

with continental cities, gives us a most inspiring picture of the possibilities of an intense municipal life, as we find it in the English cities. Without undue praise of English institutions, or disparagement of those of our own country, it is evident that Dr. Shaw fully realizes the fact that the government of municipalities is dependent upon the men who take an active part in the work, and that the system which brings the government in closest contact with the people is, in the long run, the safest and most permanent basis of development. The book contains so much of interest to the economist and sociologist, as well as to the student of local institutions, that these brief references to various portions of the book, give but a very faint idea of the value and interest of the material which has thus been placed before the American public in most attractive and readable form,

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*Roger Williams, the Pioneer of Religious Liberty.* By OSCAR S. STRAUS. Pp. 257. Price, \$1.25. New York: Century Company, 1894.

The resolution to be impartial does not always avail in dealing with men who have been much loved or much hated, for the heart finds arguments which often escape the critical eyes of the judgment. It seems that Mr. Straus has not escaped some of the subtle influences produced by his admiration for the noble battle of his hero against the ecclesiastical system of Massachusetts. This appears in the preface where Roger Williams is set in the same rank with Luther and Cromwell; it hardly seems necessary to argue that the relation of Williams to "The Establishment of Religious Liberty" is not fairly indicated by suggesting it be the same as that of Luther to the Reformation, and that of Cromwell to the Puritan Revolution. This defect appears most prominently perhaps in the great controversy between Williams and the Massachusetts authorities. In general it may be said that nowhere does Roger Williams fall under the authors' criticism and nowhere do the authorities come in for praise. Perhaps the latter do not deserve much commendation for anything said or done, but it is hardly conceivable that Williams committed no errors of either heart or mind. Very few writers upon this controversy leave out the political influences operating upon the General Court in trying and sentencing Williams, and while some New England writers may have placed too much emphasis upon them, in order to relieve the Puritans of the charge of religious persecution, yet one can hardly justify the author in ignoring the probable effect of Williams' teaching and acts upon England, as a cause of his treatment. Again, the

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author places much emphasis, as perhaps he ought, upon the fact that the ministers were almost unanimous—only one dissenting voice—in recommending that the offender be banished; but one is forced to ask why the vote of the authorities in giving sentence is not placed in evidence. Now, the vote did not show a large majority in favor of banishment, and the large minority against banishment, in spite of the recommendation of the ministers, is most significant. The omission of this vote, and some other facts, leaves the reader under the impression that Roger Williams had few sympathizers in Massachusetts, and that he alone of all those Puritans longed for liberty. The truth is that he was a bold and outspoken leader of a rising party among the Puritans who were beginning to think and act even in opposition to the authorities, and who represented the progressive spirit of Puritanism. This controversy was only one of a series of events whose true interpretation shows a movement which gave an increasing degree of political, religious, social, and industrial freedom to the people of New England.

Aside from the faults indicated above—mostly faults of omission—the work is a meritorious one and well repays perusal. It has the merit of throwing into the narrative, without breaking its continuity, a large number of pertinent quotations from the writings of the great man whose contribution to religious and political freedom is very satisfactorily traced in the history of the colony founded after the banishment.

W. H. MACE.

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*Cases on Constitutional Law.* By JAMES BRADLEY THAYER, LL. D. Parts III and IV. Pp. 945-2434. Price, \$7.50. Cambridge, Mass.: C. W. Sever, 1894, 1895.

The same general criticism made of the first two parts of this work\* is equally applicable to the concluding portions which have now been issued; or, if anything, the approval then given to Professor Thayer's invaluable collection of cases should be emphasized. In these last two parts the subjects included are Right of Eminent Domain; Taxation; Ex Post Facto and Retroactive Laws; State Laws Impairing the Obligation of Contracts; Regulation of Commerce; Money, Weights, and Measures; War, Insurrection, and Military Law.

It is safe to say that in its final shape of two large volumes of nearly 2500 pages, the teacher and student of American government will find here a collection of cases on constitutional law absolutely indispensable to a fundamental understanding of our institutions. It is fortunate, too, that in many instances dissenting opinions have been

\* See *ANNALS*, vol. V, p. 310; September, 1894.