

rial and upon his skill in precipitating the results of his study into a brief sketch. In general the value is considerable. Mr. Bradford has the gift of penetrating to the centre of the nature he is analyzing; he is both sympathetic and critical; and his style, although marred by some "modern" carelessness and smartness, is vigorous and vivid and always readable. Each sketch leaves with the reader a distinct picture of a real and interesting personality. The narrow limits forbid full portraiture, and in focusing for unity and sharpness of outline, the biographer necessarily sacrifices something of the modifying effect of minor details; but, on the whole, breadth of view and truth of perspective are fairly well preserved.

The sketch of Jefferson is the slightest and the least worthy of a place in the group; that of James is the feeblest. Mark Twain is painted *con amore*, with great verve, yet the painter sees clearly the limitations and faults of his subject and is perhaps too severe on the whole. The contrasts between the slippery brilliancy of Blaine and the stolid, blunt honesty of Cleveland are brought out with a delicate yet sure hand. Although these two are the only members of the group who were prominent figures in American political history, the relations of Mark Twain, Adams, and Lanier to American life in general receive due emphasis.

W. C. BRONSON.

Making Woodrow Wilson President. By William F. McCombs, Chairman, Democratic National Convention. Edited by Louis Jay Lang. (New York, Fairview Publishing Company, 1921, pp. 309, \$2.50.) Every avenue and boulevard of approach to this book should be placarded "Detour", so as to warn off students and others seeking to acquire a knowledge of the history of our times. There are as many ways of making Presidents as there are "of writing tribal lays", but not "every single one of them is right". The making of a President is a curious, complicated, and interesting business. A true and comprehensive account by an actual participant is not yet available. Certainly this book does not nearly live up to its title. It was apparently written to ease a grudge against Mr. Wilson. Mr. McCombs did not write all of it. He died before the book was published. His assistant, or editor, Mr. Louis Jay Lang, is a veteran worker in the Hearst vineyard. It is enough to say that the material is badly arranged, full of inaccuracies, and does not inspire confidence. It will prove particularly annoying and distressing to those persons who had any knowledge of the preliminary campaign leading up to Mr. Wilson's nomination at Baltimore in 1912. If the narrative has any value at all, it is in its unconscious revelation of Mr. McCombs, who seems to have kept voluminous notes about his grievances against Wilson, but to no end.

This is the sort of book that is best left in obscurity.

Our Navy at War. By Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, 1913 to 1921. (New York, George H. Doran Company, [1922], pp. vi, 390, \$3.00.) A volume of nearly four hundred pages describing the activities of the United States Navy by an official who was the administrative chief of that navy during the whole period of the World War must, from that very fact, command attention, whatever its character may be. Mr. Daniels's book is just the kind of a work one would expect from a journalist; graphically and chattily written, with a wealth of anecdote, and copiously and interestingly illustrated. Here and there may be found accounts of activities contained in no other published volume, such as chapter XXIII., which describes the working of the secret service under the Office of Naval Intelligence. The book possesses many of the merits and most of the weaknesses of an intentionally popular work; but it has evidently been too quickly thrown together, and is too inaccurate to be accepted in any manner as history.

History of the University of Virginia, 1819-1919. By Philip Alexander Bruce, LL.B., LL.D. Volume V. (New York, Macmillan Company, 1922, pp. vii, 477, \$4.50.) Dr. Bruce has successfully avoided in this closing volume of his extensive work all temptation to huddle his narrative at its close. He covers the period 1904-1919, the last of the nine into which the five volumes are divided, with all the dignity of manner and the authoritative copiousness of material to be found in his preceding installments, and, although he is describing changes which appear to have diminished, if the phrase be admissible, the uniqueness of the institution of which he is the historian, it would be unfair to infer that his pages have suffered in consequence an appreciable decline in interest or in philosophical significance. His treatment of what is probably the main change, the substitution of a permanent president for the less effective chairman of the faculty, is balanced and sympathetic, and his account of the expansion of the university under the new system of government established in response to the needs of the much altered South is comprehensive and optimistic. The attitude of the institution toward the vexed question of extending educational privileges to women is discussed without partizanship, and even in the pages which deal with the achievements of students and alumni during the World War the emotion displayed suggests no essential loss of the impartiality we expect of a historian. In wealth of details illustrative of the growth of the university during the period covered the volume is inferior to none of its predecessors, and to the younger alumni, as well as to persons interested in the South of to-day, it may well seem the most attractive portion of the narrative. An index of more than forty pages closes fitly a very notable work, which is not merely a history of the fortunes of an important university, but also a valuable source of information with regard to the culture of the South during the past hundred years.

W. P. TRENT.