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Thucydides, against the modern "temptation to read into an inscription more than is really to be found in it."

Mr. Moncreu Conway, following up his invaluable elucidations of Folk-lore, discusses in his new book the significance and the teaching of the legend of the Wandering Jew.⁹ It is scarcely necessary to remark that the book is full of interest. The main feature in the argument is that this legend of the Wandering Jew is a notable example of that "sacerdotal sorcery which, for the lover of enemies, substituted a curser of enemies in the earliest Christian theology." We are told, first of all, how the legend is recorded in Roger de Wendover's "Historia Major," and how the Wandering Jew himself appeared in Germany in 1547, and in various other European countries, with a clever and wonderful knowledge of previous history, and so forth. From this we are led on to a most instructive account of the more general legend of "the Undying Ones" and of Curses. The ramifications and amplifications of the Wandering Jew legend are portrayed with most entertaining and instructive detail. And the story is carried through the ages of popular ignorance and vivid beliefs to the more recent renovation of the Ahasueres as a poetic ideal. The Eternal Jew becomes the favourite "subject" of great German poets from Schubert to Goethe. Edgar Quinet, Eugene Sue, and Grenier follow the same lead in France. And we have an admirable account of the influence of the legend on the English drama and on English poetry. But underlying the whole, and gradually working its way in the end to prominence, comes a powerful vindication of the Jewish race, and a powerful exposition of the hoped-for approach of better times for humanity at large.

The growing prosperity of India and its consequently increasing importance to Englishmen of all classes ensure a welcome for Mr. Talboy Wheeler's "Tales from Indian History."¹⁰ The author himself had some misgivings concerning this title, and it is matter for regret he did not allow these misgivings more influence; for the title fails to convey to the ordinary mind an adequate idea of the character and value of the book. It is, in short, an epitomized account of most things Indian; and he who has read it will have no bad idea of nearly every point that Indian affairs present to English notice. The author in this volume manages to communicate to the reader his own firm hope in a great future for India—closer bound to the British empire by representative and business connections; and his belief that the English, having instituted law and order in India, are now offering most favourable opportunities for the great native races to work out their own advancement by assimilating the educational and scientific achievements of Western civilization.

Yet another national history¹¹ is put before the public, and it may

⁹ "The Wandering Jew." By Moncreu Conway. London: Chatto & Windus 1881.

¹⁰ "Tales from Indian History." By J. Talboy Wheeler. London: W. Thacker & Co. 1881.

¹¹ "A History of the British Empire." By Edgar Sanderson. London: Blackie & Son. 1881.

well be asked how it comes about that such a never-ending issue can "pay." It will be observed that the title, "History of the British Empire," might lead us to expect more account than is usually given of the oversea realms the nation has ruled from time to time. But beyond a short chapter devoted to the history of the Indian Empire, and *three pages* devoted to the growth of our Colonial Empire, the book is merely a new version of the oft-told tale of the successions of sovereigns and the wars of the English nation, rigidly confined to the British Islands. Of its kind the work is good, and it has a very complete accompaniment of tables, maps, plans, illustrations, and index.

It would be well if the numerous class of reformers would carefully study an admirable outline of the history of the English Constitution now published by Messrs. Longman.¹² They would thus understand the true story of the development in English history of self-government, and learn that kings and nobles, as well as the commons, have each in turn assisted in the good work. The politician of to-day is too apt to forget that the future will be worked out of the past. Our land reformers will do well to bear in mind the result worked out in the book, "All ownership in theory is tenancy; in practice all tenancy is ownership." And in regard to Ireland it is interesting to trace the obstruction Celtic influence has always opposed to the spread of representative self-government. In Scotland the same influence delayed this for some three hundred years after its introduction into England; and in Ireland local Parliamentary government, inaugurated in 1300, could only take root "within the pale" when English descent and custom came to prevail. As a whole this little work is admirably written. We would, however, point out that in its opening chapters the Norse element in our population is altogether ignored, though it is now proved to have largely modified our institutions and our national character. Again, on the last page there is a very partial account of the main principle of free-trade. It is described as merely prescribing that no import duty should be levied on necessary food, and so securing the people "from being overcharged for the necessaries of life." The utter inadequacy of such a description of free-trade should be remedied in the future editions to which the work is sure to run.

It has been termed a natural function of women to provide for the education of children; and the compiling of schoolbooks for the special use of children is a task by no means neglected by women. "A French History for English Children" is a full, clearly-written account of historical France suited to schoolroom capacities.¹³ It has no pretensions to advanced erudition, and is a plain matter-of-fact account of persons and events that young people are expected to be familiar with. The book

¹² "Historical Outline of the English Constitution, for Beginners." By D. W. Rannie. London: Longmans. 1881.

¹³ "French History for English Children." By Sarah Brook. London: Macmillan. 1881.