

tutions, especially that of New York. A number of these provisions were used by the Committee of Detail in formulating its draft of a constitution and in the course of the debates Pinckney suggested many things that were accepted by the Convention. But, as already stated, these provisions were mainly in the nature of modifications in phrasing and wording, or suggestions of new details. If these things be true, it is not so greatly to be wondered at that thirty years later Pinckney, remembering that his plan had been used by the Committee of Detail, should have ascribed more credit to himself than he deserved and could write to Adams that "my plan was substantially adopted in the sequel". If Judge Nott had only devoted himself to the determination of those things for which the Constitution is unquestionably indebted to Pinckney instead of claiming too much for him, he would have rendered a genuine service to historical study.

MAX FARRAND.

*The Works of James Buchanan, comprising his Speeches, State Papers and Private Correspondence.* Collected and edited by JOHN BASSETT MOORE. Volumes V. and VI., 1841-1844, 1844-1846. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott and Company. 1909. Pp. viii, 514; xvii, 509.)

THE fifth volume of Professor Moore's edition of Buchanan's writings finds Buchanan still in the United States Senate, where his continued membership of the Committee on Foreign Relations and Committee on Manufactures brought him into close contact with many of the most pressing questions of the time, and led him frequently into debate. If his career was as yet hardly distinguished, it was at least dignified and consistently serious. A strong party man, he lost no opportunity to attack the Whigs: in 1841, for example, he spoke strongly against the proposed Fiscal Bank and the later Fiscal Corporation, and defended Tyler's vetoes of those measures. "The veto power", he declared, "is that feature of our Constitution which is most conservative of the rights of the States and the rights of the people" (V. 139). In the field of finance we find him urging, in March, 1842, the immediate resumption of specie payments in the District of Columbia, and in April opposing a bill to pay to the states the proceeds of public land sales. His strong state-rights attitude led him to fear and oppose centralization, a position which he set forth in May, 1842, in an elaborate constitutional argument against a bill authorizing the transfer of criminal causes from state to federal courts. The proposal to refund to Jackson the amount of the fine imposed upon him by Judge Hall in the Louailier case had, naturally, Buchanan's warm support.

The great issues of the period covered by these volumes, however, were those of the northeastern and northwestern boundaries and the annexation of Texas. Buchanan voted against the Ashburton treaty,

on the ground that it was unjust to Maine and, as a whole, an unsatisfactory settlement. In the matter of Oregon, he supported the proposal in 1844 to terminate the agreement with Great Britain for joint occupancy of the disputed territory.

Buchanan was already a presidential possibility, and after his reelection to the Senate in 1843 was increasingly talked of in that connection. His private letters, still very few in number, show him willing to take, but unwilling to seek, the office. In May, 1844, he found the outlook gloomy: the Democratic party was "in a sad condition" on account of Texas; Van Buren could not be elected if nominated, while the Whigs appeared sure of electing Clay. He had already, the previous December, announced his withdrawal as a candidate in the interest of harmony; but now, in case Van Buren withdrew or could not be nominated, he was willing to stand. The nomination of Polk he looked upon as expedient, prophesied a Democratic victory, and promptly extended congratulations after the result was known; but he plainly was not enthusiastic. He urged upon Polk the recognition of the younger Democrats, and hoped that Calhoun, whom he regarded as the chief obstacle in Polk's path, would retire or else accept the English mission.

Buchanan's reward came in his appointment as Secretary of State. In June, 1844, he had declared in the course of a long speech that the annexation of Texas by treaty would violate neither our political nor our moral obligations to Mexico; and he reiterated his views three days before Polk tendered him the secretaryship. The larger part of volume VI., from page 118 to the end, is devoted to Buchanan's diplomatic correspondence, including such parts of Polk's messages as presumably were written by Buchanan. While the correspondence naturally adds somewhat to our knowledge of details, it does not alter the accepted view of Buchanan's work as secretary, in regard to which the main facts are already well known. It is to be noted that Professor Moore, reprinting the dispatches from the manuscripts, has rather often to point out here, as in earlier volumes, the errancy of Curtis's work.

WILLIAM MACDONALD.

*Old Times on the Upper Mississippi: The Recollections of a Steamboat Pilot from 1854 to 1863.* By GEORGE BYRON MERRICK. (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company. 1909. Pp. 323.)

THIS is a good book but not well-named. It relates the experiences of an Upper Mississippi river-man during a period so recent as the decade from 1854 to 1864, and has therefore value only as description of the era when the steamboat prevailed at its liveliest. The steamboat was well established on the Mississippi before 1820. Of its earlier activity we have here no first-hand account. Much less is there any account of the many years that went before, the eras of the flat-boat and the canoe. But Mr. Merrick, a river-veteran still living we pre-