

As a general Title, we propose,

THE COLUMBIAN ERA.

PART I.-- Andecedent Conditions.

A.---Nationalities of the Old World 1400 to 1500

Example.--England. { Henry V.
Henry VI.
Edward IV.
Edward V.
Henry VII.

France & other Nations with maps and description of organic character of each.

B.---Papacy and its relation to Government and Life of the Fifteenth Century.

C.---Tenures and general social conditions.

D.---Learning, general intelligence, literate classes--proportions and character of,--in different countries.

E.---Geographical knowledge A.D., 1490.

PART II.-- Contemporaries of Columbus.

A.---Historical characters living at his birth other than kings and rulers previously noted.

B.---Historical characters born during his life --other than sovereigns.

C.---Discoverers, conquistadors and Colonists of the first Century of the New World.

PART III.--Out of the Sunset Sea:--A Romance of the Great Admiral's Day.

This is intended especially to depict the life and impulse of

the Columbian Epoch as well as some of the experiences of its humbler types.

The FIRST & SECOND PARTS are intended as a background for the THIRD. The conditions of the Old World at that time being the real background against which we must view the achievements of that epoch if we would have any just comprehension of the importance of what it accomplished.

Mr Bancroft will of course have especial charge of the preparation of these parts,--a task he is probably better able to perform than any living man because he has given that period more attention and which no one of a previous generation could so well perform because their sources of information were not to be compared with those at his disposal.

The plan of publication is to begin the serial issue with the first week of January 1892,--the first of the Quadrennial Year of THE COLUMBIAN ERA.

Parts FIRST & SECOND, will contain about 30 Weekly parts, the purpose being to present a clear and easily apprehended view of the political, intellectual, religious and economical conditions of that time and of the lives and characters of the chief contemporaries in all countries and in all lines of historic effort, during the first half century of Columbus's life, so as to enable the reader to clearly appreciate the Old World which the New was destined so soon to supplant and eventually to overtop.

Through PARTS FIRST & SECOND--will also run what may perhaps be termed a skeleton life of Columbus.

Perhaps I ought to explain this term skeleton. It does not mean imperfect; but we think that especially in writing about Columbus, that there have been two mistakes. First,--too much time has been occupied in canvassing probabilities and endeavoring conclusively to decide immaterial facts: Second,--the attempt has been made to constitute him the center, or foreground of a life of which he was for half a century only an atom. We mean to show not merely his evolution but his environment.

For instance, of the first ten years of his life practically nothing is known but his birth and a little about his family. Now, our idea is to begin say the first or second instalment with a simple recital of this fact and after a few lines branch off into some phase of contemporary life.

The next instalment will begin with some farther allusion to him and will take up another phase of his environment.

Then, following some pertinent reference, the government of his time will be considered.

In another, the education of that day. By and by, the men who were born and dies during specific years of the Discover's life will be given and the more prominent noticed pretty fully, &c, &c.

By this means the reader will almost unconsciously get, not only all that is known of his life, but its environment and relations to the life of the time.

Of course, this will give opportunity for illustration pertinent to each instalment of peculiar variety and attractiveness.

These PARTS,--which will not be designated as parts at all, the term only being used to make the plan comprehensible, will be written in a free, narrative style without technicalities or reference to authorities, and with as little allusion as possible to what has gone before, so that each will be of a separate and comprehensible interest. In other words, we intend that any one taking up one of these instalments who has never read another shall find it fresh and interesting--related monographs rather than formal histories.

To each one of these will be appended a short statement in smaller type--say one-fourth or one third of a column, giving references, subordinate facts, authorities, &c, ~~having~~ bearing on that particular subject for the use of schools, teachers and students. The object being to interest teachers and the children in the schools in the week by week study of the subject.

The purpose in adopting this treatment is to adapt the matter to the serial form; prevent the too great prominence of the man; allow us to treat of peoples more than kings and rulers and so present a true and intelligible and attractive picture of the epoch of the Discovery.

These two parts, constituting PART I., will run from Jan. '92 until August 1892. With the first of August 1892, will begin the Story, opening with the departure from Palos.

This will give the romance of a young man who sails with Columbus, and reflexively the main features of the Admiral's career, ex-

tending on into the Conquest until about 1530--or possibly beyond. It will be written in the first person and will be a contemporary a narrative from the level of the lower ranks--but of an aspiring observer who not only finds a fortune but founds a family in the New World.

The same method of brief annotation of facts and references will be pursued with each chapter of this story as with the previous instalments.

This Story will run until May 1893 at least--perhaps until June.

What we propose to do, therefore is,

1--To present in an altogether original, more complete and attractive form than was ever before attempted an epoch the most important in the world's history excepting only the birth of Christ.

2--To do this in weekly instalments extending through a year and a half, and from the very method adopted sure to grow in interest until the very last.

3--To do this at a time when public attention is certain to be more generally and continuously directed to the subject than it ever was to any historical epoch before.

4--To put it in a form to interest the attention of teachers, heads of families, and all classes of students in the schools.

5--To make our studies and descriptions true and veritable.

6--To make each instalment capable of attractive illustration

7--To do this before the local attractions of the Exhibition have in any manner diverted the public attention from the event to be celebrated, to the manner of its commemoration.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018