The style is concise and clear but rather heavy as a result of the packing of such a great mass of information into one volume. The lack of readability, however, is more than outweighed by the value of the work to teachers and students of the history of the United States. In addition to the informational value, the book contains a selective bibliography of forty-nine pages, which, however, has a paucity of the pertinent primary sources. There is an adequate index of thirty-four pages and a good table of contents. There are eighty-seven pages of illustrations, some of which contain as many as five portraits, and twenty-four maps and graphs.

Finally, the book is remarkably free from typographical errors. Likewise factual errors are negligible and, since the author has maintained a broad sympathetic perspective throughout the work, errors of interpretation have been minimized. In its entirety, Professor Randall's book represents a valuable contribution to the historiography of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

RUSSELL J. FERGUSON.


The second volume of Solon Robinson includes carefully selected writings from the years 1846 to 1851, prefaced by a calendar of all his located works. The editorial labor is of the same high type as in the first volume and the format remains unchanged, but the reader will find a different, more mature, more thoughtful Solon. As pioneer, dirt farmer, agricultural organizer, dreamer, political enthusiast and reformer, the reader was apt to tolerate his views and understand his limitations of earlier years. Now his limitations are fewer, his opinions more definite, his views broader and more philosophical, but one may on occasion stop to question his motive or judgment. Generally accepted as a national figure, he felt his responsibility. Apparently the traveling correspondent of the American Agriculturist and agent of Allen's Agricultural Warehouse approached professionalism, whereas earlier his amateur standing could hardly be questioned.

The scope and content of subjects upon which Robinson wrote are not always indicated by the title, but the index is
fairly complete and it may also serve in part as a table of contents. There is information upon: important persons; Canada; northern farms and southern plantations; domestic and foreign trade; the early history of Lake County, Indiana; agricultural fairs and livestock shows; horticulture and gardening; buildings and furniture; the use of various fertilizers; plows and other agricultural implements; railroads and highways; value and cost of types of fences; recipes and cookery; bagasse; "Yaupon tea"; lightning rods; millstones—all and sundry were pressed upon a "nonreading generation" for their diversion and education.

Extensive travels through the eastern half of the United States and Canada gave Robinson much opportunity to compare sections and methods. He recommended "book farming," but found that wherever he traveled there was too often a distinct distrust of things scientific or academic. Northern districts drew sharp rebukes for antiquated and wasteful habits. He emphasized the need for soil conservation and the use of fertilizer but found many farmers immune to his preaching. Guano and the sub-soil plow (sold by A. B. Allen and Company) were favorite topics, but too many people could buy farms cheaper than they could preserve those upon which they settled and the country seemed to like the "skin, shave, and waste the soil" (p. 249) system of agriculture. Robinson encouraged prevention of erosion, rotation of crops, and more careful cultivation.

His favorable reception in the South provoked the following sentiment: "I am with people who appreciate me for the talents & good qualities I possess, instead of hating, despising & cursing me because nature has endowed me superior to themselves" (pp. 489-90). In detailed descriptions of southern economy, he observed that cotton planting alone was not very profitable; that sugar was an expensive and uncertain staple; that rice culture demanded tedious preparation and attention; and that the South was too dependent upon the North for products that could be produced at home. On the other hand, he believed that the South was too suspicious of Yankees as a group. It was the "fear of buying a pig in a poke" or a "Yankee humbug" (p. 130) that prevented a great many southerners from buying improved implements and machinery.

Included in this collection of writings is an extensive
treatise on slavery and various other references to it, in which the author used the stock in trade arguments of the leading protagonists of the institution. The poor living conditions of English and northern free laborers are contrasted with the better lot of the southern slaves. There was need for better understanding between North and South, but he saw little hope of it, as "no country was ever cursed with worse enemies than the abolitionists" (p. 479). It is doubtless true that he was justified in believing that his trip through the South would help to ease the sectional tension.

Wit, philosophy, cynicism, and dogmatism mark the treatment of subjects concerned with morals and politics. People were negligent and irresponsible and would not profit by the experience and experiments of others. "How much everyone should study contentment with his own lot, striving more to improve his situation than to change it" (p. 453), may well be cited as the motto for Robinson's articles, if not for his life. There was the instance of a whole county being aroused to attend an agricultural fair—to see General Tom Thumb. His views on current politics and intemperance are expressed in the statement that: "I don't know how it is, exactly, whether it is in consequence of the sovereigns of southern Illinois drinking so much whiskey, that General Cass gets so many votes in that district, or whether so much whiskey is drank [sic] there in consequence of so many Cass men being there ...." (pp. 131-132).

This volume, like the first, shows Robinson as a far-sighted, keen reformer and progressive. He read widely, traveled extensively and thought deeply. He was a remarkable person; his writings are presented in proper form as a memorial to a leader in American development. Many others will hope, as does this reviewer, that the remainder of the writings of Solon Robinson may find such capable attention.

Fred Cole


The tragic situation brought upon Spain by the army rebellion is responsible for several books dealing with that unfortunate country. Most of them are journalistic productions hastily put together in order to capitalize on timely interest.