

*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.

Cardinal Goodwin is Professor of History at Mills College. He recently served as President of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. It, of course, follows that he is held in high esteem by his co-workers in the field of Western History. In this book, he has not written a flimsy story of a kaleidoscopic character but, rather, the interpretation of a picturesque man in the most swiftly changing period of American history. He is critical but not unfair.

The newest and freshest portions of his text is the treatment of the Bear Flag Revolt in California, the Fraudulent Contracts in the Civil War, and Railroad Scandals. These matters, often glossed over or ignored, are analyzed and interpreted. Explanation is found in the character and habits of the man and his constantly upheaved environment. Readers will probably find a compression of the thesis in the brief paragraph ending the chapter called "Conclusion" as follows:

"As the chameleon's skin takes on the color of the particular object which it touches, so Frémont's habits and actions were peculiarly determined by the influences under which he lived."

Professor Goodwin further reveals the scholarship brought to bear on his book by his frank preface, the illuminating appendix and the adequate index.

The older book, (1927), was inspired and greatly aided by Harr Wagner who declares that the actual writing was done by Herbert Bashford, of Piedmont, California, who is well remembered in the State of Washington. He was Librarian of the Public Library in Tacoma and later of the State Library at Olympia during 1897 to 1901. His other books include such titles as *Northwest Nature Stories*, *Songs From Puget Sea*, and *The Tenting of the Tillicums*.

In this new book, he is not so much interested in "War Frauds" or "Railroad Scandals" as he is in "Heroic Adventures." As Mr. Wagner in the "Publisher's Foreword" expresses it, "The American Youth also needs the spirit of adventure which is illustrated in the life of Frémont." This same evaluation was voiced by the sympathetic reviewer in *The London Literary Times* of September 27, 1928, who wrote: "It was not as a statesman nor as a man of business nor yet as a regular soldier that he was qualified to do good work. His place was in the long series of bold explorers who opened the Great West."

The book is substantially and attractively made. The twenty-two illustrations include portraits and old scenes from photographs,

three of them in colors. There is a helpful condensed biography or chronology and a good index.

The last illustration in the book is that of the impressive monument in Rockland Cemetary, Piedmont, erected by the State of New York.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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*Manuscripts in Libraries of the Pacific Northwest.* By CHARLES W. SMITH. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1931. Pp. 57. \$1.00.)

Mr. Charles W. Smith, Librarian of the University of Washington Library, is Chairman of the Pacific Northwest Library Association's Committee on Bibliography. As such, he has compiled this work from reports by sixteen of the principal libraries of the Pacific Northwest, in a manner similar to that in his well known and useful *Checklist of Northwest Americana*.

The Foreword says: "The work has been limited to holdings of libraries within the region and contains the following classes of material: a. Manuscripts proper; b. Photostats of unprinted manuscripts; c. Transcripts of manuscripts, in either typewritten or hand-written form." There is a total of 432 items thus listed with brief notes. This book may be purchased from Ora L. Maxwell, Treasurer of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, Public Library, Spokane, Washington.

Students, writers, and librarians will find this work of immense value in locating these collections of documents, many of them unique and priceless. It was said of the *Checklist* that no equal portion of the United States was as well served toward library co-operation. Here is another service of great importance covering the same area.

This review is written by the editor as Mr. Smith, his colleague in the work of this *Quarterly*, would never consent to write as much about his own work.

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*Feelin' Fine!* By ANNE SHANNON MONROE. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran and Company, 1930. Pp. 304. \$2.50.)

The title-page says that *Feelin' Fine* is "put together by Anne Shannon Monroe, author of *Singing in the Rain*, etc." That is a fact. She is the author of a number of popular western stories. The author ends her introduction to this story as follows: "It has