

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

PROFESSOR FARRAND has written a very unusual book.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, this is not stating the case with sufficient emphasis. He has written a book such as has not hitherto appeared dealing with American history. There have been excellent special studies of special features of our history; as, for example, Professor Turner's really noteworthy studies of the frontier, to which Professor Farrand expresses his acknowledgment. There have been efforts made, as in McMaster's history, to write exhaustive works on the social and industrial development of the Nation. But this is the first time that there has been produced a balanced study of moderate length which escapes being a mere sketch or abstract. Nothing is easier than to write history as a collection of dates under which is arranged a stream of more or less notable but entirely disconnected incidents. Nothing is harder than to write a history which shall in any degree portray the really vital matters of growth and change in a people. It is this feat which Mr. Farrand has attempted and has successfully achieved.

He deals with names, whether of statesmen or of battles, only

when it is absolutely necessary thereby to indicate the course of events. It is the heart of these events with which he is concerned. Of the wars we are told enough only to show in broadest outline why and how they were fought. Professor Farrand writes with an impersonality that almost amounts to aloofness. His brief but telling summaries of the tangled skein of motives, purposes, passions, ethical considerations, and economic conditions which led up to the Revolutionary War and the Civil War mark the work of a high and genuine historical spirit. His analysis of the less striking and less picturesque but equally important movements which during longer periods of peace so profoundly changed our National prosperity and our National character is no less striking.

The studies of the successive phases of our political life—not always lovely!—down to and including the rise of the boss system, and the keen appreciation of the stages of our economic growth, are not merely keen, but are marked by an understanding of living forces which is exceedingly rare among trained scholars, whose lives are of necessity passed mainly in the library.

This is a delightful book to read, and a most illuminating and instructive book to study.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

<sup>1</sup>The Development of the United States from Colonies to a World Power. By FARRAND, Professor of History at Yale University. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$1.50.