to the Fight?—Whose courage inflamed, and whose conduct sustained him in Battle?—Whose voice animated the fatigued, fainting Warrior?—Who led the van, in carving the way to Victory, "seeking the bubble, reputation, even in the cannon's mouth."

Often I have been engaged in the doubtful conflict of contending armies—I have known the worth of victory—I have heard the groans of dying brothers—I have seen my own veins' crimson fluid flowing—Who, then, so richly deserves the civic honors, as the one who so dearly purchased our liberties and defended our rights?

I remain, my Countrymen, Your Soldier and Friend,

And, I hope, Assistant Judge,

Vincennes, Feb. 16, 1816.

JOHN MCBAIN.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

A HOOSIER VILLAGE.

"A Hoosier Village: A Sociological Study, with Special Reference to Social Causation," by Newell Leroy Sims, published by Columbia University as one in a series of studies in political science, may fairly be called unique as a contribution to sociology. It takes for its theme a subject so common and near at hand that one is slow to think of it as containing material for nearly two hundred pages of very interesting reading.

Mr. Sims is thoroughly conversant with the community of which he writes, his three years special study of the data for this thesis being strengthened by the fact that previously it had been for many years his home, and he goes at it with a scalpel so in

dustriously that few tissues are left undissected. He considers exhaustively its activities and character in their various phases, and by the light of their historical antecedents. This includes natural environment, elements of population, industries, education, religion, politics, amusements, and other community factors with their many subdivisions.

The host of closely observed facts set forth by Mr. Sims gives one a clear and impressive idea of the operation of social forces operating in a village or small town as distinguished from simple isolated country life on the one hand, or from complex city life on the other, and one's view of social phases generally is illuminated. Just how much light, however, is thrown on the "social causation" which the author aims to elucidate is not so certain. The difficulty of an intensive study of a small unit, like this one, is to distinguish clearly between local cause and effect and more general facts. While communities of a given size may differ from each other owing to local causes, yet back of their more numerous points of resemblance lie causes that are wide as the nation or the race. The belief that life in a Hoosier village is quite distinctively racy and of the soil is an error that has been widely fostered by our literature, whereas a country town in Indiana has in it the characteristics of the country town elsewhere, particularly throughout the Middle West. We do not mean to say that Mr. Sims lends himself to this error. On the contrary, he continually attempts to distinguish between the local and the general elements of his study. The reader with the facts before him is at liberty to sift these elements for himself, and even if he fails to get much out of the few chapters on "social causation" that summarize Mr. Sims's conclusions, he cannot but find in the nineteen other chapters a mass of data that every sociological student should know of.

The village studied, fictitiously designated as Aton, is thinly disguised as to its identity, when, in addition to the description of its natural environment, we are told that it is in the extreme northeastern corner of Indiana, and the seat of justice of a county full of lakes. Angola, in Steuben county, is the only town answering this description.

The price of the book is \$1.50, and it may be had through Longmans, Green & Co., New York. G. S. C.

THE NEW HISTORY.

James Harvey Robinson, Professor of History in Columbia University, presents in a collected form, as so many consecutive chapters, eight essays under the title of "The New History." We cannot say that we find the book particularly illuminative. It is critical and destructive all along the line—a thesis with an argument to maintain, but just what it maintains and just what the "new history" is as distinguished from the broadening conception of history that has been gaining ground for the last half-century we cannot say. Bluntly, Prof. Robinson does not seem to have a talent for directness, his points, whatever they are, being smothered up and lost sight of in too much learned loquacity.

His argument is, in the first instance, a protest against the monopolizing of history by the chronicles of rulers, political events and spectacular happenings. These, it is implied, are but insignificant features amid the vast and complex forces that play through social development and which make the real history of the human race. This is unquestionably true, but the criticism, however apt it may have been a generation or two ago, sounds rather belated now. Historians are busy now departing from those old notions. From kings, dynasties and spectacular events to a democratic interest in the people and their institutions, thence on to a scientific and philosophical consideration of conditions and causes, the study merging at length with what we call sociology, seems to be the process revealed as we survey the modern changes in history writing. These are the desiderata contemplated in the "new history." It may be that there is also something more of a constructive character there, but we fail to catch it. There is in the book much casual information and not a few statements as to the fictions and unreliability of the old histories.

The price of the work is \$1.50; the publishers The Macmillan Company, New York. G. S. C.