

his neighbors and in the surrounding region for sterling integrity and worth. His mother was a woman of energy and determination, and gave herself to the duties of home with careful industry and devotion. The happy parents lived together more than half a century, the mother dying in 1850, and the father the next year. His father's farm was situated in the northern part of Deering, about two and a half miles from the village of Hillsborough Bridge, upon the broad expanse of a hilltop that affords an extensive outlook over the valley of the Contoocook, and far away to distant hills that ennoble the landscape on every side. In 1806, the house which his grandfather built in the early settlement of the town gave place to a large two-story double house, erected by his father. Here was his birthplace. A short distance down the road was a district schoolhouse, where the child mingled with his mates in study and play. The town of Deering had ten school-districts, each with a schoolhouse, and possessed a social library.

Capt. John G. Walker, who rose to the rank of rear-admiral, was placed upon the retired list of the United States Navy March 20, 1897. He is now (January, 1905) serving at the head of the Panama Canal Commission. He entered the Naval Academy as a cadet from Burlington, Iowa, in 1850, graduating four years later.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Evolution of the Constitution of the United States of America and History of the Monroe Doctrine. By John A. Kasson, LL. D., pp. XVIII, 273. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1904.

Party Organization and Machinery. By Jesse Macy, pp. XVII, 299. New York, The Century Co., 1904.

The evolution of the fundamental law governing our national government, determining its work and powers and its relations to its constituent states, is a story of perennial interest and instruction. In 1887 the centennial anniversary of the adoption of the constitution was appropriately celebrated at Philadelphia. The committee in charge of the arrangements asked a distinguished Iowan, Mr. John A. Kasson, to prepare an account of the growth and preparation of the constitution. His exposition was not an ordinary, perfunctory performance, consisting of rapid prosaic platitudes and oratorical fustian that often goes under the name of patriotism. On the contrary Mr. Kasson presented a dissertation that exhibited not only a wealth of historical knowledge of colonial and revolutionary times, but a rare discernment of the vital causes, the determining conditions and the converging forces that evolved in the adoption of the great charter of the American commonwealth. The fruits of his labors

were printed in the large handsome volumes in which the report of the centennial commission was published. These, however, were more or less inaccessible to the general reader and the edition has long since been exhausted. The worth of his work was so great that Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have brought out a new and popular edition, revised but slightly. Mr. Kasson's readers and friends cannot but regret that this decision was not reached years ago, as we are afforded a narrative that gives us in short compass a thoroughly interesting and instructive account of the evolution of the constitution.

Mr. Kasson tells the story somewhat after the fashion pursued in some of our most successful and enjoyable biographies. The chief events, their significance and bearing upon the course of things, are told in large measure by the chief actors themselves who have played the roles. Apt, pithy quotations from speeches, letters, diaries, journals, and contemporaneous public prints are skillfully woven together in a lucid, limpid narrative that gives his readers a fascinating account of the great drama enacted by our forefathers in those critical days between 1776 and 1787. The reader easily advances unhampered by numerous citations of authorities; no ponderous and learned footnotes distract his mind. The occasion for the original presentation of the subject naturally induced a certain exaltation of spirit on the part of the author and it gives a fervor and tone to the story that lifts one up into the higher ether. But it is the lofty sentiment and the appeal of the scholar and the statesman who knows his country's true greatness, not the cheap and tawdry mouthings of the charlatan.

But we misrepresent the volume before us if the impression is given that its contents deal chiefly with the intangible things of spirit and patriotic sentiment. The study is exceedingly concrete. Mr. Kasson exhibits the various stages in the evolution of the constitution with no little detail. He takes up and discusses seriatim the several articles and the circumstances affecting the adoption and significance of their important provisions. The volume is at once a handy manual and a commentary upon the constitution. It will stand well beside the histories of Bancroft, Fiske, McMaster and Wilson.

But the literary theory respecting the scheme or structure of government and its general powers and jurisdiction is one thing and its actual conduct or administration may be and usually is an entirely different matter—and amidst the infinite crisscross of physical and social forces a constantly changing matter. In the main, the evolution of our national government has gone along lines planned by the founders, but in various directions the developments have put to naught the purposes of the fathers. One of the developments unforeseen by the constitutional convention in 1787 was the rise of political parties and their dominance in the operations of our national and state governments.

Ours has come to be a government by public opinion. The organ by which this dynamic force in society and government is chiefly organized,

made audible and effective is the political party with its candidates and platforms, with its party machinery and campaigns. The tremendous influence for good and for ill in our communal, state and national life of this organ or instrument of democracy would have been inconceivable to the wise men of a century and a quarter ago; and familiar though we are with its multifarious forms, powers and workings, most persons who reflect much upon the problems of government are doubtless perplexed beyond expression at the manifestations and significance of political parties in these days. Much attention has been given this subject since Mr. Bryce first published his studies of our party machinery in 1888. Many partial sketches and a few extended studies have been published, notably those by Professors Goodnow and Woodburn and by Messrs. Ford and Ostrogorski. Henceforth must be included this volume on "Party Organization and Machinery" by our well known publicist, Professor Jesse Macy of Iowa College at Grinnell. It is one too that students must reckon with for two reasons, first, because of the acute discussions of political parties and the significance of their peculiar developments, and second, because of the valuable data it contains that the author has gathered from extensive investigations in party activity and procedure in various states. After setting forth the part played by the national political party as the great "Unifying Agency" in our Federal State he analyzes presidential and congressional leadership and the work of the national and congressional committees. Then follows an exposition of party organization in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Indiana, Missouri and in the South. The concluding chapters deal with the effect of parties upon city politics, with Party Finance and the various social and civic influences exerted by parties. The recent landslide disturbs some of Professor Macy's assignments, namely, the case of Missouri as a type of the fixedly democratic state. Nevertheless his general observations respecting its political characteristics are in no wise invalidated. Professor Macy will probably encounter some dissent from his opinion respecting the dominant position and influence of national parties in state and local affairs. It is an interesting debatable question.

F. I. H.

Words of Life for 1905. Selected and arranged by Dr. William Salter. Burlington, Iowa: E. C. Gnahn, 316 Jefferson Street, Mauro & Wilson, 401 Jefferson Street.

This attractive volume includes more than two hundred selections from writers in the ancient and modern world, from Pythagoras and Plato to Channing, Emerson, Longfellow, Lowell, Tennyson, George Eliot, Daniel Webster, Dean Stanley, Beecher, Phillips Brooks, Sabatier, Harnack, and many others. He wisely quotes from James W. Grimes in opposition to slavery extension and to the impeachment of President Andrew Jackson. While many literary and historical efforts have engaged the attention of Dr. Salter, we regard this as one of his most tasteful and commendable efforts. It will delight his troops of friends everywhere. Sold by the booksellers for \$1 per copy.

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