

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.

C. G. WOODSON.

*Howard University.*

*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.)

*The United States of America: A Study in International Organization.* By JAMES BROWN SCOTT. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1920. Pp. xix, 605.)

These two substantial volumes are issued under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. There have been three previous printings of Madison's *Debates*, all of them reasonably accurate. The present edition does not claim to embody any considerable improvement in this direction although it has had such careful collation with the original manuscript as to preclude every possible chance of error. Differences between this original and Madison's later transcript are indicated in the footnotes. The introduction contains many interesting documents including the proceedings of the Annapolis convention and the credentials of all the delegates appointed by the several states to attend the convention of 1787. The index, which covers thirty pages, is invaluable.

The *United States* is an even more noteworthy volume. It is a study of the various steps leading to the union of the states, the colonial background, the establishment of the state constitutions, the federal convention (which the author calls "An International Conference"), and the Constitution as a document. Several chapters deal with the federal judiciary, its organization, powers and development. The greater portion of the book, in fact, is a commentary on the Constitution of the United States insofar as its provisions relate to the several commonwealths as such.

The author's comprehensive scholarship and thorough legal training have enabled him to do all this in a way which will impress the student as being neither too technical on the one hand or too general on the other. Quotations from official documents and from Supreme Court decisions are inserted freely, yet the book is far from being a mere compilation. Take, for example, the chapter which deals with "Judicial Powers and their Relation to Law and Equity." It would be difficult to combine comment with quotation to better advantage than the author has done in this instance. The appendix of more than one hundred pages gives the text of many documents which students of American government will be glad to have within arm's reach. These include all the plans for a union prior to 1787 and all the chief memoranda (Pinckney's plan, Randolph's propositions, the New Jersey plan, etc.) which were laid before the convention at Philadelphia. Dr. Scott has given us a very useful volume, worthy of a place on any man's bookshelf.

W. B. M.

*The United States: An Experiment in Democracy.* By CARL BECKER. (New York: Harper and Brothers. 1920. Pp. 333.)

Professor Becker undertakes in this volume to describe the origin and development of the principles of democracy in the United States giving special emphasis to such principles as are regarded peculiar to American politics and economics. The first few chapters trace the beginnings of democracy in America, the series of chapters following is devoted to the relation of these principles of democracy to certain typical American conditions and problems such as free land, slavery, immigration, education, and equality. A large part of the volume is comprised of a rehearsal of well known historical facts interspersed by occasional suggestive observations. For example, parts of the second and third chapters are given to an account of the aristocratic methods and practices which largely controlled the colonial governments. In this respect a story is repeated which forms a part of most recent works on general American history or American government. An account of similarly well-known historical facts constitutes a large portion of the volume. Somewhat more emphasis is accorded to economic and social factors in the formulation of the typical American principles of democracy than is customary in general treatises.

The author has attempted in his discussion of certain topics to combine history and government. This attempt has resulted in a superficial treatment which cannot be of much use either from the standpoint of history or of government. In the effort to make this combination and to relate the discussion to modern political problems, the author often passes rather abruptly from colonial times and the political ideas then prevalent to the conditions which prevail in the United States at the present time. Warning is given in the concluding chapter against the dangers of absolutism whether of the few or of the many, on the theory that democracy is unsafe when based on the dominance of any class or economic group. As in a number of similar instances the facts of history are brought in review to help form a judgment on a modern political problem.

An occasional use of personal incidents and a free and easy style render the chapters of the volume readable. Since the work appears to have been prepared for the general reader and not for the specialist, a semi-popular form of presentation is followed. The underlying principles