

declaration of our intellectual independence of England. It shows how young our genuinely American literature still is, that some of the writers represented in this volume have died within the last decade. Bryant, *e. g.*, died in 1878; R. H. Dana and General Dix in 1879; Palfrey, the historian of New England, in 1881; Dr. Orville Dewey and Thurlow Weed in 1882.

The sixth volume (1835-1860) covers what still remains the great period of American literature — the generation that preceded the civil war. This is crowded with names of the first importance: Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Whittier, Poe, and Bancroft, whose works still form our favorite and daily reading; and with others, whose writings, though less familiar, are yet significant, and in part, at least, survive: Alcott, Pinkney, Prentice, Willis, Simms, and Margaret Fuller. Although the period was rich in pure literature, the selections continue to take in a wide range and to illustrate American thought on many sides. The speeches and political writings of public men, such as Lincoln, Seward, Garrison, Chase, John Brown, Jefferson Davis, Robert Toombs, and Caleb Cushing; the work of theologians, like Horace Bushnell, Theodore Parker, Mark Hopkins, and Orestes Brownson; of scholars in many departments, such as Lieber, Woolsey, Marsh, Hedge, Felton, Barnard, and Peirce; of literary critics, like Ripley and Hillard; and of historians, like Gayarré and Hildreth — all these are amply presented. In this period the national mind seems first to reach maturity. The authors above named are distinguished, in general, from their predecessors: in *belles lettres*, by a stronger and finer art, a greater native impulse, and a freedom from the influence of foreign and especially of English models; in the literature of knowledge, by a wider learning and a nicer scholarship, which testify to the improvements in American education; in divinity, by a more liberal spirit and a disposition to attend more to religious philosophy and less to dogmatic theology, which shows the influence of Unitarian dissent in New England and the growth of a more cosmopolitan population in the country at large; and in political literature, by a plainer style, a more earnest and sincere conviction, and a higher moral tone in the discussion of party issues, particularly of the slavery question.

The seventh volume continues the literary history of the same generation (1835-1860) and adds the names of Mrs. Stowe, Holmes, Motley, Thoreau, Lowell, Walt Whitman, and of their less famous contemporaries, many of whom are still living and writing. Politics and political journalism — the latter not ignored in previous volumes — are represented mainly by passages from the writings of Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Horace Greeley, Alexander H. Stephens, Henry J. Raymond, and Generals Grant and Sherman; and liberal extracts are given from Beecher's sermons, lectures, and public addresses, and several pages of characteristic sentences and paragraphs from his extemporaneous discourses. One hundred and thirty-eight authors are drawn upon in this seventh volume, whose contents exhibit a greater variety than any one of the preceding. The majority of these are fairly well known, but now and then a selection occurs which will strike the general reader as something of a rarity or a literary curiosity. Such is the passage from Delia Bacon, the originator of the "Baconian theory" of Shakspere. Such the "Table-Talk" of Thomas Gold Appleton, who

said so many good things and wrote so little. Such also the two poems from the little known volume of Sam Ward, the King of the Lobby, prince of good fellows, most accomplished of talkers and of diners. It was over the mahogany, indeed, that we first heard from his own lips his little poem "Edelweiss," and a few stanzas of his clever French translation of "Locksley Hall,"

C'est bien toi, manoir de Locksley,

either one of which would have graced a page in volume seven.

Mr. Stedman and Miss Hutchinson have performed their task with excellent judgment, knowledge, and care. We do not see how any student of American history or literature — unless he has a very full library of Americana of his own — can afford to be without this collection.

Henry A. Beers.

Buchanan, Lincoln, and Duff Green.

IN December, 1860, President Buchanan sent to President-elect Lincoln, by General Duff Green, an urgent invitation to come immediately to Washington, with assurances that he would be received and treated with all due courtesy; the object of the invitation being that they might consult and act in concert to "save the Union without bloodshed," if possible. In *THE CENTURY* for November, 1887, page 87, the authors of the *Life of Lincoln* say:

Whether this proposition came by authority or not, Lincoln could not publicly either question the truth of the envoy or the motive of the mission. In either case the appeal was most adroitly laid. Of course it was impossible to accept or even to entertain it. . . . His [General Green's] whole aim had been to induce Lincoln tacitly to assume responsibility for the Southern revolt.

Mrs. Green's nephew, Ninian W. Edwards, and Mr. Lincoln married sisters. This family alliance led to a warm personal friendship between Mr. Lincoln and General Green, which continued down to their last meeting, on board the *Maker*, at Richmond, Virginia, April 5, 1865, when Mr. Lincoln sprung forward to greet General Green with the exclamation, "My dear old friend, can I do anything for you?"

When Mr. Lincoln came to Washington as a member of Congress he took lodgings in Carroll Place, then more commonly called "Green's Row," that he might be near General Green, and his wife near Mrs. Green. The following, which is one of many letters to General Green, illustrates their friendly and confidential relations. This letter was "confidential" in 1849, but the lapse of time, the death of both parties, and the reference to General Green in the *Life of Lincoln* justify its publication now:

SPRINGFIELD, ILLS., May 18, 1849.

DEAR GENERAL:

I learn from Washington that a man by the name of Butterfield¹ will probably be appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office. This ought not to be. That is about the only crumb of patronage which Illinois expects; and I am sure the mass of General Taylor's friends here would quite as lief see it go east of the Alleghanies, or west of the Rocky Mountains, as into that man's hands. They are already sore on the subject of his

¹ Justin Butterfield, who was appointed.—EDITOR.

getting office. In the great contest of '40 he was not seen or heard of; but when the victory came, three or four old drones, including him, got all the valuable offices, through what influence no one has yet been able to tell. I believe the only time he has been very active was last spring a year, in opposition to General Taylor's nomination.

Now cannot you get the ear of General Taylor? Ewing is for B., and therefore he must be avoided. Preston I think will favor you. Mr. Edwards has written me offering to decline, but I advised him not to do so. Some kind friends think I ought to be an applicant; but I am for Mr. Edwards. Try to defeat B., and in doing so use Mr. Edwards, J. L. D. Morrison, or myself, whichever you can to best advantage. Write me, and let this be confidential.

Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN.

Mr. Buchanan knew of these friendly relations, and therefore chose General Green as his "envoy." When the proposition was submitted to Mr. Lincoln, he not only expressed his willingness to accept it, but manifested an eagerness to start at once for Washington. He regretted being detained by an appointment with Senator Ben. Wade, whom he was expecting by every train, and said that he would start for Washington as soon as he had met that appointment. Senator Wade came and opposed the proposition successfully. Mr. Lincoln changed his mind and declined Mr. Buchanan's invitation.

Failing in this, General Green then sought to obtain from Mr. Lincoln a letter which could be used at the South as an antidote to his Cooper Institute speech and his speech of the 16th of June, 1858, before the State convention at Springfield, Illinois (see *THE CENTURY* for July, 1887, p. 386), in which he took the ground that "this Government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free," and which had led the South to believe that he and his party would be satisfied with nothing short of the "extinction" of slavery. So far from his "whole aim" being to throw on Mr. Lincoln the "responsibility for the Southern revolt," General Green's only aim was to relieve him of that responsibility by satisfying the South that they had no reason to fear that he would make or countenance in others any attempt to emancipate their slaves. In this he also failed. The letter sent by Mr. Lincoln to Senator Trumbull, to be delivered "if, on consultation, our friends, including yourself, think it can do no harm," never reached General Green.

General Green's own account of his mission to Springfield and of his interview with Mr. Lincoln in Richmond after its occupation by the Federal troops may be found in "Facts and Suggestions," by Duff Green, published in 1866 by Richardson & Co., New York, and Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

At Richmond, Mr. Lincoln told General Green that Mr. Corwin's resolution, prohibiting Congress from any interference with slavery in the slaveholding States, was passed on the last night of the session at his (Lincoln's) request. Commenting on this, General Green wrote as follows:

This resolution was unanimously adopted on the 3d March, 1861, by both houses of Congress, and, as it now appears, upon the recommendation of Mr. Lincoln, as a means of arresting the secession movement. Who can doubt that, if he had come to Washington in December, 1860, as I urged him to do, and had then exerted a like influence, it . . . would have prevented the war.

DALTON, GEORGIA.

Ben. E. Green.

Sea-Coast and Lake Defenses.

GLANCING through the great four-volume report of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, with which I have just been favored through the courtesy of that officer, I find *one page*, out of its three thousand pages, of business-like statements of work done during the year reported upon, which, if none other, ought to interest and impress every patriotic citizen.

Describing the condition of our so-called "sea-coast and lake frontier defenses," this officer remarks, "The wisdom of providing for the public defense in time of peace and while the Government is in a condition of financial prosperity would appear to be too evident to need further demonstration." The matter has been repeatedly reported upon, and the result has been the annual expenditure, years ago, of about \$100,000 per annum, until 1885; since which date absolutely nothing has been done. The consequence of this miserable state of affairs is thus graphically stated by the Chief of Engineers; and could anything be more pitiful?

Neglect of any structure, however massive or well built, results in more or less rapid deterioration, and we find to-day everything connected with our permanent defenses, which are dependent upon annual appropriations for the maintenance and repair, going to rack and ruin: slopes overgrown with grass and weeds and gullied by the rain; walks and roads ragged and untrimmed and full of holes and breaks; ditches and drains filled up or fallen in, and pools of stagnant water on the parades and in the casemates; the sewers in bad order with the consequent evils; mortar and cement fall from the joints of masonry for the want of repointing; timber gun and ammunition platforms rotten or decayed; and permanent concrete or masonry platforms settling or out of plumb, thus preventing the proper service of the guns; casemates and quarters leaky, unhealthy, and uninhabitable; magazines damp and useless; revetment walls and water fronts falling down, and waves making serious and rapid encroachments on valuable land, thus impairing eligible sites for future works; and generally about the ungarrisoned forts an appearance of total abandonment and decay; and from the commanders of garrisoned forts continued and urgent appeals to keep the works in order for the comfort and convenience of the garrison and the efficient use of the armaments.

Was there ever a more extraordinary picture of the inefficiency of our legislative body or of the shiftlessness that may sometimes characterize the administration of such trusts? What facts or what circumstances could give the enemies of the republican system of government a better argument against government by representatives chosen by the people? A great nation like ours permits every material guarantee of the permanence of its institutions to be absolutely neglected; pays not the slightest attention to its most important defensive armaments; allows its army and navy to become weakened, demoralized, and incapable of doing the work assigned, and placidly sees the smallest of those nations with which it is liable at any time, through the fault of the stranger or the incapacity of its own administrations, to be forced into conflict, providing itself with fleets and armies such as give the enemy the power to inflict incalculable and irremediable damage on our coasts before we can even make a fair beginning in the work of rehabilitating our defenses. Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, even the smallest of the South American republics, in case of the sudden outbreak of such hostilities as may result from any folly of the least among our foreign representatives, of the pettiest consul, could to-day bombard New York