NOTES AND QUERIES.

Book Notices.


Although this book by Dr. Adams comes from the Trinity College Press, it is essentially a Pennsylvania product, its author being a native of Philadelphia, son of John Stokes Adams, Esq., a student of the University and so greatly appreciative of that Pennsylvania political philosopher of the Revolution, James Wilson, that he is given one of the nine chapters and his portrait furnishes the frontispiece.

Dr. Adams treats the Revolution as the decade previous to the Declaration, or separation, in this volume; and he proposes another on the decade after the separation but previous to the Constitution, denominating the former as the Revolution and the latter as the period of the Confederation. Whether this is an arbitrary division or not, it is very usefully suggestive, as we are wont to think of the actual war period as the Revolution, when, in fact, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and union was our first constitution and the Revolution an accomplished fact. The war was fought under this constitution for five years; then the second, a confederational constitution, which had been fought off all that time, was, from financial necessities, yielded to and accepted at the urgency of France, but a war upon it was at once instituted, which never ceased during the next five years until the ideas expressed in our present, or third constitution prevailed. So that Dr. Adams' division is well-founded, and readers of the present volume will await with interest the appearance of his next one.

The work is something fresh, not conventional, rises to the plane of a history of political thought so far as it may interpret the political science formulated in the United States, and show its profound bases. One at once thinks of such writers as Maine, Pollock, Maitland and Austin, not only because of subject matter but because of a style and treatment not unworthy to be compared with those high authorities. It is one more proof that our young thinkers are probing to the philosophical foundations of our American institutions, and no man travels far upon that highway before he reaches the abode of James Wilson, who, more than any other one man, is the formulator of our political science and father of the constitution which is the greatest expression of it. Since this is a treatment of the Ante-Declaration period, it is of Britannic imperial problems, due to the unusual extension of colonial empire. The idea of commonwealth of nations emerges out of those of colonial dependency and imperial federation and John Adams is shown as a Britannic statesman. Also there arises the consciousness of the new element in the British "constitution," added by every new charter, primary or secondary, which latter was the essential part of the British "constitution" to them—the parting of the ways between America and Britain. Here was the foundation of American sense of law; and into this chaotic thinking came the most
profound political thinker of his time, James Wilson. He first clarified thought with a real definition of law that prevails today; and with it clarified still further by a formulation of the location of sovereignty in the individual, singly and collectively, that amounted to discovery of the foundation of political science. Here was the root that was later to rise into that beautiful and as true as beautiful, trunk and branches—the distribution of leased, revocable, specific, limited sovereignty to state, nation and the world.

Dr. Adams shows some of these steps, so far as they relate to his period, and will no doubt develop them fully in his next volume.

One can not speak too highly of his fine tone, style and easy mastery. It is the most hopeful study the present writer has seen in this realm of political science—for Americans or those who wish to understand American institutions.

BURTON ALVA KONKLE.


In this book Mr. Faris pictures that division of North America which reaches from Maine to Maryland. The chapters relating to Pennsylvania include Philadelphia, the Birthplace of the Nation; Among the Pennsylvania Mountains; In Eastern Pennsylvania; and Where Pennsylvania's Waters Flow. The illustrations, which include everything from the Parkway to the Giant Ant Hills of Bedford, and the Beaver Dam in Cameron County, are most excellent. The Covered Bridge over the Kiskiminetas is accompanied by a description of the Elephant's Feet Rocks of Mill Rift, and he even takes in the Tusquan Dam and the Peach Bottom district of the lower Susquehanna. A trip over the ground covered by Mr. Faris would cover the country indicated by a well-known engineer when he said that all civilization was north of the Mason and Dixon Line and east of the Susquehanna. (M.)


Mr. Konkle has again come to the aid of the historians of State affairs with a masterly analysis of the life and times of George Bryan. This work has been so completely reviewed as to make it unnecessary to treat of it in extenso. To those of us, however, who have seen the patient toil which Mr. Konkle has employed in bringing together the array of facts with regard to this extraordinary character, it would seem almost ungrateful if his work were not to be noticed in the PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE. He has brought so many new facts into the State's history and shown their relationship to the greater things in the Nation's development as to deserve the hearty thanks of those interested in the beginning of the State and its importance in the progress of civilization. Few of our number realize what a figure Bryan was in the early years of our being. He served as President, Vice-President and Judge of the two highest courts, and as Mr. Konkle has so emphatically proved, he was the first to secure the emancipation of slaves by law. Governor Sproul has aptly said of this work: "Lloyd, the Welsh Quaker; Bryan, the Irish Presbyterian; and Wilson, the Scotch Episcopalian are characters who would be great in any land and at any time in history." (M.)