

son, the renowned chieftain of Helgafell—a bad blunder for a writer who pretends to have studied the sources with care. Most of the illustrations are from photographs taken on the Brown-Harvard expedition to Nachvak in 1900.

HALLDÓR HERMANNSSON.

*The Red Man's Continent: a Chronicle of Aboriginal America.* By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON. [Chronicles of America series, vol. I.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1919. Pp. xii, 183.)

VOLUME I. of the *Chronicles*, somewhat tardy in appearance, serves to introduce the reader to the physical features of the New World, especially of North America. The bearing of geographic conditions upon all forms of life is emphasized, and this thesis merges into a concise account of early Indian culture. The whole well-told story bridges the way handily to the white man's America unfolded in the succeeding volumes.

The first chapter, Approaches to America, deals with the problem of man's first habitat, and the coming to the western hemisphere of Indian, European, and negro. The next three chapters cover physiographic features, soil, temperature, rain-fall, and vegetation. In this section of the book the author, primarily a geographer, has an easy mastery of his subject, and a corresponding advantage over many students of early America. The final chapter, the Red Man in America, is derived largely, as the author states in a foot-note, from articles on Indian life in the *Handbook of American Indians* edited by Mr. Hodge.

In every chapter, however, the author contributes generously of his favorite thesis on the relation of geographic features, especially climate, to the evolution of society. Indeed, for such a brief treatise, he seems over-generous in such contributions. He constantly overworks his material in order to generalize, to show connection, to establish hypotheses, especially as to the influence of climate on civilization. His constant use of space to apply, explain, and defend that hypothesis reaches its climax in the concluding summary (pp. 167-172). Here quite half the space is used to explain, defensively, how the ancient Aztecs and Mayas happened to develop such a high type of civilization in what is now such a bad climate.

There are, moreover, notable discrepancies in the author's estimates of the effect of climate upon human progress: *e. g.*, "For this reason it is not improbable that long sojourns at way stations on the cold, Alaskan route from central Asia may have weeded out certain types of minds. Perhaps that is why the Indian, though brave, stoical, and hardy, does not possess the alert, nervous temperament which leads to invention and progress" (pp. 20-21). Yet in a later chapter the author devotes a full page to emphasizing the ingenuity of the Eskimo. And finally, "In view of these clever inventions it seems safe to say that the Eskimo has

remained a nomadic savage not because he lacks inventive skill but partly because the climate deadens his energies and still more because it forbids him to practise agriculture" (p. 126). The net conclusion of the two statements seems to be as follows: Indians in general are stupid and un-inventive because they sojourned for a time in the arctic regions; but those who remained there permanently are especially clever at invention.

The climate-energy hypothesis so much emphasized in Mr. Huntington's former books and articles is stated here and restated throughout the book, but it is everywhere diluted by other hypotheses: respecting pulsations of climate (pp. 123-124, 168-171, *et passim*), respecting heavily matted grass as an obstacle to the progress of agriculture (pp. 151-152, 165-166), respecting lack of tools and horses (pp. 124, 151-152, 168), respecting lack of rain (pp. 141-142, 148-149), respecting lack of proper plants (p. 140), respecting food and transport (pp. 127-128, 134-135, 153-154). All of these considerations are legitimate, indeed absolutely essential. But when they are all added up, and then subtracted from the climate-energy hypothesis, how much of the latter is left? It simply goes the way of all other short-cut hypotheses for explaining civilization. Yet even this insistent climatic dogma may bring a freshness to the general reader, and leave the critical historian provoked to thought.

There are good maps, beautiful illustrations, a very brief bibliography, and a fairly adequate index.

*The Spanish Conquerors: a Chronicle of the Dawn of Empire Overseas.* By IRVING BERDINE RICHMAN. [Chronicles of America series, vol. II.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1918. Pp. xi, 238.)

*Elizabethan Sea-Dogs: a Chronicle of Drake and his Companions.* By WILLIAM WOOD. [*Id.*, vol. III.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. xi, 252.)

*Crusaders of New France: a Chronicle of the Fleur-de-Lis in the Wilderness.* By WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO. [*Id.*, vol. IV.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. xii, 237.)

*Pioneers of the Old South: a Chronicle of English Colonial Beginnings.* By MARY JOHNSTON. [*Id.*, vol. V.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. x, 246.)

*The Fathers of New England: a Chronicle of the Puritan Commonwealths.* By CHARLES M. ANDREWS. [*Id.*, vol. VI.] (*Ibid.* 1919. Pp. x, 210.)

*Dutch and English on the Hudson: a Chronicle of Colonial New York.* By MAUD WILDER GOODWIN. [*Id.*, vol. VII.] (*Ibid.* 1919. Pp. x, 243.)