

monwealth — is the same man who appears in von Holst's history as a shallow, second-rate politician, with no loftier motive for any public action than an ambition to be President, and no more honorable method of attaining his end than by shameless truckling to a bloodthirsty slavocracy.

Not the least interesting portions of Judge Cooley's book are those chapters in which he glances at the development of the central government, and the consequent modification of the relations in which it stood to the states. The veteran jurist puts on record his mature judgment as to the results of the system of interpretation applied to the constitution during the stress of war. Before now, in his edition of Story, published during the closing scenes of reconstruction, he has indicated an opinion that the positions assumed by the government practically overthrew the old constitution. In the present work he distinctly affirms this view, and points out that the Union into which Michigan was originally admitted is quite distinct from the Union in which she now abides. The eleventh and eighteenth chapters of *Michigan* will afford instructive reading for that school of constitutional law which maintains that the Union was preserved by virtue of the constitution, and not rather in spite of it. It remains to be said that the simple, lucid style of the writer gives an attractiveness to the narrative that, with the masterly arrangement of the subjects treated, puts the work in the front rank of the series.

WM. A. DUNNING.

*The History of the Antislavery Cause in State and Nation.*

By the Rev. AUSTIN WILLEY. Portland, Brown Thurston, 1886. — 12mo, xii, 503 pp.

This book is one of those contributions to the history of the great contest against slavery in the United States which are the last services that the actors in those events are able to render the public. Like most of these publications, whatever their form or what the plan of their authors, this is essentially a *mémoire pour servir*, an addition to the material for a history not yet ready to be written. The author of this interesting and really valuable contribution to the literature of the subject has not at all times been able to keep in mind that the best work he could do was to state plainly what he had himself seen and known and what he could collect from personal or private sources, but in the main he has done so. Mr. Willey was an active worker in the anti-slavery agitation, editor of an abolitionist organ and in extensive communication with large numbers of similar agitators. What he has been

able to tell us from these sources bears in the main the stamp of trustworthiness, and the historian will use his book. Mr. Willey makes on the whole an interesting story of the antislavery movement in Maine and elsewhere, letting us see among other things the variety of interests even in remote localities bound up with slavery in the South, the apathy of the people, the reluctance to meddling with the matter at the outset of the large majority of the clergy—a class to which at that time a movement largely moral and religious naturally looked for sympathy—and then the gradual awakening of the churches. It was a decisive step when the question was taken out of the domain of morals pure and simple and brought into politics. From 1840, when the first so-called “Liberty” or antislavery presidential ticket polled its 6,977 votes in twelve states, to the final political victory of the cause in 1860, was the period when the real battle was fought. The futility of mere agitation and moral suasion and the impossibility of getting either of the great political parties to do anything more than hold out empty inducements before election—an often repeated experience—brought opposition to slavery as a positive issue into politics.

The remarkable resemblance, in some respects, between these early years of antislavery politics and the present movement against alcohol with its constantly increasing political importance just now so apparent, cannot fail to strike the most casual reader and evidently does not escape the friends of prohibition. The professed student of political science should not be slower than the politicians to recognize the passing of any question from the realm of pure ethics to that of practical politics.

For the student of American politics and constitutional history, the fullest light on the slavery struggle, the most important factor in the development of the nation's history all through the century, is to be welcomed; and he will be glad of the publication of books like this of Mr. Willey's, which give him new material and put on record facts which would otherwise pass away with the present generation.

GEORGE H. BAKER.

*Geschichte der deutschen Historiographie seit dem Auftreten des Humanismus.* Von DR. FRANZ X. VON WEGELE. München, R. Oldenbourg, 1885. — 8vo, x, 1094 pp.

This work, published as the twentieth volume of the *History of the Sciences in Germany*, which is being issued under the auspices of the *Historische Kommission bei der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften* at Munich, and which, like most of the valuable books pub-