

political orator. There was no trace of bitterness in his political oratory. In this respect he much resembled William McKinley, R. W. Thompson or Henry S. Lane. He rarely if ever dealt in political partisanship and never descended to personalities. His reputation rests on his work as consul at London where he helped as much as any other individual except John Hay to clear away the national prejudices that had existed for a century between the English and Americans. His broad scholarship, especially in literary lines, fitted him especially for this position. It is to his credit that he secured and held the high esteem of the English without losing that of the Americans. From time to time he added new friends to his list but never at the sacrifice of the old. He was a loyal Hoosier, a loyal American, a loyal Anglo-American and a loyal Republican and never lost his loyalty to his home city of Indianapolis and his friends there in these wider loyalties.

The Life of John Worth Kern. By CLAUDE G. BOWERS. The Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis, 1918, pp. xvi+475. Price \$3.00.

Senator Kern was born near Kokomo December 20, 1849 and died at a sanatorium in Asheville in the fall of 1917. His life was one long, unbroken political struggle. In that respect he has had few equals, beginning before he was old enough to vote, and ending with the day of his death. The rise and decline of the Greenback, Granger, Populist and Progressive parties fell within the active period of his career and though he sympathized with each he never broke connections with the Democratic party. He belonged to the army of the Regulars, though always, I think, a radical. He ran on the same ticket with Cleveland, with Bryan, with Parker and with Wilson. On this account he has been charged with a lack of integrity, or in other words with subordinating his principles to his desire for office. Such a charge is both unjust and unnecessary. He was a party man, a regular who fought under discipline. During the long period of his service he held office as Reporter of the Supreme Court, 1885-1889, State Senator, 1892-1896; United States senator 1911-1917, rewards entirely incommensurate with his long, loyal service to his party. Not only as a stump campaigner was Senator Kern available at all times,

but several times he was drafted by his party to lead a forlorn hope, the most thankless task in political life. The reviewer recalls an incident of the campaign of 1900. He was connected with the county Republican organization of one of the southern counties. A business meeting was in session and about fifty of the leading Republican politicians present when about 7:30 it was learned for the first time that Mr. Kern was to speak that night at the local opera house. The Republicans rushed their business through and attended the speaking in a body, in the meantime 25 or 30 local Republicans uniting with the crowd. After a very pleasant speech in which the Republican plutocrats were handled in the usual style a reception was held and I remember the amused expression of the face of Mr. Kern as he shook hands with Republican after Republican, the Democratic secretary being very careful in every case to tell the politics of each. After the reception a social good time of two hours was had with Mr. Kern chief entertainer. It was an intentional freeze-out by the Democratic organization but Mr. Kern, whatever he felt, showed no signs of displeasure or soreness.

The Democratic party has had since the Civil War, an unequal contest in Indiana. Throughout, Senator Kern has conducted himself in such a way as to retain the faith of his party friends and hold the personal friendship and good will of his opponents. He was a good fighter but uniformly fair, his influence and example always on the side of political morality. In the disgraceful senatorial election of 1909, although the victim of underhand politics, he preserved his good faith and honor, though one might wish he had shown as much zeal in hunting down the criminals as he did in the case of the election of Lorimer of Illinois. In extenuation it may be said that if there were any similarity between the two cases Mr. Kern was in a position to do his duty in the latter case and did it while in the former he was not. His service in the U. S. Senate was brief, 1911-1917, but long enough to earn a place with the best of Indiana senators. Whatever honor may attach to the work of the Wilson administration will be shared in large degree by Senator Kern. Any one acquainted with the political history of Congress knows what a difficult and thankless task it is to manage a party with a small majority. The reviewer spent two weeks in Washington early in 1917 investigating

some matters of historical interest in which he very much desired the assistance of Senator Kern and although he met the Senator several times and saw him often he never presented his letters of introduction or mentioned his business. Senator Kern seemed the busiest man in Washington and rarely slept over six hours, if so much, out of the twenty-four.

Mr. Bowers, the author of the book under review, is a well-known newspaper man of Indiana. For a quarter of a century he has been in close touch with Indiana politics. He was secretary to Senator Kern and in sympathy with the senator's views. While the whole volume is thus sympathetic there is no offensive partiality, no long arguments so often indulged in by apologists to prove his hero always in the right. The reviewer, as has been intimated, was not a follower of Senator Kern but he has not found a single expression in the volume at which offense could be taken. Mr. Bowers is a graceful writer, his style is clear and simple. The volume should rank with Mr. Foulke's *Life of Morton* as one of the two best contributions to Indiana biographical and political literature.

The Valley of Democracy. By MEREDITH NICHOLSON. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1918. p. 284. \$2.00.

This is a series of magazine articles dealing in a critical way with the life of the people of the Mississippi valley. There are six essays averaging 40 pages each. The whole series is tinged with a political cast which indirectly reflects the deep and consistent interest of the people in things political. In dealing with so large a unit the author necessarily uses wide generalizations each of which is open to grave exceptions. Time and again he insists on the conservatism of the people as a whole. How he arrives at his conclusions is not always shown. He points out that Grangers, Greenbackers, Populists and Progressives are all native to the place but continues that the West was merely flirting with these. As a matter of fact the dreams of the fathers are nearly always realized by the children and the visions of the agitators referred to above are practically all now on our state and national statute books. The author flits with grace from parlor car, summer resort