

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

anything to do with the matter, it was because he was negro, not because he was slave. It is time historians—and practical politicians as well—should begin to take this fact into account. The inveterate habit of attributing solely to the existence of slavery—which has in all conscience enough ills rightfully chargeable to its account—the general social characteristics which were produced in America, as they have been produced in every land known to history, by the presence of an inferior race by the side of a superior race too proud and self-conscious to tolerate amalgamation—this habit should in the twentieth century be at last discarded.

Olmsted's *Seaboard States* and other volumes will always have a great value for their record of facts; but this value will be at its maximum only if a proper allowance be made for the now wholly antiquated character of his interpretations.

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*North Carolina: A Study in English Colonial Government.* By CHARLES LEE RAPER, Ph.D. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1904. — xiii, 260 pp.

Dr. Raper's excellent study of North Carolina government in the period of royal control is perhaps the best and fullest work which has appeared on North Carolina history since the publication of the *North Carolina Colonial Records* in 1886-1890. It follows the general plan of other monographs in the same series, as Smith's *South Carolina*, in analyzing minutely and scientifically the government of one of the royal provinces in America. It treats in successive chapters of the governor, the council, the lower house of the assembly, the "territorial system" (*i.e.* the land system), the fiscal system, the judicial system, the system of defence, and in two closing chapters it discusses the conflict between the lower house of the assembly and the governor and the downfall of the royal government. The book is written in the manner of solid and creditable scholarship. It will prove a valuable source of information to the student of American colonial institutions. It shows the process by which an American community passed through its formative period, and brought its forms of government to that stage of development at which they were able to take on themselves the support of an independent state.

Till the publication of the *North Carolina Colonial Records* this study could not have been made. The little which was then known about North Carolina colonial institutions was drawn chiefly from the documents which Dr. Hawks collected for his history and from the scant