

waged. He is well aware of the danger that lies in overemphasizing the personal element in historical politics, but he finds his justification, and rightly, in the hope that the volume will serve a useful purpose in awakening the interest of young students in a great theme that too often wears a forbidding aspect.

A hitherto but slightly explored field in American history has been well cultivated by Professor Emerson David Fite, of Yale University, in *Social and Industrial Conditions in the North during the Civil War* (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1910; 318 pp.). Professor Fite presents in turn all the various phases of economic life during the period under examination. He has followed McMaster's example in depending very largely upon the daily papers and the official reports; but he departs from McMaster's method in taking up the subject by topics rather than by years. It is a plain, unvarnished tale, full of a great variety of facts, told without charm of style or especial skill in presentation. To the economic student perhaps the most valuable chapters are those on the commercial problems of the early sixties and the description of the monopoly situation in New Jersey.

The difficulty of ascertaining the positive effects of any such political change as the extension of the suffrage to women are well-nigh insurmountable, owing to the impossibility of measuring, either quantitatively or qualitatively, its many subtle results. In Helen Sumner's *Equal Suffrage* (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1909; xxvi, 282 pp.), we have at least, however, a dispassionate and scholarly study of equal suffrage in Colorado by a woman who has shown decided ability in several lines of research. After an examination of the general political conditions of the state, Dr. Sumner divides her theme into six distinct parts: party machinery, election statistics, women in public office, economic aspects of equal suffrage, influence of equal suffrage on legislation and effect of the suffrage on women. The influence of women in caucuses and conventions, Dr. Sumner concludes, has not been great, largely because of prevailing methods of manipulation, which deter both men and women from active interest in party affairs. Miss Sumner bases her election statistics on a study of nine counties which she deems typical and concludes: "It appears that in all of these counties taken together women formed 47.4 per cent of the population, 41.5 per cent of the persons registered and 37.3 per cent of the persons actually voting" (page 104). In the cities a larger percentage of women vote. In public office "the record of women has been high" (page 148). The economic effect of equal suffrage has evidently been slight (page 178), but the period of testing has

been short. Equal suffrage has apparently had its most conspicuous effect in securing good legislation (page 211), although Dr. Sumner recognizes in this matter the difficulty of separating the influence of women from that of men. So far as the effect of the suffrage on women is concerned, Dr. Sumner thinks that it has "brought practically no loss and some decided gain" (page 260).

The reprint of John Davis's *Travels of Four Years and a Half in the United States of America during 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801 and 1802*, with an introduction and notes by A. J. Morrison (New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1909; xi, 429 pp.), is a welcome addition to the list of foreign impressions of the republic in the days of its youth, now being made accessible to others than the bibliophile. Unlike most of his compeers, Davis cared naught for the commonplace anecdotes of the traveler or for the political and statistical observations that crowd the pages of those whose humor, as the author himself remarks, "bears no proportion to their morbid drowsiness." He does not describe his meals, complain of his bed, draw pictures of ruins, "accumulate magnificent epithets" or lose himself in figures. A sort of literary tramp, he wandered afoot through a great part of the fifteen states, recording what he saw and heard and did with a spicy freedom of expression and a cheery abundance of allusion to writers of prose and verse which make his book eminently readable.

The second volume of *Select Essays in Anglo-American Legal History* (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1908; viii, 823 pp.) measures fully up to the standard set by the first volume. Here again valuable articles, previously accessible only in the files of periodicals, are brought together in systematic sequence; and here again some of the lacunæ are filled by chapters extracted from the best modern treatises. Several of the essays have been revised for this compilation by their authors. The present volume deals with sources, courts, procedure and equity. The editors have not limited their labors to selection and arrangement: in this volume, for example, Professor Ernst Freund has translated from the German Brunner's revised article on the "Sources," and Professor J. H. Wigmore has inserted (at pages 160-163) an excellent select bibliography of continental European legal literature. Moreover, useful lists of articles not included are given in the parts of the volume devoted to sources and equity. The completed work, which is to consist of three volumes, will be more adequately characterized in a subsequent issue of this journal.

A distinct addition to the literature of English economic history is the study entitled *Social England in the Fifteenth Century*, by A.