

method. He has an acute mind and a liberal spirit, when his prejudices are not aroused, but little narrative power. Keen as is his interest in the subject, he has not prepared himself adequately for his task. It is amazing to find that a historian of the deportation has not read Winslow's *Journal* (II. 114), which contains the only detailed contemporary narrative, and is easily accessible in the publications of the Nova Scotia Historical Society. Mr. Richard quotes Casgrain frequently, but, in other places, copies him almost *verbatim* without acknowledgment (cf., e.g., II. 242 with Casgrain's *Pèlerinage*, Paris edition, 1890, pp. 155, 156). He has not yet learned the sound method that Parkman knew so well, of giving precisely the book or document which is used as authority. It is exasperating to have "an historian" quoted (II. 310) without knowing who, and to have an admittedly imaginary letter printed as if real (I. 124). If the author had revised his book, cut out all repetition, all the imaginary mental operations of his characters, and all vituperation, he would have reduced its bulk by one half, and, at the same time, have made it more effective. Even as it stands, it is noteworthy, and ought forever to silence the flippant plea that the sufferings of the Acadians were light and well-deserved.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

*The United States of America, 1765-1865.* By EDWARD CHANNING, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History in Harvard University. (New York: Macmillan and Co. 1896. Pp. ix, 352.)

THIS volume is the fourth in "The Cambridge Historical Series." It covers the political history of the United States from the passage of the Stamp Act to the surrender at Appomattox. The author has sought to tell his story simply and yet to give the most important results of modern research. He has not tried to air any new ideas or theories, or to go out into the byways in search of strange facts, but only to relate in a plain, straightforward fashion the main historical events of a century. The preface modestly puts aside any claim of originality, and frankly acknowledges dependence on the larger and more trustworthy of the secondary histories in writing a considerable portion of the volume. It is plain enough, however, that he has written with great judgment, and used both original and secondary material with the trained discernment of the scholar; while the very effort to keep within beaten paths and not to run far afield in search of needless scraps of learning has made the book sane and sensible and suited to the needs of the readers for whom it is meant. The narrative is unadorned, but the tale is well told, and its parts are well balanced.

To the special student of American history, perhaps also to the average reader, the first chapter is of the utmost value; so valuable is it that the book would have merit were the succeeding pages of little worth. In this chapter, which treats of the industrial and social life of the colonies in the

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middle of the century, Professor Channing is thoroughly at home, and speaks as one with authority ; every sentence is the result of careful thought and study, and every paragraph is crowded with information. That there is nothing startling and little that is new does not detract from the worth of pages where each statement is the conclusion of scholarly investigation. In other chapters the author has shown almost equal skill in filling his pages with facts and in summing up a situation in a few words. For example, the commercial relations between America and Europe in the years preceding the War of 1812 are presented in a single paragraph with clearness and with fulness sufficient to enable the ordinary reader to appreciate the chief difficulties and perplexities of the times.

The limitations of the foreign reader have been kept in mind in the preparation of this volume, inasmuch as it belongs to a series intended largely for European readers. This fact has caused the intrusion of some material and explanations that otherwise might have been omitted. On the other hand, although the social and industrial life of the American people at various times is clearly and succinctly set forth, and although these passages contain a great deal of valuable and well-selected matter, the author has made no serious effort to show how the character of the people has been continually changing, and how these changes have affected the forms, the problems, and the progress of the state. No British reader can understand the Jacksonian era in politics unless he sees and knows the Jacksonian era in the conduct and energies of the men who made up parties and took part in government, unless he sees that the extravagances and excitement and excesses of partisanship were more than equalled by the turbulence and buoyancy of every-day life, unless he sees that for the first time the new West and the frontier had taken the whip-hand in political management and that the masses of the people were ready to act upon the teachings of ultra-democratic philosophy. Professor Channing had done so much in the small space allowed him that it is somewhat unseemly to criticise him for not doing more ; but his book would be of more value to the casual reader if he had connected his social studies with the political phenomena.

Although the book is evidently written with care and painstaking, there are a few evidences of the truth of the assertion which the author makes in his preface, — that “it is practically impossible to be absolutely accurate in a work of this size.” The smallness of the volume adds in a way to the difficulties of attaining accuracy, because a short, unqualified assertion may contain a modicum of error though it be true on the whole, or a statement true in itself may induce quite wrong conclusions. It is scarcely correct to say that the jurisdiction of the supreme court “is confined to cases ‘arising under this constitution’” (p. 127), or to say that Washington issued his proclamation of neutrality in 1794 and to convey the impression that it was issued some time after the landing of Genet and after he had broken “the promises which he had made to the secretary of state” and after he had defied the government (pp. 147, 148). Although Pennsylvania

may be justly contrasted with Virginia in considering the effects of slavery, it is not quite right to declare that there were no slaves in the former state at the beginning of the century (p. 162). One is at liberty at least to doubt the assertion that "the Jeffersonian system of commercial warfare as a matter of fact brought about the repeal of the Orders in Council." Henry Adams says, "Every one knew that the danger, already almost a certainty, of an American war, chiefly caused the sudden and silent surrender, and that the ministry, like the people, shrank from facing the consequences of their own folly."

One who believes that since the adoption of the Constitution the American people have been legally a state, and that Calhoun and Jefferson Davis were technically as well as morally wrong, will regret to find that Professor Channing has added the weight of his name to the latter-day doctrine that Webster proclaimed a new theory of the Constitution and that Hayne defended the old, the one therefore legally correct. Regret will be deepened by finding that the author quotes with apparent approval the meaningless opinion of Mr. Lodge that at first the Union was looked upon as a mere "experiment" from which each state had the "right peaceably to withdraw." That the Union was at first an experiment, the success of which was uncertain, no one will deny; but that fact does not make the new state a confederation; the fact that a law may prove ineffective and be broken does not prove that it was not meant to be law after it has been established and obeyed. The trustworthiness of Mr. Lodge's statement on this matter might be seen by the fact that in the very paragraph from which the words above quoted are taken, he also says that "when the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions appeared they were not opposed on constitutional grounds, but on those of expediency and of hostility to the *revolution* [!] which they were considered to embody." This is not only poor logic but false in fact. The fourth volume of Elliot's Debates contains the answers of the Federalist state legislatures repudiating the doctrines of the Resolutions on constitutional grounds.

In spite of a few trivial errors, and in spite of the fact that the author has, as I believe, gone wrong on the great fundamental principle underlying our constitutional history, the book is a result of sound scholarship and good sense, and is a valuable addition to the works on American history. It deserves to be widely read both in Europe and in America; and the reader may be sure that he can nowhere obtain a clearer, fairer narrative, or one fuller of valuable and well-chosen facts.

A. C. McLAUGHLIN.

*The Life of Thomas Hutchinson, Royal Governor of Massachusetts Bay.* By JAMES K. HOSMER. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1896. Pp. xxviii, 453.)

GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON's title to commemoration in an extended biography rests solely upon his conduct of various public trusts in Massachu-