

'Decatur' (afterwards Rear-Admiral of the U. S. N.), during the Indian troubles of 1855-56."

At the end of the author's text has been included without comment a list of "Chronological Notes" relating principally to the early settlement of Seattle and King County, and signed by six pioneers, fac similes of whose signatures are given. What is the meaning of these chronological notes and why are they included? The document is dated January 1, 1880, and is clearly no part of the book which it antedates by eight years. Authoritative and valuable it certainly is, and although it has been elsewhere printed (Seattle "Argus," December 21, 1901, volume 8, page 6,) it is worthy of insertion as a commentary upon the care and method exercised by Mr. Denny in safeguarding the main facts relative to the early settlement of Seattle. Facts in regard to this document, telling how and why it was prepared and placed on file, would have made an extremely interesting editorial note. Barring such facts, it loses the best part of its meaning as an addendum to this work.

Mr. C. D. Boren, the only survivor of the signers, is not now in Seattle, but from others familiar with the case it is learned that Mr. Denny's purpose, as carried out in this document, was to collect the absolutely fundamental facts pertaining to the city's earliest history and to have them accurately and precisely set down and signed by those still living who participated in the events recorded. This was in fact done, and the statement was filed away in a secure vault for no other purpose than to safeguard the history of the region covered, at least to the extent of this brief chronology. One incentive, probably, for putting the record upon paper at that time was the work of Hubert Howe Bancroft, who had visited Seattle in June, 1878, (See Bancroft, H. H., *Literary Industries*, 1890, page 541,) while collecting material for his history of the Pacific States.

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**Jefferson Davis.** By Wm. E. Dodd, Ph. D. [*American Crisis Biographies.*] (Philadelphia: Geo. W. Jacobs, 1907, pp. 383.)

This life of Jefferson Davis is another evidence of the historian's growing interest in the events of our tragic Civil War after the passions of the period have largely passed away and time has made possible a more correct perspective. The clue

to Davis' early political activity is indicated by a brief sketch of Calhoun's scheme for Southern expansion, which began to take shape in the great Carolinian's mind as a result of the westward movement of the cotton planters and their slaves into the newer States of the gulf region.

When Davis first entered the House of Representatives he had not fully accepted the Calhoun Southern programme, especially in connection with internal improvements, but he did accept this programme respecting Texas and slavery expansion. A few months later he resigned his seat in Congress to take command of the Mississippi Rifles, and acted a distinguished part in the Mexican War as General Taylor's chief assistant. Davis was appointed to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate almost at once after his successful year in the Mexican War, and again took up the policy of expansion with great vigor. All of Mexico, Yucatan, the West Indies and the route for an inter-oceanic canal were to be annexed. During the next session he advanced to the front of the Calhoun policy, advocated a Southern Pacific railroad and a railroad across Panama. Later as Secretary of War he returned to the advocacy of a Southern Pacific railroad and internal improvements, and found for them a constitutional justification in the war powers of the constitution.

The Northern sentiment against the further extension of slavery into the Territories, which was embodied in the Wilmot Proviso, the complications in the Oregon situation, and, finally, the organization of California as a free State, spoiled the pretty picture which the Southern leaders had painted and called Clay from his retirement to urge the compromise of 1850. The alliance between the leaders of the Northwestern States and those of the new South broke down and the compromise was carried in spite of Calhoun and Davis. Davis resigned from the Senate and entered the race for the governorship of Mississippi against Henry S. Foote, the Unionist candidate, who favored acquiescence in the compromise. Davis was beaten, but soon became Secretary of War in Pierce's cabinet, and once more took up the work in behalf of Southern expansion where it had been left by Calhoun. Four years later he re-entered the Senate and "took the ground which he had always taken when his ideas of national expansion failed of realization—that of strict States' rights." (191.) When the trend of his policy brought him face to face with secession he began to hesitate and "doubted whether South Carolina ought to withdraw from the Union without as-

surance from the tier of States reaching from Charleston to New Orleans; he feared Mississippi could not wisely follow her, and he counseled delay if even one Southern State (Georgia) would not join the movement." (191.) The facts in the plot to wreck the Democratic convention of 1860 are presented in an interesting fashion.

Davis expected in 1861 to receive high military appointment in the Confederacy, but against his wish he was destined to lead the "Lost Cause" as President of the Confederacy. Prof. Dodd's treatment of the war occupies more than one-third of the book. Whoever believes that the South stood as a unit during the war will be well repaid for reading these chapters. The Confederacy clashed repeatedly with the States and Davis was hindered on every hand by the States' rights doctrinaires. The war had lasted scarcely two years when it appeared there were many in the South who would have welcomed peace. As the war went on the numbers of these increased. Prof. Dodd, it seems, is needlessly severe on some of these leaders. Davis should have understood the extreme tenderness of his States' rights followers, and might have expected opposition to military despotism. Alex H. Stephens at least had the virtue of knowing when the South was whipped, but Davis did not realize it even when Lee offered to resign command.

Prof. Dodd's purpose "simply to relate the story of that remarkable tragic life and, in so far as the limitations of time and space permit, correlate his [Davis'] career to the main current of American history" has been well done. Neither letters nor speeches are quoted at length, but are carefully summarized and connected with the thread of the story. On the whole, the book is satisfactorily done and is well worth careful reading.

EDWARD McMAHON.

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#### NOTES.

A popular life of "Abraham Lincoln" intended to meet the needs of the English reading public has been issued in the Temple Biographies Series, published by J. M. Dent & Co., in London, and E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. The author, Henry Bryan Binns, laying no claim to special research in this field, has based his volume on the well-known works published in this country.