

Monahan's *Genealogy of the Ward Family* (pp. 207-238 of this volume) should be useful not only to Ward family members, geanealogists, and readers of the *Ward Correspondence*, but also to persons interested in the family backgrounds and connections of such noted Americans as Julia Ward Howe, Samuel Ward, lobbyist, and F. Marion Crawford.

The index to the *Correspondence*, though excellent, leaves something to be discovered by close reading of the letters. The addition of end maps might have added still more to the extensive interest and serviceability of this volume.

University of Illinois

Louise B. Dunbar

Whitman and Rolleston, A Correspondence. Edited with an introduction and notes by Horst Frenz. Humanities Series No. 26, Indiana University Publications. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1951, pp. 137. Index, frontispiece portrait of Thomas William Rolleston. \$1.50.)

Thomas William Rolleston (1857-1920), Irish translator, historian, and biographer, is of interest to Whitman students primarily because he was an early champion of Whitman abroad and published in 1889, with Karl Knortz, an important German translation of some poems from *Leaves of Grass*.

Most of the present collection of thirty-two letters or cards (twenty-four from Rolleston to Whitman; seven from Whitman to Rolleston; one from J. Fitzgerald Lee to Whitman) is here published for the first time—though four of the Rolleston letters are reprinted from Horace Traubel, *With Walt Whitman in Camden*, and a part of one Whitman letter has appeared in William Sloane Kennedy, *The Fight of a Book for the World*. The original of most of the letters Frenz has edited are in the Library of Congress. In point of time, the published correspondence between Rolleston and Whitman runs from October 16, 1880, to 1885 or 1886. In addition to the letters, Frenz reprints as appendixes a summary of a Dresden lecture on Whitman which Rolleston published in the *Camden Post*, February 13, 1884, and an obituary piece which Rolleston published in the *Academy* for April 2, 1892, the former to show Rolleston's critical approach to Whitman (favorable, but not without surprising acumen and some reservation), the latter to fill out the "full record of the literary friendship" of Rolleston and Whitman.

It detracts nothing from the unique value of Frenz' edition to say at the outset that there is little here of major significance to Whitman scholars. Rather, the collection stands as one more brick, not too significant in itself, but important in the total structure of Whitman bibliography. The majority of the letters are by Rolleston, and thus show more about the Irish scholar than about Whitman—except indirectly. The letters by Whitman are short, perfunctory notes. However, the student of Whitman will be interested in several recurring topics. For example, Rolleston's repeated references to Irish affairs in the early letters, and in particular to the problem of Home Rule, must have intensified Whitman's interest in international affairs.

In common with several of the early Whitman enthusiasts, Rolleston was keenly aware of the effect of modern science on the poet, and also of the poet's use of modern science. One of the longer letters (Dec. 26, 1882) reports at length the considered opinion of the European authority, Dr. Rudolph Virchow, on Darwinism. A passage from Rolleston's report of one of Virchow's lectures reads:

When the theory was first proposed he was not carried off his feet by the waves of enthusiasm about him. He was content to wait, taking the theory for what it was worth, for the proof or disproof which the researches of the next decades (dominated as they have been by the desire to find facts bearing on that theory) would certainly bring.

This passage, and the whole letter, should be compared with "Darwinism—(Then Furthermore)" (*Complete Works*, V, 278-280), where Whitman said that the world will be "Better'd and broaden'd" by Darwinism, but added, with his usual caution on new and "untested" scientific theories, that Darwin's theory, though an important step, would doubtless have to undergo modification in some particulars. This may be seen as further evidence that Whitman's caution did not stem, as some twentieth century critics have made out, from sentimental and soft-minded opposition to evolution, but rather was in keeping with informed scientific opinion, which held in part that Darwin's special contribution, the law of "Natural Selection," was as yet not fully substantiated by scientific research.

Other items of interest may be noted. Among the books Rolleston sent to Whitman was a translation of *Encheiridion*, by Epictetus, which Whitman treasured throughout his life. The recording of the vicissitudes of the German translation, *Grashalme*, shows again Whitman's fastidious concern with the manner in which his poetry was handled. It was only gradually that Whitman was persuaded not to have the poems printed in parallel texts of English and German. Rolleston occasionally sent Whitman some of his own well-meaning but ineffectual Whitmanesque poetry, the reading of which reminds us again that the apparent looseness of Whitman's verse is deceptive, and most difficult to emulate. Again, Rolleston's likening of Whitman's poetry to the music of Wagner and the paintings of Turner (though the former analogy may well seem, to the modern critic, uselessly subjective), is another instance of that merging of the arts which we find in late nineteenth century symbolist-decadence—a merging which may be present in *Leaves of Grass* itself in unrecognized measure.

Frenz has supplied notes to the letters, perhaps too full and numerous for the Whitman specialist, who does not need to be told about Emerson's letter ("I greet you . . ."), about the banning of the seventh edition in Boston, about the shirt sleeve picture in the first edition, about William Sloane Kennedy, and so forth. Such notes would seem to be intended for those primarily interested in Irish literature and affairs of the late nineteenth century. As one of a group instrumental in the revival of Irish letters and culture at that time, as founder of the *Dublin University Review*, co-founder (with W. B. Yeats and Ernest Rhys) of the Rhymer's Club, as a writer on Irish history and legends in *Myths and Legends of the Celtic Race* (1911), editor of an anthology of Irish poetry, translator from German, Latin, and Greek, biographer of Lessing, and member of many important societies, Thomas William Rolleston is an important literary figure in his own right.

Harpur College
State University of New York

Joseph Beaver

Lincoln in Marble and Bronze. By F. Lauriston Bullard. (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1952, pp. 353. Illustrations and index. \$7.50. A publication of the Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois.)