

The Government Printing Office has begun the issue of the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. The work of preparation has been going on since 1884. The plan of publication contemplates the issue of three series. The first is to embrace the reports, orders, and correspondence, both Union and Confederate, relating to all naval operations on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and inland waters of the United States during the Civil War, together with the operations of vessels acting singly, either as cruisers or privateers, in different parts of the world. The second series is to embrace the reports, orders, and correspondence relating to the administration of naval affairs, such as the construction and outfit of the two navies, matters relating to naval captures and prisoners, etc. The third series is to embrace papers not belonging to the first two. The first series is to consist of seven principal divisions, relating respectively to the operations of the cruisers during the war, to the initial operations in the Gulf of Mexico, to the initial operations on the Atlantic coast, to the operations on the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers during the whole war, to the history of the Atlantic blockading squadrons, to that of the Gulf blockading squadrons, and to the operations on the Western rivers. Two volumes have now been issued, designated respectively as *53d Congress, 3d Session, House Misc. Doc. 58*, and *54th Congress, 1st Session, House Doc. 36*. The former presents in 890 pages the papers relating to the operations of the Union and Confederate cruisers down to the end of the year 1862, the latter (921 pages) continues the same to the end of March, 1864.

A little volume of extraordinary interest to the student of American social history is that of Judge John H. Stiness, entitled *A Century of Lotteries in Rhode Island, 1744-1844*, published as No. 3 in the second series of Mr. S. S. Rider's *Rhode Island Historical Tracts* (Providence, 1896, 123 pp.). Though it is certain that lotteries existed as early as 1733, definite knowledge of them begins with that authorized by the General Assembly in 1744. The narrative closes with the winding-up of the last lottery by reason of prohibitions in the constitution of 1842. The author's careful research reveals between these dates a number of lotteries so enormous as to raise his theme into a subject of the greatest importance in the social history of the state. That Rhode Island was in a peculiar degree infested with these enterprises is not probable (she was the fourth state to prohibit them), yet the author shows that in the first twenty-five years, few and poor as were the inhabitants, the grants amounted to \$1,250,000. In the three years from 1827 to 1830 they were over \$4,000,000. Churches and educational institutions and public improvements of all sorts figure in the pages as the beneficiaries of the grant. Fac-similes of a great variety of lottery tickets, beginning with that of 1744, illustrate the monograph.

Mr. C. W. Raines, formerly librarian of the State Library of Texas, has placed all students of Southwestern history under great obligations by his *Bibliography of Texas* (Austin, Gammel Book Co., pp. 268), in which he

catalogues an enormous number of books and pamphlets relating to Texas, and furnishes a complete collation of the laws of the Republic and State. Beside titles bearing upon Texan history, a great many titles of books written by Texans or printed in Texas are included. Yet since manifestly not all such are included, it is hard to say whether the plan of the book is that of a historical or of a general bibliography. Neither the title nor the preface gives a clear idea of the author's plan. The work has been done with great industry and zeal, and the book will be indispensable to all who work in Texan history. Yet no careful student will fail to wish frequently during his use of it, that it had been made with more accuracy and with more knowledge of the refinements of bibliography. Examination shows many cases in which even the alphabetical order is not perfectly preserved; there is hardly a Spanish title in the book in which there is not a misprint; and the same must be said of many of the French and German titles. Other errors and infelicities are not uncommon. The book is clearly printed.