

ness, in the study of an early and conspicuous failure in the relations of West with East. The Siberian venture, 1918-1920, is, in fact, peculiarly instructive, though it is doubtful that a government which could accept as guides in Far Eastern affairs the men who progressively lost all of East Asia to the Reds, and which still harbors some of them in most exalted stations, would pay much heed, even were Professor Manning to speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and to sound his warning on "an instrument of ten strings."

This small book is so compact with information that its lesson can be only sketchily conveyed. Throughout, one notes the hamstringing effect of a sort of schizophrenia between War and State Departments in the United States government. Their refusal to co-operate intelligently left General William S. Graves, commander of the Siberian expedition, even more confused than he need have been from his original instructions, conveyed as an *aide-mémoire* by the Department of State, but drafted obviously by Woodrow Wilson in his most mystifying style of transcendental idealism, remote from the ordinary facts of life and peculiarly devoid of any understanding of Oriental barbarism.

Nevertheless, a competent general and some 8,000 good soldiers did accomplish something. They were of undoubted assistance to the Czechoslovak forces in their escape from Russia, they guarded a considerable segment of the Trans-Siberian Railway, and, negatively but most importantly, they averted a major war in the Far East which would have cost the West even greater loss of prestige than actually occurred.

From the vantage of experience, the author suggests that a basic error in the entire Western concept was the endeavor to prop up the Russian Empire (not, of course, the Czarist) as a whole. Its dismemberment should have been a prime objective. Even Winston Churchill, a quarter century later, preoccupied with Germany, missed this lesson as completely as did F. D. Roosevelt (pp. 190-191).

But gloomy as is the picture he presents, the author closes on a hopeful note. He

calls the Siberian adventure a mistake but not a crime, and he trusts that even yet it may teach the West a lesson.

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FFRENCH, YVONNE (Ed.). *Transatlantic Exchanges: Cross-Currents of Anglo-American Opinion in the Nineteenth Century*. Pp. 255. New York: Library Publishers, 1952. \$3.75.

In compiling a book of extracts of American writers on England and of English writers on America, Yvonne French is, it must be admitted, plowing a well tilled field. Most of the authors cited are well known for their opinions about the other shore of the Atlantic; the comments of Sydney Smith ("Who reads an American book?"), of Mrs. Trollope, of Charles Dickens, of Matthew Arnold, of Oscar Wilde, on the one hand, and of Washington Irving, Emerson, and Hawthorne, on the other, are familiar to many. Even the idea of such an anthology is not new, as witness Allan Nevins' *American Social History as Recorded by British Travellers* and R. B. Mowat's *Americans in England*.

Even so, the book is welcome. The extracts are brief, interesting, and arranged in the form of a transatlantic debate in chronological sequence from Tom Paine and William Cobbett to Henry James and Bernard Shaw. For every insult from either side there is a "countercheck quarrelsome" from the other; for every compliment (much rarer), a return bouquet. The editor's introduction, though not so analytical as Nevins', is well balanced and good tempered. If any complaint must be made, it is that the range of authors cited is too narrow. For example, there are a score of passages cited from Frances Trollope, but not one from Anthony Trollope, who also wrote copiously on the American scene, and much more fairly. One may also venture to hope that some day a companion volume will appear on Anglo-American exchanges in the twentieth century, surely as numerous and as significant as those of the nineteenth.

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