

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Notes.

Last Christmas Day marked the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of a notable American, who fifty years ago enjoyed a national and among those competent to understand his work, an international reputation, a short account of whose career is here given.

Linderman, Henry Richard, Director of the United States Mints, was born in Lehman Township, Pike County, Pa., December 25, 1825, son of Dr. John Jordan and Rachel (Brodhead) Linderman, and grandson of Henry Linderman of Orange County, N. Y., and of Richard Brodhead of Pike County, Pa. His first ancestors in America were Jacob von Linderman who settled near Kingston, Ulster County, N. Y., about 1750, and Capt. Daniel Brodhead of the King's Grenadiers, British Army, who commanded a company to New Amsterdam in 1664 and settled in Esopus, N. Y., in command of the post. He was a great grandnephew of Brig. General Daniel Brodhead, colonel of the 8th Penna. and of Capt. Luke Brodhead of the 6th Penna. and a great grandson of Moses Shaw of the 5th N. Y. regiment, all of the Continental line, a great grandson of Garrett Brodhead of the N. J. State troops and of Capt. Samuel Drake of the Penna. Militia, in active service throughout the Revolution; also a nephew of U. S. Senator Richard Brodhead who was his mother's brother. In giving the Revolutionary ancestry of Dr. Linderman it should also be stated that his great-grandfather, Jacob Linderman, and the latter's two eldest sons, Cornelius and John, born at Wallkill 1756 and 1758, all enlisted together at the outbreak of the Revolution in the 4th regiment of Ulster County. (It should also be stated that the Linderman family first came into Ulster County in 1710 and that Jacob Linderman settled along the Paltz River about 1750. The first of the name in America was Jan Linderman, who settled in Germantown near Philadelphia, in 1698. There were three Lindermans in the Revolutionary Army from Pennsylvania and three in the Continental Line of Virginia.) In every major war of the United States they have been engaged; 1812, Mexican War, Civil War fifteen or eighteen different men on the Union side; Spanish War and the Great War—all fit for service in Dr. Linderman's blood connection, four in number; and since the Revolution all of the above were volunteers in every instance. He studied medicine first with his father and continued his studies in New York where his personal preceptor was the eminent Dr. Willard Parker, and was graduated Doctor of Medicine at the University of the City of New York in 1846, and practiced in Pike and Carbon counties, Pa. He was chief clerk of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, 1855-64 and the Director of the United States Mint at Philadelphia and in charge of all the branch mints and assay offices in the United States—1866-69. In July 1869, he was appointed Treasury Commissioner to examine the western mints and adjust some intricate bullion questions. In 1870 he was sent abroad by President Grant to visit the mints at London, Brussels and Berne to report on their coinage methods and on the relative values of gold and silver as currency metals, and his report on his return in 1871 favored a single gold standard. In 1872 he was a Commissioner with Professor Robert E. Rogers of the University of Pennsylvania to examine the subject of operating wastage in the coinage of gold and silver at the different mints. The same year he was Government Commissioner for fitting up the new Mint and Assay office at San Francisco. In 1872 he made an elaborate report on the condition of the market for silver and predicted the decline in its relative value to gold which afterwards took place. With a view of obtaining an advantageous market for the large and increasing pro-

duction of that metal in the United States, he projected the coinage of the trade dollar which was subsequently authorized by law and successfully introduced into Oriental markets with marked advantage to American commerce. In the same report he called attention to the disadvantages arising from the computation and quotation of exchange with Great Britain on the old and complicated colonial basis and from undervaluation of foreign coins in computing the value of duties on foreign merchandise at the United States Custom Houses. He was the author of the Act of March 3, 1873, which corrected these defects. Dr. Linderman was the first to recommend the adoption of a system of redemption for the inferior coins used as change money, for the purpose of keeping their purchasing power on an equality with the money of unlimited legal tender. He was the author of the Coinage Act of 1873. In 1869 he had assisted John Jay Knox, then Deputy Comptroller of the Currency, in framing the first Act for the codification of the mint legislation, which was not acted upon. Upon his return from Europe in 1871-72, Dr. Linderman entirely rewrote this Act, adding and including the provisions demonetizing silver and putting the country on a gold standard, making the Director of the Mint an Officer reporting to the Secretary of the Treasury instead of the President, and authorizing the coinage of the trade dollar for Oriental commerce. He secured its passage after two year's work before Congress in 1873, and was the first Director of the Mints under the new law, 1873-79. He declined to serve the Japanese Government at a very large salary in organizing a new mint system for the empire. With Henry Dodge and Fred F. Low of the San Francisco Mint, named by him as colleagues as the United States Treasury Commission, he investigated the San Francisco Mint, Custom House and other Federal departments on the Pacific coast in 1877, without additional compensation, and the overwork brought on the illness which resulted in his death. Besides his reports to the President and Treasury Department, he was the author of "Argument for the Gold Standard," 1877, "Money and Legal Tender," 1877, and was also a contributor of technical articles to Johnson's American Encyclopedia. He died at his home in Washington, D. C., January 28, 1879, when but a month past his 53rd birthday.

Dr. Linderman was the 11th and last Director of the Mint under the old law and the first Director under the new law of which he was the author and he may justly be remembered as the organizer and father of the present Mint and Assay Office system of the Government. Among the many eminent men who preceded him in this ancient and honorable office, it is doubtful if any contributed more to the welfare of the Mint service or attained so great a reputation for unusual abilities, professional attainments, and important achievements as he. One of his successors in office, Edward O. Leech, an appointee of President Harrison, of great abilities and delightful personality, was the best known and most highly regarded for his attainments and technical and financial knowledge. In an article in the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" appearing at the end of Mr. Leech's term as Director, by Henry Macfarland, covering the history of the Mint and Director Leech's own services, it was said "The Coinage Act of 1873, prepared by that remarkable man, Dr. Henry Richard Linderman, of Philadelphia, created the new Bureau of the Mint in the Treasury Department and gave to it the direction of all the mints and assay offices in the United States—(five each in number.) General Grant, then President, recognizing that the office of Director of the Mint was a non-political one and should be filled by the man best fitted for it by education and experience, appointed Dr. Linderman, although he was a Democrat, the first Director under the new act. This appointment immediately gave the office the high standing it has always had since as a scientific and not a political place. . . ."

"Dr. Linderman literally gave his life in his self-sacrificing service in this place, working day and night until his death came as a consequence in January, 1879. Dr. Linderman never received the credit

among the people generally which he deserved for his heroic labors but financiers the world over appreciated them and their results and held him in the highest honor. Some idea of the money value of his services to the Government was suggested by the offer of the Japanese Government when it established the Japanese Mint that it would give him \$50,000 to live one year in Japan and organize its mint service. . . ."

Further referring to Dr. Linderman's career, the article states that Mr. Leech had grown up in the Bureau of the Mint "having been selected by Dr. Linderman when he took the office as one of his assistants; profiting by the invaluable instruction of Dr. Linderman, he gradually mastered one department of the Mint service after another until he won recognition in the Treasury Department, in Congress and among financiers in this country and abroad." This is quoted as showing the remarkable affection and appreciation in which Dr. Linderman was held years after his death by one of his associates and subordinates, who afterward rose to his high office, and this was typical with all and every one who worked under or with Dr. Linderman wherever he was known the country over from the Old Philadelphia Mint to the Pacific Coast.

In another article in a Philadelphia paper, March 1891, describing the new mint building there and giving the history of the Mints and Assay Offices, there is extended reference to Dr. Linderman and his services and career beginning, "The Hon. Henry Richard Linderman, M.D., a man of illustrious ancestry and remarkable abilities, was the 11th Director and although a Democrat, was chosen by President Grant to organize the new Bureau of Mints and Assay Offices with the title of Director of the Mint." It then goes on to give an account of his career, stating also that "several of his reports to the Government were used as text books, notably at Harvard University," and further that "some one has said of him, 'Dr. Linderman's name is as celebrated in Europe in connection with his opinions on the double standard of metallic currency as that of Garibaldi in connection with the Italian revolution.'" The authority who said this was Mons. Henri Cernuchi, the Director of the French Mint.

It seems fitting that extended reference should be made to Dr. Linderman not only because he was a great and notable American but for the reason if he had accomplished nothing else his great achievement in his work and writings towards putting the United States on the single gold standard should entitle him to grateful remembrance by his countrymen. Personally, he was modest but dignified, unassuming and democratic yet with quiet personal pride, affectionate, liberal and generous; always interested in the unfortunate, ever ready to help the poor and needy and the stranger and through all his busy life of high ideals and conscientious devotion to duty. To a fine appearance was added unusual physical energy and a winning personality and above all he was gifted with a great soul, a great heart, and a great mind. His filial affection for his parents was marked by unusual warmth and veneration; he was a devoted husband and a fond father. Both in his public and private life Dr. Linderman was admirable and to those who knew him best, his life was "a monument more enduring than brass." He is buried at Bethlehem, Penna., with his parents, where a massive granite monument covers his grave, bearing the following inscription:

Henry Richard Linderman,
 Doctor of Medicine
 For many years the Director
 of the United States Mints;
 Author of the Coinage Act of 1873
 U. S. Treasury Commissioner, etc., etc.
 Died Washington, D. C., 1879
 Aged 53 years.

Of a Colonial and Revolutionary Family;
 Patriot, Scholar, Gentleman,
 Reward him, O Lord, according to
 his manifold worthiness and
 Grant his fine soul life eternal
 R. I. P.

Erected in love and veneration by his son
 Henry Richard Linderman,
 A. D. 1912.

Dr. Linderman was married in 1856 to Emily Holland Davis, daughter of George Hyer Davis, one of the early coal operators of Carbon County, Penna., and granddaughter of Samuel Philip Holland of Wilkes-Barre, a large coal operator and one of the first presidents of the old Pennsylvania Coal Company. His widow died in Newark, at the home of their son, in 1903 and is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

It used to be the custom to hold yearly "Trial of the Pyx," or Annual Assay at the Philadelphia Mint, at which many men distinguished in various walks of life were in attendance by invitation. Preceding the dinner afterward held for the Director, Superintendent, officers and guests, it was customary to memorialize the man or men who had died at that time and had made the greatest contribution to science or great public service. At the Annual Assay in 1879, a silver medal was struck at the Mint, having on its obverse the bust of Dr. Linderman and on its reverse an allegorical monumental device in memory of Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution, as the two greatest deceased contributors that year to science and the public good.

Book Notices.

Just as we are going to press there comes to us "A History of St. Michael's Church, Trenton: In the Diocese of New Jersey, from the Year of our Lord 1703 to 1926," by Hamilton Schuyler, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1926. 8vo, pp. 459 — \$7.00.

The undoubted interest in this volume comes from the fact stated on the title page that it is "Told from the Minutes of the Vestry and other original sources, together with Bibliographical Sketches of Bishops, Rectors, and Men prominent in the Vestry and the Parish. Also Transcriptions from the Parish Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; from the earliest entries down to 1855." This volume is really a model which might be taken to heart by any church authorities who are preparing a history of church activities. In addition to an article on the settlement at the Falls of Delaware and the beginnings of the Episcopal Church in Hopewell Township, each rectorate is given full credit for its performance and to this is added sketches of founders and benefactors. The volume is delightfully illustrated with portraits of Bishops, Clergy and Vestry, and separate indices are furnished for baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials. The general index, too, contains hundreds of references that no historian of Trenton should be without. In addition to the biographical illustrations there is an admirable drawing of St. Michael's Church and the map of Trenton, drawn by C. W. Stead, based on a map of about 1776 by William S. Yard.

T. L. M.

THE AMERICAN IN ENGLAND, by Robert E. Spiller. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

The young author of this book (it is apparently his first) has got hold of a good idea. He has in mind to show the relation between the United States and England during approximately the first fifty years after independence, by a study of what American travellers in England during that time had to say of the country and the people. He has diligently read all of the books (those still known and those forgotten), and he has made use of many manuscript sources in letters and diaries. The quotations and paraphrases which largely make up the volume do give a good picture of the impressions made upon Mr. Spiller's American. As Mr. Spiller is not long out of college, it is not surprising that his style has some of the characteristics of a thesis for a doctor's degree. When he is older, he will not write a sentence like this:—

"The fight of our envoys for that recognition is a thin thread of human history which spins its way through a huge mass of diplomatic correspondence, State papers, private journals and letters." nor will he speak of Lady Bryon as the "imprudently prudish Annabella Milbanke."

Mr. Spiller is better acquainted with what his "American" says of England than he is with England itself.

It will be a service to him to point out some of the mistakes that he has made. An American traveller speaks of the grave of the first victim of a railroad accident, "one Huskinson," Mr. Spiller calls him; "one Huskinson" being William Huskisson, the celebrated English statesman. In the account of Richard Rush's visit to Coke of Norfolk we are told that Coke belonged to the "new commercial aristocracy." The great Whig landed aristocrat would have been rather amused at this designation. In the very next sentence, we are informed that the "sheep-shearing" which Rush attended at Holkham, Coke's estate in Norfolk was the "traditional name for the festivities of midsummer." The annual sheep-shearing at Holkham was really part of a great scheme of agricultural improvement, which was known all over the country, and which received especial attention from America. Holkham itself, was not an "old rambling country house," but dated only from the middle of the Eighteenth Century and was supposed by its builder, the Earl of Leicester, who was Coke's great uncle, to be a close copy of an Italian palace. Perhaps Mr. Spiller has not read Mrs. Sterling's "Coke of Norfolk." If he has not, he has a great treat ahead of him, for which he is to be envied.

Mr. Spiller tells his readers that Lord Lyndhurst was as great, if not a greater painter than his father, John Singleton Copley. There have been many criticisms of the great Chancellor; but it is not believed that anyone heretofore has accused him of being a painter.

According to Mr. Spiller, the presence of Count d'Orsay in the House of Lady Blessington gave the "right touch which made her home the rival of Holland House as a social center." The fact is at least open to dispute. What an "Imaginary Conversation" could be made of a controversy between Lady Holland and Lady Blessington upon this subject.

Some of the errors in the book are doubtless due to faulty proof reading; such as fixing 1796 as the date of Jefferson's joining Adams in England. The year was 1786; and it may be doubted whether their difference of opinion about England was due to the subsequent political disagreement between them.

It is questionable whether Gouveneur Morris had French sympathies, as Mr. Spiller says he had.

It is an error of judgment on the author's part to think that George the Third's giving Benjamin West an order for a picture assured the future of English and American art.

After all though Mr. Spiller deserves credit for having opened a new field and for having given a new impulse to the study of Anglo-American relations.

D. W.

