

covering the administrations of Cleveland, Harrison, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. Each of these Presidents, Mr. Foulke believes, was personally favorable to the reform, but all were not equally capable of evading or refusing the demands of the politicians for plunder. The volume is not an essay nor sermon on the merits of Civil Service Reform; the author assumes that the American people are convinced of the justice and value of the reform, but a historical record of the actual struggle, names, dates, places, facts, documents, and accusations are freely given. It is hardly necessary to say to those acquainted with the character and skill of Mr. Foulke that his work is done fearlessly and skillfully. Many reformers grow impatient with the slow-moving world and retire from the fight in disgust. Mr. Foulke is of a different temper. While carrying on a fight to the death he has preserved his good temper, which is shown, even in the record, by a tinge of humor. The characteristics of the spoilsmen are set forth in numerous cases. It may be objected that these cases are tried *ex parte* but in most cases we will forever have to do without the other side. The limits of the classified civil service as well as other problems incident, such as superannuation, are set forth. As a historical record of this political struggle in America this volume will take rank along with the writings of Carl Shurz, with decided advantage in concise and pointed treatment, in fact is so systematically presented as to make it especially useful in the schools.

*Iowa Authors and Their Works. A Contribution Toward a Bibliography.* By ALICE MARPLE, Assistant Curator. Introduction by EDGAR R. HARLAN, Curator, Des Moines, 1918, pp. 359.

The scheme of this bibliography is not clear. In the instructions to the author this rule is laid down: "Please disclose the existence of, and work done by any one fairly entitled to be regarded an author or writer of a book, and so connected with the State as to have been something within the meaning of the term 'An Iowa Author'". The rule of

inclusion or exclusion offers some difficulties. Beginning on the one hand some are included who were born in Iowa but left in childhood and never returned; on the other hand are included those who have made Iowa their homes only in their old age. The following list of historians, culled from the pages at random will illustrate: Rufus Blanchard, E. J. Benson, Geo. W. Botsford, H. E. Bourne, Emerson Hough, E. J. James, J. A. James, Jesse Macey, C. E. Merrian, Milo Quaife, B. F. Shambaugh, Albert Shaw, F. N. Thorpe, Jacob Van der Zee. No data is given beyond dates of birth and death, lists of books or articles and the publishers.

*Political Parties in Michigan 1837-1860. An Historical Study of Political Issues and Parties in Michigan from the Admission of the State to the Civil War.* FLOYD BENJAMIN STREETER. Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, 1918, pp. 401.

This is University Series IV, Michigan Historical Publications. This is not a history, in the strict sense of the word, but as indicated by the title, a study or interpretation. The facts on which the author's conclusions rest are not stated in sufficient detail to enable one not thoroughly conversant with the facts in the case to judge of the soundness of the interpretation. The study bears the evidences in itself however of being a very careful and reliable interpretation. There are so many elements in the interpretation of political history, all uncertain in value, that a given body of facts admit of almost infinite explanation or interpretation. A customary device for setting forth the truths of an election is the political map, and the study under review has a number of excellent ones, but a careful study of political development in Indiana indicates that such maps carry about an equal amount of truth and error.

Another common line of interpretation in western history is that based on ancestry and previous homes of the voters. The reviewer is convinced that in Indiana at least conclusions based on such reasoning are worthless. There are so many instances of political leaders from remotely different