

ington." The Johnson-Clarendon convention and the Treaty of Washington were very different instruments, not in form only, but also in substance. They were about as unlike as two treaties of arbitration could be.

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*Harvard Historical Studies.* Vol. I: The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade to the United States of America. By W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, Ph.D., 335 pp. Vol. II: The Contest over the Ratification of the Federal Constitution in the State of Massachusetts. By SAMUEL BANNISTER HARDING, A.M., 194 pp. Vol. III: A Critical Study of Nullification in South Carolina. By DAVID FRANKLIN HOUSTON, A.M., ix, 169 pp.—New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

The series of historical monographs, of which these volumes are the first installment, appears in unusually attractive form. The publishers, so far as their art could go, have left little to be desired. The plan of the series is also very comprehensive. It will include studies in European as well as American history, besides collections of documents, reprints and bibliographies. An enterprise planned and conducted as this promises to be, must be widely useful in making accessible material for history and in furnishing an avenue for the publication of thorough studies on special topics.

The volume of Mr. Du Bois on the *Suppression of the Slave-Trade* fittingly introduces the series, and in a way indicates what the character of the monographic material in it is likely to be. The volume is a thorough and painstaking study of the efforts made by the American colonies, and by the commonwealths and federal government subsequent to the Revolution, to restrict or abolish the traffic in slaves, of the obstacles which these efforts met with and of their failure until the traffic was swept away in the war which had as one of its results the abolition of slavery itself. The material is well arranged and clearly set forth. Statements throughout are carefully fortified by the citation of authorities. By treating the colonies under the classes of planting, farming and trading colonies, the economic cause of the origin of slavery and of the persistence of the slave-trade in the South is sufficiently indicated. At the same time the reason why the restrictive legislation of those colonies and the humanitarian enthusiasm of the early Revolution were not strong enough to stop the trade is clearly shown. The history of the compromise of 1787, by which for twenty years the control of the traffic was left almost

exclusively to the states, is plainly stated. The failure of the federal law of 1807 is attributed to the inadequate penalties provided for its violation, to the provision contained in it that the states might dispose of illegally imported negroes and to the general indifference about its execution. Objections to the exercise of the right of search by England, which in part had a natural historical origin, prevented coöperation with foreign powers in the suppression of the traffic. The author also shows the remarkable extent to which the merchants of the Northern states were interested in the trade. Finally, the great increase in the production of cotton after 1820 so strengthened the demand for slaves in the South that the legal barriers were shown to be altogether too weak to check their importation. For a long period before the Civil War the laws against the traffic were systematically violated. Not the least valuable material in the volume is the conspectus of colonial, state and federal legislation against the slave-trade contained in the appendices.

The second monograph, by Mr. S. B. Harding, contains discursive material on the *Contest over the Ratification of the Federal Constitution in Massachusetts*. The study cannot be called a systematic work, nor does it present any especially skillful organization of material. On the contrary, it seems very possible that the character and plan of the volume were largely dependent on the nature of the working material and its accessibility. Considerable contemporaneous matter in the form of pamphlets and newspaper articles has been utilized. Some use, although apparently not exhaustive, has been made of the Massachusetts Archives; and much dependence has been placed upon numerous local histories for aid which in many instances could very probably have been found in manuscript and in more complete form. Possibly the most important service of the monograph is the reprinting from the *Hampshire Chronicle* of a suggestive letter by "Cornelius," and from the *Massachusetts Centinel* of eight letters by "A Federalist Republican."

Of the six chapters in Mr. Harding's volume, the first indicates the development of the extreme self-confidence of the lower classes of the population when disposing of political affairs, and the appearance of sharp lines of cleavage between the classes of the people, both as to social arrangements and as to economic relations and political divisions. The second chapter presents the material directed against the constitution, both in the press and in personal letters. The third chapter relates the action of the General Court in calling the state convention, and the action, controversial or other, taken thereon by

fewer than a score of towns. The succeeding portions discuss the opposition to the constitution in the convention, the ratification of the document and its reception. The analysis of situations is not in all cases strong, and the relative prominence given to certain towns and individuals, presumably as types, is apt, unless qualified, to be misleading.

The third monograph in this series, by Professor Houston, is a straightforward and unpretentious discussion of the development of theories of nullification in South Carolina. The author's "aim is principally to look at the movement from within, to trace its origin and development inside the boundaries of South Carolina and to discuss the validity of the leading doctrine in the light of the precedents on which the nullifiers mainly relied and of South Carolina's earlier history." The latter purpose resolves itself largely into a process of turning back upon the South Carolinians of the later twenties the words and acts of their fellows during the first two decades of the century. The contrast thus revealed may be explained on grounds of expediency, of local political and economic interest and of real statesmanship; but recognition must be given to a revolution of attitude, in which the year 1816 is fixed upon as

the beginning of the end. . . . One form of statement might be that it marks the time when South Carolina erased from her program liberality, breadth of view and unselfishness, and wrote in their place niggardliness, narrowness and selfishness; when she began to turn from union towards separation. From another point of view, it marks the time when, not South Carolina, but the other sections of the country which had secured control of affairs, changed their policy from a broad to a sectional one. From a third and higher standpoint, it marks the time when the less admirable qualities of both sections became conspicuous in a struggle for what each section believed, or appeared to itself to believe, was for its own interest, and also for that of the country at large [pp. 5, 6].

The author's purpose or method tends also to throw into prominence the problem of adjusting relations between expediency and consistency, and it gives occasion for what to some will seem like the belittling of Calhoun. An instance of that history-writing which has persisted in making Calhoun the embodiment of nullification is made the text for an elaborate criticism of that theory. On this subject Professor Houston's work marks a clear advance over most historians of the period. Careful treatment, naturally, is given to the development of Calhoun's views and to his connection with

the nullification movement; but it is insisted that "his change followed that of the majority of the people of the state; and whatever pressure there was, was exerted by the state on him, not by him on the state" (p. 60). This view of his relation to the state is thus reiterated: "It would be much nearer the truth to say that South Carolina coerced Calhoun, than to say that Calhoun misguided South Carolina" (p. 64).

The author's belief that Calhoun figured in the controversy "as an expounder, and as little else," makes natural and necessary the inclusion, as of importance to the narrative, of the work of such men as George McDuffie, Dr. Thomas Cooper, William Drayton and James Petigru, and of such material as the "Sidney" papers and Turnbull's "Crisis." Without such elements the history of nullification could not be attempted.

A third—and perhaps the most significant—feature in the author's work is the importance attached to the economic situation, and the manner in which that side of the development is portrayed. This is in striking contrast to those portions of the work which treat of the purely political aspects of the subject. There is much in the latter that is now the merest commonplace; for example, the conclusion "that the issue of the controversy was decidedly a victory for the general government, at least so far as principles are concerned" (p. 134). Yet even on this side of the work certain portions, especially in the chapters on "South Carolina's Change of Attitude" and on "Formulas of Nullification," are very suggestive.

With reference to one of the leaders it is remarked: "It would be tedious to follow McDuffie through the elaborate and ingenious argument in which he undertook to sustain his position" (p. 39). So also with reference to the various types of nullification theory, it is said to be impossible "to describe the forms the doctrine was made to assume by its different expounders" (p. 79). Nevertheless the reader should willingly consent to such tediousness, and the author might doubtless have overcome, in large measure, the impossibility of adequate description. Satisfaction and completeness on such points may justly be expected, unless the aim is to subordinate the scholarly to the popular. Such limitation is especially unfortunate with reference to the form and history of the Replevin Act.

Certain references are either vague or incomplete, as on pages 57, 110, 111; while "Benson," for Benton (p. 95), merely emphasizes the general care shown in putting the works of the series through the press. Eighteen pages are devoted to seven appendixes, including a

letter of Calhoun to Robert S. Garnet, first published in 1893. The usefulness of the index is impaired by the omission from it, contrary to the practice in Mr. Harding's volume, of material in the notes.

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*The Indian Village Community.* By B. H. BADEN-POWELL, M.A., C.I.E. London, New York and Bombay, Longmans, Green & Co., 1896. — xvi, 445 pp.

Students of the village community now have to reckon with an important series of books, bearing more or less directly upon their subject, that will doubtless lead to no little revision of theories regarding the status and land tenure of primitive peoples. Dr. Meitzen,<sup>1</sup> Professor Maitland<sup>2</sup> and, in the work here reviewed, Mr. Baden-Powell have recently discussed the evidence for Germany, England and India respectively, and have presented extremely important conclusions thereon.

The Indian evidence has long needed an investigator; and Mr. Baden-Powell is the first to furnish anything like an adequate presentation of the subject, and to give a systematic account of the village in India in all its forms and variations.<sup>3</sup> He has entered on his task with a full appreciation of the nature of the problems before him, with a desire to set before English readers the collected evidence regarding the details of the villages, and with the unconcealed purpose of correcting the theories of older writers — especially those of Sir Henry Maine and his followers — which were based on a wholly inadequate knowledge of the subject. As an Indian official, Mr. Baden-Powell has the advantage of being familiar at first hand with his subject; and as a student of comparative institutions, of being able to bring his evidence into line with the evidence from other countries. It is the more unfortunate, therefore, that his work, admirable as it is in many respects, should be disfigured by distinct defects of construction and presentation.

After an introductory chapter upon the village and its forms in general — in which we are introduced to conclusions before the evidence is presented — Mr. Baden-Powell begins his examination

<sup>1</sup> *Siedelung und Agrarwesen der Westgermanen und Ostgermanen, der Kelten, Römer, Finnen und Slaven* (1895).

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday Book and Beyond: Three Essays in Early English History* (1897).

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Baden-Powell has already presented portions of the evidence in two earlier works: *The Land Systems of British India* (1892); and *A Short Account of the Land Revenue Administration in India* (1894).