

To supplement Mr. Armstrong's brief chapter on Albania, the student may turn with profit to Edith Pierpont Stickney's scholarly study, *SOUTHERN ALBANIA OR NORTHERN EPIRUS IN EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, 1912-1923* (Stanford University Press, \$2.50). Based upon primary source material which the author has analyzed with care and objectivity, equipped with a comprehensive bibliography and maps that are really elucidatory, her study is an example of the value of research in contemporary history when the standard canons are observed. Her essay begins with a brief historical survey extending to 1912, and devotes succeeding chapters to the crisis of 1913, the history of southern Albania during the War, conflicting claims at the Peace Conference, the accords of 1920 with Italy and Greece, and the Albanian question as considered by the League of Nations. Miss Stickney's book provides an excellent background for Mr. Armstrong's brief chapter on Albania. Indeed, her volume need not wait for post-publication approval to give it the stamp of merit, for it was awarded the George Louis Beer Prize in 1925. The work is comprehensive and accurate, and will be recognized as authoritative by all students of the Balkans. In view of the recently concluded treaty between Albania and Italy, Miss Stickney's work provides the best possible orientation for an understanding of this new sore spot in the Balkans.

CHARLES SEYMOUR

## Wheeler Looks at Comstock

**A**NTHONY COMSTOCK, *ROUNDSMAN OF THE LORD* (A. & C. Boni, \$3.00) is an honest portrait of a man who invited caricature. The very title is a stroke of genius. Comstock *was* the "Roundsmán"; not highly intellectual, nor oversensitive, but fearless in his flat-footed determination to keep his beat clean. Here we see the man, warts and all; but the warts are only indicated and not emphasized, while the man himself, in his sturdiness, his earnestness, his sincerity and his courage, stands out clearly.

Anthony Comstock would never have understood Heywood Broun, but Broun enters more fully into the mind and motives of Comstock than many a Comstockian, including Trumbull who was his

official biographer. He does not praise nor blame with emphasis. He merely reports with unusual clarity a man whom his enemies and his friends have hidden under legends. He helped protect the morals of the people, destroying tons of salacious literature, arresting dealers in filth, and calmly listing the death or the suicide of his quarry as part of his achievements. In spite of his own well-known attitude toward censorship, further set forth in an essay at the close of the volume, Broun does justice to Comstock by making it clear that "his actual interference with books, plays, and paintings of sincere intent was slight"; that "in his own day the bulk of Comstock's work might well be classed as a defense of the folkways of his people"; and that "few among the half million (pictures) pounced upon by Comstock were reproductions of well-known or worthy pictures".

The riddle of Comstock is well pounded by Margaret Leech, coauthor with Broun, who asks: "Who was this man? The ignorant foe of culture? The symbol of American provincialism and intolerance? The cruel and fanatical bigot? Or the defender of little children? The fearless witness for the right? God's soldier? Perhaps he was all these things in that strange and fateful medley which makes up a human soul."

Comstock's methods, like those of Carrie Nation, were of his own age. He took upon himself the individual responsibility of securing evidence, making arrests and prosecuting offenders. That brought him into more bitter controversy with his opponents than he would have known had he used the present day methods of holding to responsibility those public officials whose duty it is to enforce the law.

The italicized quotation on the title-page, "The United States is one great society for the suppression of vice," probably expresses the mind of that "solid and important block of public opinion" to which Comstock and other "weeders in the garden of the Lord" gave, or are giving, expression. I commend this book to the liberal and the fanatic, the individualist and the social reformer. They will all find pleasure in its reading and may gather here arguments for their opposing theories of life.

WAYNE B. WHEELER

## China on the Map

*IN September 1925 THE FORUM published two articles on China. In one, prediction of a forthcoming revolution on Bolshevik principles was made by Dr. Hu Shih, — then little known in America. The second article forecast the dawn of a new and self-controlled China. That subsequent events have borne out these prophecies is seen in the following review by Mr. Upton Close, the well-known authority on the Far East whose newest book, THE REVOLT OF ASIA, is soon to be reviewed in THE FORUM.*

**F**OUR books in one week, not to speak of lines of heads and columns of dispatches at forty cents a word in the newspapers, are evidence enough that America has at last discovered China. Let the Chinese kill a few more Americans and we shall actually get interested in them. A great deal more information will have to be disseminated among us, however, before the American people are equipped to grapple in knowledge with the problem of the Pacific Era upon which the world has entered.

At this moment when the chairman of a "Foreign Policy" dinner announces the topic of discussion as "State Department Responsibility, — if any, — to Public Opinion, — if any," and the editorial editor of the New York "World" retorts, "State Department, — if any," Henry Kittredge Norton's book, *CHINA AND THE POWERS* (John Day, \$4.00), comes as a valuable exposition of American trans-Pacific policy. Norton suggests no new line. The principles and attitudes of Webster and Cass and John Hay and Hughes are good enough for him, and he passes over the Kellogg régime without a shrug. But Norton presents that policy as it

might be were it conscious, informed, reduced to consistency, and infused with courageous idealism. In such a policy would lie, according to the author, the salvation of China and the avoidance of world-wide scrimmage, — that is, provided Young China would react to it in the right spirit.

Henry Kittredge Norton is the best stylist among our prophets of the Pacific era. No one since Edmund Burke has made better logic or more lucid sentences out of politics. His maps are always a delight to the eye and first aid to the understanding. Having been the sole historian of the temporary Soviet Far Eastern Republic, he presents dramatically Russia's approach to China. He fails, however, to evaluate the statesmanship which lies behind her "enlightened imperialism", or how unlikely it is that while her present leaders are in power she will slip back into the old-style aggression which would bring her once more on to the plane of the Powers whom she is displacing in Asia. Under the suggestive title "The Interested Referee", Norton succinctly evaluates American interest in Pacific Asia.

