

colonial conditions was made during the Revolution, and to what extent those same colonial traditions survived and affected the military system after 1775.

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*Problems of the Present South.* A Discussion of certain of the Educational, Industrial, and Political Issues of the Southern States. By EDGAR GARDNER MURPHY. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1904. — x, 335 pp.

The purpose of the volume under review is, the author states, "to discuss the rise of genuine democracy in the South" — a statement which places him among those persons who hold to the theory that ante-bellum Southern politics were essentially aristocratic or oligarchic, even as concerned the whites. The history of the "hill billy" influence in his own state, Alabama, accords ill with this theory. The discussion of the unifying influence — social and political — of the Civil war and Reconstruction upon the whites is clear and convincing. There is much insistence upon the fact that the "common man" has arrived since the Civil war.

The papers on education in the South are illuminating. The writer holds to the Southern view on all social questions, including the separation of the races in schools. He shows that, in spite of all discouragements, great progress has been made in the education of both races. The education of the negro has been undertaken in good faith by the overburdened Southerners, who are nevertheless lectured occasionally by ignorant Northerners for neglecting the blacks. The often misunderstood "Ogden movement" is proven to be a distinctly Southern movement with an ornamental fringe of Northern financiers. Mr. Murphy makes some sharp and pertinent remarks about Northern criticism of things Southern.

The educational statistics given are like nearly all the statistics of the new educational crusaders — true, but not the whole truth. Why continually harp upon the fact that the school term is only 76 or 78 days, when it is well known that the schools, even the negro schools, are held for a longer period? The 76-day term is that paid for by the state. The most hopeful sign about Southern education is that practically all whites and many blacks willingly contribute by tuition fees to make the school term last six to eight months. The states have not, until recently, given liberally for education; but the people have carried on the schools nevertheless. Mr. Murphy ought to mention the fact.

The negro problem is well handled. The evils of slavery are not emphasized to the neglect of its good. The attitude of the slave holder to the negro in slavery, and later in freedom, is fairly explained. The race problem is to be solved, however, by the joint efforts of the new negro and the new white man, neither of whom understands or cares much for the other. The author dismisses almost without discussion the question of future economic friction between the races. Lynching is denounced — as bad for the white. The tendency of all negroes to shield the black criminal is, we are told, giving way to a disposition to let the law deal with him. Social equality is a dogma not to be discussed, he says; the South has settled that for all time.

In politics, the Reconstruction policies are severely criticised, and recent disfranchisement is defended on the ground of expediency. Mr. Murphy discloses his lack of practical experience in politics by saying, almost hysterically, that for twenty years there has been no danger of negro domination in Southern politics under any circumstances. He thinks that the attitude of the whites makes the negro vote solid. In his own state within recent years there have been instances of negro domination. The Democrats went over in a body to the Populists to prevent it. For twenty-five years the negro voters stood ready, under their few white leaders, to take advantage of any division among the whites. That is why they were disfranchised.

The wonderful industrial growth of the South is proved by reliable statistics. Mr. Murphy has the art of making statistics interesting. Unlike most recent writers, he goes back to ante-bellum days to find the beginnings of Southern manufacturing. The Civil war destroyed many promising Southern industries. The child-labor evil in Southern factories is blamed upon New England capitalists who have mills in the South and who use their influence to defeat restrictive legislation. But is it not somewhat childish to call upon the conscience of New England to frown upon her capitalists and thus relieve the Southern children? Why cannot Southern public opinion be brought to bear upon the Georgia and Alabama lawmakers who were controlled by the New England mill owners?

All in all the book is a good one — packed with useful information concerning the South both past and present. It is written in an admirable spirit, in rather rhetorical language, by a Southern Episcopal minister whose very calling and station place him on the "outside" of the real life of the mass of the people. For Mr. Murphy, like so many of the best men, is not and has never been on the "inside" in regard to the crude social and political conditions in the South. He

speaks for the old ruling, responsible element, the slave holders and their spiritual descendants; for the leaders of to-day, not for the followers. The followers in the South have more than once forced the leaders to "about face."

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*A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States in the Years 1853-1854.* By FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED. (Originally issued in 1856.) With a Biographical Sketch by FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, JR., and with an Introduction by WILLIAM P. TRENT. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904. — Two volumes, xl; 418, 412 pp.

This reprint of a celebrated book is timely and valuable, the biographical sketch of the author and Professor Trent's "Introduction" adding much that is interesting and suggestive. The comments of Professor Trent are especially happy and furnish the qualifications most desirable for the modern reader of the volumes. If only half is true in the tales of luxury and happiness that fill the volumes of recollections of the old régime in the South (as for example, Mrs. Clay's *A Belle of the Fifties*), the disagreeable picture of sordidness and squalor drawn by Olmsted must be to some extent inaccurate, and a corrective may be found in Trent's suggestion that Olmsted never came in touch with the best, or even the better, aspects of social life in the regions through which he passed.

Olmsted's observations of Southern conditions have always served historians as a conclusive justification of the movement for the extinction of slavery at any cost. He was a man of taste and refinement, trained in the best things of the most complex and progressive social conditions that were to be found in the United States. He found in the agricultural and undeveloped South very much that was, according to his standards, hopelessly backward and even barbarous. He ascribed the difference to slavery, and in this he has been followed by most Northerners who have read his work. Yet at the present day, when slavery has been extinct for forty years, an observer trained in relatively the same environment as Olmsted and repeating his tour of the South could and would find occasion for just as severe comment as that in this *Journey through the Seaboard Slave States*. The differences between Northeast and South in social and industrial conditions are as great now as they were in the fifties. There has been absolute but not relative change. Slavery cannot be alleged as the cause to-day; probably it was not the cause then; certainly it was not the most fundamental cause. If the negro had