

What the author calls the Bargain Theory of Wages seems to deal with superficial forces, incidents which at the moment simply determine this or that minor movement in the rate of wages. The radical industrial forces, like the cost of subsistence and the efficiency of labor which furnish the basis of the older theories, are of far greater importance. The reconciliation between these older theories which Professor Davidson attempts is, after all, only on the surface.

In making this attempt, however, he has constructed a suggestive and enlightening review, at once historical and critical, of the development of the theory of wages. The chapters on mobility of labor and trades unions which follow the treatment of the main plan are excellent and bring out with admirable clearness the essential complexity of the wages problem.

The book, moreover, abounds in suggestion and comment, based on experience and observation of the concrete facts of common economic life. In the hands of an alert and thoughtful teacher it will prove an excellent text-book.

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*Select Documents Illustrative of the History of the United States, 1776-1861.* Edited with Notes by WILLIAM MACDONALD, Professor of History and Political Science in Bowdoin College. Pp. xiii, 465. Price, \$2.25. New York and London: The Macmillan Company, 1898.

The great change which has taken place in the methods of teaching history within recent years, not only in the leading universities and colleges, but also in the secondary schools, and which is reflected in the conferences and reports of various educational and historical associations, has awakened a growing demand for modern text-books and convenient collections of the "sources." The recent report of the Committee of Seven of the American Historical Association emphasized the importance of the judicious use of the sources as illustrative material, for the purpose of "vivifying and vitalizing" the period studied. All progressive teachers must already have realized for themselves the peculiar force of this recommendation as applied to the study of American history, hence they will welcome Professor MacDonald's collection of documents, the latest addition to the rapidly increasing library of sources.

This work does not supplant, but for the most part supplements, the collections already published. A comparison with the two chief hand-books of sources in American history will make this

apparent: Preston's "Documents" draws nearly two-thirds of its selections from the period prior to 1776, a period not included in Professor MacDonald's collection, while the series edited by Professor Hart, entitled "History as Told by Contemporaries," the second volume of which has just appeared, covers the general life of the people, and is not, like this work, restricted to particular phases of our history. In a volume of some four hundred and fifty pages Professor MacDonald has brought together the texts of ninety-seven documents, selected from the period 1776 to 1861, of which, all save the first four, fall within the period subsequent to the adoption of the constitution. This collection is primarily designed for class use. Each document is prefaced by a concise but clear and helpful introduction, tracing its history and supplemented by a select bibliography. The editor states that he has been at especial pains to insure the accuracy of the text, and as far as we have been able to verify the selections, the printed page establishes his claim. The material presented in the volume is limited to documents illustrative of the political and constitutional history of the country, to the exclusion even of platforms of political parties, decisions of the Supreme Court, save the Dred-Scott case, and speeches either in or out of congress, except the Webster-Hayne debate. An analysis of the contents of the volume shows that fully one-third of the selections consist of statutes (23) and treaties (10) of the federal government, nearly another third include either messages of the presidents or reports of some one of the executive departments (28), while the remainder are divided between congressional (18) and state (10) documents, with a few extracts miscellaneous in character.

The selections seem to have been carefully and judiciously made. The volume includes the greater number of the most important documents, representative of the various phases of our political and constitutional history, during the period covered. All must agree that the editor's hope "that no document has been included which a serious student of the period can afford to neglect" has been realized. His faults, if any, are of omission rather than of commission. Professor MacDonald has in large measure forestalled adverse criticism in this particular by pleading "the necessity of keeping the volume within reasonable bounds." It may seem an ungracious act to criticise unfavorably one who has placed all students of American history under obligation by providing them with a handy volume containing so much of value within such reasonable limits, however we cannot but regret that the selection of state documents was not enriched by including other resolutions and acts of the various states, illustrating other phases of the contest between

the National and State Rights parties, the broad and strict constructionists and the pro- and anti-slavery men. Our regret is especially keen as several of these, which throw a flood of light upon the political situation of the times, are either not well known or not as accessible as is to be desired. Such, for example, are: the resolutions of the legislature of Massachusetts suggested by the annexation of Louisiana in 1803; the action of Pennsylvania calling for an impartial tribunal to try disputes between the federal and state governments, growing out of the Gideon Olmstead case; the resolutions of Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states (1811-12, 1819-21) against the constitutionality of the United States Bank; the resolutions of several of the Southern States (1826-30) declaring federal aid to internal improvements within a state unconstitutional; the resolutions of Ohio and at least seven other states (1823-25) favorable to the colonization and gradual emancipation of the slaves and the replies of Georgia and other Gulf states inimical to federal aid to colonization societies; the defiant resolutions of Georgia in connection with the Creek and Cherokee question; the call for a constitutional convention by South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama (1832-33); the strong State Rights resolutions of Massachusetts and Maine over the North-East boundary question (1830-32) and of Massachusetts relative to slavery and the annexation of Texas (1843-45), together with the counter-resolutions of the Slave States; the resolutions of positive nullification and defiance passed by the legislature of Wisconsin in 1859 in reply to the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of *Ableman vs. Booth*; and, finally, South Carolina's Declaration of Independence in justification of the Ordinance of Secession. If necessary to secure the required space for these and similar papers, we think the editor would have been justified in omitting the four documents of the preconstitutional period, inasmuch as they are already universally accessible.

In general it may be said that the volume has been carefully planned and successfully executed. The collection, while made up of documents neither "new" nor "rare," will without doubt prove a veritable boon to those who cannot have access to a large library, and a great convenience to all students of American history.

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*The History of South Carolina Under the Proprietary Government, 1670-1719.* By EDWARD MCCRADY. Pp. xi, 762. Price, \$3.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897.

This is the beginning of what bids fair to be one of the best of

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