

The treatment of the distinction between a confederation and a federal government, shows an inadequate knowledge of the later discussions of that subject, and in the characterization of the government of the United States and the several States, the distinction between pure and representative democracy is somewhat confused.

The author lays it down as a fundamental principle of constitutional law that the judicial department of the government is the final and authoritative interpreter of the constitution. This is not an exact formulation of the facts of our constitutional system. The judicial department of the government, according to the author's own exposition in other places, is called upon to pass on the meaning of the provisions in the constitution only when some question concerning them arises in a suit at law or equity before the courts. Very many constitutional questions cannot assume that form under our system, and when they cannot be thus brought before the court, the final and authoritative interpreter of the meaning of the instrument must be some one else. It would seem to be a better statement to say that that department of the government is the final and authoritative interpreter of the constitution, which in the course of its duties may give a meaning to the instrument which cannot be revised by any other authority. This is sometimes the executive, sometimes Congress, sometimes individual Houses of Congress, and sometimes the courts.

The author's discussion of the division of powers is no more satisfactory from the point of view of political science than the usual discussion of that subject in our American text-books.

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Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. An inquiry into the material condition of the people based upon original and contemporaneous records. By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE. Two Vols. Pp. xix, 634, 647. Price, \$6.00. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1896.

This work will be welcomed with pleasure by all American scholars who believe that history must be rewritten from the economic standpoint before the true sequence of social phenomena can be understood. Starting out with the ambitious project of writing an economic history of Virginia which should extend down to the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Bruce has narrowed the scope of his narrative so that it now embraces only the first century of the colonial period. He has been careful to confine his attention exclusively to economic history, and has left to other historians, or to a later time, the task of filling

the canvas which he has so ably stretched with the details of political and social development.

The book is divided into twenty-one chapters, and in general the plan has been to follow down through the whole period each one of the various important sides of economic life which are considered. Thus, after the first three chapters, which treat of the circumstances of colonization and of the Indian economy which the whites were to displace, we have five chapters describing the agricultural development of the colony and the means by which title to land was obtained, down to 1700, which make up the body of the first volume. These are followed by six chapters treating of the system of labor, the domestic economy of the planter and the value of estates. Four chapters describe the foreign and domestic manufactures which entered into the consumption of the community, and in conclusion interesting chapters are devoted to "money" and to "the town." In his final chapter, the author has skilfully gathered together the scattered threads of the narrative which has preceded, and shown how the whole history of the colony turned upon the suitability of the soil for the cultivation of tobacco.

It would be impossible in a brief review to do justice to the great mass of information which Mr. Bruce has brought together in these volumes. Every page testifies to the patient research and scholarly accuracy of the author, and entitles the work to rank with the best products of this age of historical investigation.

What will most interest the general reader is the close connection which is shown to have existed between the physical environment which surrounded the first settlers of Virginia and the social and political development of their descendants. As in other portions of the New World, agriculture was the industry upon which depended the prosperity of Virginia. But for Virginia agriculture meant almost from the very beginning the culture of tobacco for the European market, and this is the keynote to her industrial history. Before the discovery of fertilizers, which belongs to the last quarter of the period treated, tobacco growing involved the rapid exhaustion of the soil. In order to maintain a plantation, therefore, it was necessary to have in reserve a vast tract of virgin land which could be brought under cultivation as the old land became exhausted. Thus the early estates assumed immense proportions, and this fact gave its peculiar tone to the whole social life of the colony. After the whites were firmly established in Virginia the only requisites to prosperity were a large tract of land and cheap labor. At first indented servants imported from England, made up the bulk of the laborers. In order to promote their importation what was known as

the "head right" was established as early as 1618, according to which every shareholder in the colony who imported a laborer from England obtained thereby a right to fifty acres of new land. This "head right" became a more and more important factor in determining the distribution of land until toward the end of the century, when the facilities for importing slaves had so improved that the blacks constituted a cheaper variety of labor than indented whites. Owing to it, and to the peculiar conditions under which tobacco was grown, Virginia offered a very high premium to English gentlemen of wealth who wished to escape from the unsettled conditions which were the rule in England during the seventeenth century, and at the same time to improve their fortunes. Such men came to the colony in considerable numbers, bringing large numbers of free and indented servants with them, and thus laid the basis for the landed aristocracy which so soon grew up in Virginia and distinguished it so sharply from the colonies of the North.

In the fact that tobacco could only be grown profitably on large estates, we have further the explanation of the entire absence of towns and town-life in the colony. Each estate bordered upon a navigable stream, and had its own wharf and facilities for receiving imports from England, and of loading the hogsheads of tobacco which were sent to the mother country in return. Like the English manors of the thirteenth century, each Virginian plantation was sufficient unto itself, and quite independent of the outside world. Upon each estate food enough was raised to maintain all of the inhabitants, each estate had its blacksmith, carpenter, etc., who were able to perform such mechanical services as were required. The connection between each plantation and England was, as a rule, closer than that which bound together adjoining plantations. Thus it was that the plantation or county became the centre of political activity. In spite of the most earnest efforts of the company it was impossible to make the town settlement at Jamestown anything but a feeble village.

The peculiar social life which characterized Virginia is often attributed to slavery. Mr. Bruce shows conclusively that tobacco was its real cause, and that substantially the same conditions would have prevailed if slavery had never been introduced and the only laborers had been the indented white servants.

Such was the system which produced the great military leaders and statesmen for which Virginia will be forever famous. It encouraged the growth of a class of independent country-gentlemen, self-confident, patriotic, liberty-loving and cultured, from which leaders might be drawn when the times called for leaders. The same system continued with but slight modifications down to the period of the Civil War.

The emancipation of the slaves has been a death-blow to the large planter, and he is rapidly becoming only a memory. In his place a class of small farmers who till their own land with their own hands is pushing forward. The new system creates mediocre uniformity in the country districts, but fosters the growth of towns and cities where the small farmers can satisfy the numerous wants which are not met by the products of their farms. To the cities the future must look for its leaders. To Mr. Bruce's own mind this change is clearly ominous of coming disaster. He looks too exclusively at the position of the planter and too little at that of the mass of the population under him in contrasting the past with the present, to form a wholly unprejudiced view of the real meaning of this change.

In outward appearance and typography the work under review is admirable. It is furnished with an exhaustive bibliography, abundant notes and references, and a very complete index extending over sixty-six pages. In conclusion the reviewer may be allowed to express the hope that Mr. Bruce will continue the narrative as he at first intended down to the period of the Civil War.

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The Constitutional History and Constitutional Law of the Church of England. Translated from the German of FELIX MAKOWER. Pp. 555. Price, \$3.75. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895.

About one-third of the volume before us is taken up with a sketch of the constitutional development of the Church of England. This serves as an introduction to the study of its present constitution to which the rest of the book is given. The author, a barrister at Berlin, has done his work with German thoroughness. The notes take up as much space as the text, and at the end of the volume is an appendix of over seventy pages, which gives a great deal of original material, together with an invaluable conspectus of literature. The chief, but by no means the sole, value of this work is the assistance it renders in the use of material. The conspectus, which includes documents and chronicles, as well as modern works on ecclesiastical history and law, is not a mere list of authorities, but gives valuable information in regard to works and their authors. For nearly every statement contained in the text a reference, and very frequently a quotation from the author cited, is given in the notes. It is seldom that one finds such an extended literary apparatus.

The author seems moreover to have used his materials with care and judgment. His position as a foreigner has been at the same time an advantage and a disadvantage. His work is objective and free from