

And yet the lesson of that record will remain one of profound significance and admonition to future ages, not only to the people of America as they come to occupy the continent with a hundred states and a hundred millions more of people, but to all the world, as that world advances in the greatest of all the sciences—the science of political government—a light for their guidance, as also a warning of danger.

Altogether, the book is as complete, fair and intelligent a statement of the occasion it describes as is possible in the space devoted to it, and cannot fail to interest and instruct all who may take the time necessary for its careful perusal and consideration.

EDMUND G. ROSS.

*History of the Scandinavians and Successful Scandinavians in the United States.* Compiled and edited by O. N. NELSON. (Minneapolis, Minn.: The Author. 1893 and 1897. Two vols., pp. xiii, 643 ; xiv, 498.)

IN recent years considerable attention has been paid by historical investigators to local matters and to racial contributions to history. Among works of this description the one under review will take its place as the most elaborate attempt yet made to deal with the Scandinavian element in the United States. In 1893 Mr. Nelson, after much research and with the assistance of collaborators, put forth the first volume of his work, that volume dealing especially with Scandinavians in Minnesota, but containing also brief accounts of early settlements, church organizations and national characteristics. The second volume, just issued, besides containing some historical summaries or essays, treats of Scandinavians in the states of Iowa and Wisconsin.

The work has a two-fold character—it is partly a collection of more or less distinct historic or statistical sketches, partly a biographical dictionary. The unifying feature is, of course, the race element ; but, as these volumes show, even the race characteristics of the three nationalities vary considerably. While all have laid much stress on church and school work, the Norwegians have shown the most conservative adhesion to the Lutheran faith. The Swedes have given evidence of more versatility in religious as well as in other matters, while the Danes, in proportion to their number, have made less progress in these respects. As regards the numerical strength of the Scandinavians, including in this term all persons of Scandinavian parentage, the author computes that in Minnesota somewhat more than one out of every three persons is a Scandinavian, in Wisconsin one out of every seven, and in Iowa not quite one out of every ten. In the matter of crime the Northmen stand very high, and, before 1880, they did so in respect to insanity. Since that date their proportional number of insane persons has largely increased. On this head the author has, in his second volume, a carefully prepared article, which will no doubt be read with interest. Among other articles in this volume is one on Luther College, an institution of learning founded by Norwegian Lutherans in 1861.

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The Scandinavians have admittedly done much to build up the Northwest, materially and morally. Some of this work has been of such a kind as to admit of no statistical record. It has been the silent influence of individual character working out its career according to its light and its native bent. The results have in many cases, especially in religion and in education, taken distinct color from the Norse character. In other cases, for instance in politics, as Mr. Nelson points out, the Scandinavian contribution—such as it has been—is hardly to be distinguished from that made by the native Americans. And this, it is safe to say, has been due less to numerical weakness than to a process of rapid Americanizing.

Since personal character counts for so much, and since much of what Norse energy has achieved in this country is due to individual rather than to organized effort, it is quite proper that a work like this should contain biographies. The greater part of each volume is therefore given over to short sketches of men who have, or are thought to have, attained some success or eminence in their respective callings. The biographies bear, on the whole, the mark of having been carefully and judiciously prepared. Though many of them will possess but little interest to the average reader, yet they form, taken together, a rough index to the traits and qualities of the nationalities with which they are concerned. In some cases the biographies are more elaborate, and properly so. The principle of selection is not always obvious. Some names, at least as well known as several of those included, are omitted; perhaps the owners did not choose to furnish the data. In a work of this kind, dealing often with an enterprise in one article and with a leading promoter of it in another, some repetition was to be expected. Yet more caution might perhaps have been exercised to avoid it. Facts of an impersonal nature have no necessary place in a short biography. Thus, for instance, it would be hard to show how an account of certain dedication exercises (Vol. II., p. 241) throws any appreciable light on a man's life.

Mr. Nelson's undertaking is a commendable one, and he has shown himself qualified to carry it on. He is understood to have the intention of preparing one or more additional volumes to deal with the subject in other states. In this gleaning process naturally some things will be gathered that future workers will think it well to sift out, but the sifting is sure to yield its reward.

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*A History of Canada.* By CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS. (Boston, New York, London: Lamson, Wolfe and Co. 1897. Pp. xi, 493.)

Mr. ROBERTS's book is a compilation only, but it is on the whole a successful one. There is promise of a flood of histories of Canada. Three have appeared within a year, but we miss, in them all, original inquiry and independent views. The Canadian Confederation is thirty years old and a strong national life has begun to develop. The world