

The conclusion is irresistible that many publishing houses think it safer to publish thrilling political fiction than thrilling political history so far as New York City is concerned.

The author has rendered a great service. Yet, if anything, he is too optimistic. In his first preface, he said: "Imagination fails at picturing the metropolis that might have been, could the city throughout the century have been guided and controlled in the light of present-day civic ideals." Yet, in the supplementary chapters bringing the story down to 1917, an astonishing continuity of political abuses and corruption is shown. The author certainly made a mistake in departing from the rôle of the historian, in his last chapter, and assuming in a mild way the rôle of a political prophet. The book would have been stronger if he had stopped without commenting on the Mitchel administration, leaving that for a subsequent historian writing after the work of that administration was finished and the people's judgment recorded.

DELOS F. WILCOX.

Political Parties in Michigan, 1837-1860: an Historical Study of Political Issues and Parties in Michigan from the Admission of the State to the Civil War. By FLOYD BENJAMIN STREETER. [Michigan Historical Publications, University Series, IV.] (Lansing: Michigan Historical Commission. 1918. Pp. xxxiii, 401. \$1.00.)

THIS volume was begun a few years ago while the author was a graduate student in the University of Michigan, as a study for a doctoral dissertation. It sets forth the principal issues, leaders, divisions, factions, and party contests in Michigan during the quarter of a century prior to the Civil War. The volume contains a series of political maps and charts showing the geographical distribution of the voting strength of the respective parties as well as the sectional alignment in the state on questions like the tariff and internal improvement. The source and character of migration to Michigan is shown, accounting for the Jacksonian Democracy of the early Michigan voters. The local influences of the churches and of anti-slavery societies lead to the development of an anti-slavery party. It was true of Michigan that her early population came chiefly from these states, but it is quite an unsafe inference to say, as the author does, that the anti-slavery opinions of Western people were dependent on the source of their migration. Douglas came from Vermont and Lincoln from Kentucky, and the anti-slavery opinion and leadership of the Middle West below Michigan were found very largely in people of Southern antecedents. A doubtful summary of reasons is given for Michigan's anti-slavery sentiment that sound a good deal like standard pro-slavery sophistries and seem to have been suggested by the traditional apologies for slavery. Lack of knowledge of "low-grade negroes" and "typical blacks" had little or nothing to do with a people's anti-slavery convictions.

Michigan opinion on the Oregon question, the annexation of Texas, and the Wilmot Proviso is brought out, as also are the class divisions on the tariff, as between the laborers and farmers on the one hand and the commercial classes on the other. Cass reconciled to his leadership in his candidacy for the presidency and the Senate (1848-1849) many Democratic Free Soilers, as shown in the case of Governor Ransom, the Democratic governor of the state, who, while a supporter of Cass, was a pronounced advocate of the Wilmot Proviso.

Anti-alienism and the Know-nothing movement, and the influence of the temperance movement in the fifties, receive a fair share of attention. It is stated that prior to the Civil War about a sixth of the people of Michigan were foreign-born, chiefly from Germany, Ireland, England, and Canada. The respectable Whigs held themselves socially above these immigrants, while the Democrats were more nearly on their social plane, which is held to account for the predilection of the foreign-born for the Democratic party. So the Know-nothing party was largely a party of the conservative Whigs, who had little interest in the slavery question while the transition was taking place from Whiggism to Republicanism. The organization of the Republican party in Michigan is properly emphasized, and it is shown to be a culmination of the movements of radical Democrats and of the coalitions between Whigs and Free Soilers on the issues of national politics in the later forties and early fifties. The influence exerted toward this end by the local press, by local meetings, conventions, and church conferences is very fully and effectively set forth. The chapter on the Churches in Michigan Politics is one of distinct value, illustrating very well the real underlying forces in our politics; how the many rills are produced that feed the great stream of public sentiment, and how the great national movements have their beginnings in local ways—in the churches, school-houses, neighborhoods, and homes of the people.

Mr. Streeter brings out the dissatisfaction and uncertain future of the Republican party in its early days; then its growth, together with the Democratic decline, closing with a very interesting account of the Lincoln campaign in Michigan. The volume is a valuable local study well worth doing and quite helpful to a student of our national political history. A student of our general history may feel that the volume is too closely local, and that opportunity has not been enough used to point out the historical significance of state struggles or to relate the story of Michigan political life to the life of the nation at large. The appendix contains the two constitutions of Michigan, of 1835 and 1850; a table of population in the counties by decades up to 1860; and a complete and very valuable bibliography, citing speeches, sermons, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, and volumes which were the sources of the author's study. Such doctors' dissertations should be encouraged in the states.

J. A. W.

Confederate Literature: a List of Books and Newspapers, Maps, Music, and Miscellaneous Matter printed in the South during the Confederacy, now in the Boston Athenaeum. Prepared by CHARLES N. BAXTER and JAMES M. DEARBORN, with an Introduction by JAMES FORD RHODES. (Boston: the Athenaeum. 1917. Pp. x, 213. \$1.25.)

VARYING fortunes of war, peace, and reconstruction soon destroyed or dispersed many of the Confederate archives, documents, and publications, official and unofficial, usually poorly printed and unbound. The original manuscripts of the Provisional and Permanent Constitutions of the Confederacy, and the official volume of (transcribed) opinions of the Confederate attorneys general, 1861-1865, were found by a Southern war-correspondent, F. G. de Fontaine, in boxes from Richmond just abandoned at Chester, S. C., in April, 1865! In 1883 he sold the Permanent Constitution to Mrs. G. W. J. DeRenne of Savannah. W. W. Corcoran then bought the Provisional Constitution and presented it to the Southern Historical Society, so that it is now in the Confederate Museum at Richmond. In November, 1897, the opinions of the attorneys general were sold to the New York Public Library (*cf. Ga. Hist. Quarterly*, June, 1918, pp. 73, 74, notes). Naturally much came into the possession of the United States government, and thus the Confederate portion of that vast *omnium-gatherum*, the *Official Records*, became possible. Later the *Journals* of the Confederate Congress also were similarly made readily accessible to all.

J. R. Bartlett's 1866 catalogue lists such Confederate material as he had obtained, but Sabin's *Dictionary of Books relating to America* went much farther. The fine collection, including an extraordinary series of Confederate Congressional bills and reports, formed by Levi Z. Leiter, was carefully catalogued by H. A. Morrison (1907). D. S. Freeman's very scholarly *Confederate Museum Calendar* (Richmond, 1908) is of unusual value, as might be expected, and the Virginia State Library has issued lists including Confederate official publications, Southern periodicals, and Virginia imprints.

Now we have this handsome volume listing the Confederate imprints in the Boston Athenaeum. The interesting introduction by Mr. Rhodes explains that the collection was formed "say 1865-66" by an Athenaeum committee of which Francis Parkham and the librarian, W. F. Poole, were the most active members. They went to work promptly, with great energy and with remarkable results, securing just in time many rare newspapers, periodicals, and other ephemeral publications. The contents of this volume are as follows: I. Introduction by Mr. Rhodes, II. Confederate States Publications, III. State Publications, IV. Miscellaneous Books, V. Tracts, VI. Music, VII. Maps, Broad-sides, etc., VIII. Newspapers and Periodicals, followed by an index to the whole volume.