

*The Growth and Decadence of Constitutional Government* By J. ALLEN SMITH, L.L.B., Ph.D. Late Professor of Political Science, University of Washington. (New York, Henry Holt and Co. 1930. Pp. XVII, 300.)

To those familiar with Dr. Smith's, *The Spirit of American Government*, published in 1907, all that need be said is that the present volume is a continuation of the thought and scholarly temper that characterized that influential volume. That volume provided a convincing explanation of the reasons for the failure of democracy in American political practice." Its publication was followed by the works of other writers who found their clue in Dr. Smith's views. The undemocratic nature and intent of the fundamental law of the land was by him first set forth and is now accepted as a common place. Where Dr. Smith demonstrated the essentially undemocratic nature of the Federal Constitution. Those who defended the existing order set up the defense that the Constitution was wisely undemocratic. Dr. Smith did not agree and in the present volume he has pushed further his exposition of the ways and means whereby the will of the majority is thwarted by legal and constitutional means. Dr. Smith died before the publication of this volume, and the manuscript was prepared for publication by his daughter, Elfreda Allen Smith. Dr. Parrington wrote the introduction and paid a worthy tribute to his friend, "a courageous and self sacrificing scholar." Since then Parrington has joined Smith in the great beyond, and the loss of two courageous and self sacrificing scholars has been considered a deep personal loss to their colleagues.

EDWARD McMAHON.

*John Charles Frémont.* By CARDINAL GOODWIN. (Stanford University, California: 1930. Pp. 285. \$4.00.)

*A Man Unafraid. The Story of John Charles Frémont.* By HERBERT BASHFORD and HARR WAGNER. (San Francisco: Harr Wagner Publishing Company, 1927. Pp. 406. \$5.00.)

It is quite appropriate that California writers and publishers should thus unite to stimulate a revival of interest in the career of John Charles Frémont. Not since G. P. Putnam's Sons issued Frederick S. Dellenbaugh's *Frémont and '49*, in 1914, has there been such a manifestation of interest in the "Pathfinder." This present revival includes Allan Nevins's *Frémont the West's Greatest Adventurer*, which appeared in 1927.