

the Japanese, who have had to learn how to deal with foreign peoples only in the last fifty years, to measure up to the standards set by Britain, who has been conquering and colonizing and ruling for the past three hundred. There were certainly many reprehensible things done in Korea by police and soliders during the independence agitation in 1919. But a wider knowledge of the way in which subject peoples have been handled in the rest of the world, not only in Asia but in Europe and America, would temper some of the unqualified denunciation of Japan.

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*The Republic of Liberia.* By R. C. F. MAUGHAM. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1920. Pp. 299.)

This volume, in keeping with its subtitle, is more of a treatise on Liberia from a layman's point of view than a scientific study. It is a general description of the country with its history, commerce, agriculture, flora, fauna and present methods of administration. When the student of social sciences has read it, therefore, he realizes that there is still room in this field for a large contribution. The increasing interest of the civilized world in African affairs has given rise to the demand for authoritative works on the life and history of many parts of Africa. That the author has not produced a work measuring up to this standard is evident when, according to his own prefatory statement, he depended for the historical facts altogether upon the works of D'Ollone, Jore, Delafosse, Johnston, and Starr; and for facts and illustrations of the fauna, flora, and life of the natives upon several others.

The value of the book, however, is apparent, in that, although it is not scientific, it is written sympathetically—a departure from most works on Liberia. The author's predecessors have found in Liberia little worthy of commendation. Most of their works have been devoted to a comparison of the civilization of the Liberians with that of Europe or America, showing how different the Africans are from the whites and figuring out exactly what the unfortunate blacks must do and how long they will have to toil before they can hope to develop a civilization like that of the Caucasian. Maugham himself develops his story by such comparison, although he does meet here and there the requirement for treating these problems scientifically. He undertook to invade this field without preoccupation of mind. He realized that in the life of these

people there is something worth while and he endeavored to find more of it.

Although he did not find the rung which Liberia had reached a high one, he became convinced that the way before is plain and unmistakable, although the native for some time to come must be guided by foreigners like those recently established in that country by the Wilson administration to appropriate to their use in the form of high salaries a large portion of the loan recently advanced the Liberian government. Mr. Maugham considers it a good omen, moreover, that the new President, the Honorable C. D. B. King, has committed himself to "a definite policy so far as economic and industrial development is concerned, and has cordially encouraged representatives of international capital, who have acquired important interests in Liberia, with considerable plans for development work on a large scale." While no farsighted person will consider the investment of foreign capital an unfavorable omen, it is evident that outlays of such a large order will inevitably result in the subjection of the natives of Liberia to foreign masters intent upon the development of an economic system which labor is today trying to destroy in the so-called more advanced parts of the world. This book in spite of itself, therefore, idealizes capitalistic control as a desirable situation for Liberia.

As the facts set forth in this work are generally well known, the book cannot be considered a contribution; but certain aspects of the life and history of the country have been given all but original treatment. The author has told an old story interestingly, said so many things which the man from without will want to know, that until the more scientifically prepared investigators undertake the task, this work will be regarded as a valuable book on Liberia. After reading it the traveler will feel that he has seen the fauna, the flora and the natives; the pioneer that he has an excellent estimate of the economic possibilities of a once despised but now attractive country.

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*Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 which Framed the Constitution of the United States of America.* Reported by James Madison. International Edition. Edited by GAILLARD HUNT and JAMES BROWN SCOTT. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1920. Pp. xcvii, 731.)