

political meetings. As reviewers are wont to say, this volume is a valuable contribution to the history of the Civil War period.

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The Australian Ballot: The Story of an American Reform. By L. E. Fredman. ([East Lansing]: Michigan State University Press, 1968. Pp. xii, 150. Notes, bibliography, index. \$5.75.)

In this slender volume Professor L. E. Fredman of Newcastle University discusses early American election abuses and the development of the political reform known as the "Australian Ballot." Basing his study on a wide variety of primary sources and secondary works, the author has distilled the material to produce a succinct but interesting and informative account. He traces election practices from the old open ballot system with its accompanying violence and intimidation. For example, in an early San Francisco party primary, "Knives were drawn and freely used, revolvers discharged with a perfect recklessness . . . The police had they interfered would have stood a chance of being annihilated" (p. 20). By the later decades of the nineteenth century most responsible Americans, seeking a workable reform in the ballot system, became interested in the method pioneered by Australia and adopted by Great Britain in the 1870s.

Persons as dissimilar as Henry George, E. L. Godkin, Richard Henry Dana, Ignatius Donnelly, and Grover Cleveland supported the Australian ballot and urged its adoption. The reform found a prominent place in the demands of the Mugwumps of the eighties, the Populists of the nineties, and the Progressives in the twentieth century. Basically the Australian ballot included four features: "The ballots were printed and distributed at public expense. . . . They contained the names of all the candidates duly nominated by law They were distributed only by the election officers at the polling place There were . . . arrangements to ensure secrecy in casting the vote" (p. 46).

Fredman discusses the passage of the Australian ballot in Massachusetts and New York, the first states to adopt the reform, in some detail. To provide some balance he then traces the reform in California in the far West, and in Louisiana in the South. In California the form of the ballot encouraged "independency." In Louisiana the new election laws reflected the religious differences, widespread poverty, and the racial preoccupations of the state. Other reforms, such as the direct primary, corrupt practices legislation, and preferential voting are all based on the Australian ballot.

No claim is made that the widespread adoption of the Australian ballot has ended corruption. In many places its success is still ob-

structed by political machines. But as Fredman concludes, "the will of the people is the basis of the authority of the government" (p. 134). Essential to this concept is a truly secret ballot.

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Journal of a Tour in Unsettled Parts of North America in 1796 & 1797. By Francis Baily. Edited by Jack D. L. Holmes. *Travels on the Western Waters.* Edited by John Francis McDermott. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University, 1969. Pp. xxvi, 336. Illustrations, notes, sources consulted, index. \$15.00.)

The years following independence attracted a steady stream of distinguished visitors to North America. Drawn by an insatiable curiosity about the newly created states, they came from all parts of the world to witness the drama of a nation taking shape. Beginning with the Marquis de Chastellux from France and the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda, the group included the Englishman Richard Parkinson, the illustrious German Baron von Humboldt, and a host of others. Admittedly a few of the observers were highly critical of the raw societies, lack of conveniences, and other phases of life in America, but all were fascinated by the wilderness of the west. Many of the visitors kept journals or diaries in which they recorded personal experiences and impressions of people whom they met and areas through which they passed. Although varying greatly in objectivity, these written travel accounts remain one of the best sources for that period of American history.

One of the most spectacular treks through the early republic was that made by a young Englishman, Francis Baily. Baily, well known for his later scientific contributions, particularly in the field of astronomy, began his tour of North America at the age of twenty-one for reasons not entirely clear. He arrived in Norfolk, Virginia, in February, 1796, after violent weather had diverted his ship to the West Indies and rendered it unseaworthy. The stormy crossing was an omen of things to come. For the next two years Baily explored the east coast, floated down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and ultimately worked his way back east to New York via Knoxville. It was an incredible journey. Pitted against the wilderness, faced with unpredictable and cruel extremes of weather, the young Englishman tasted more adventure in those few months than most men experience in a lifetime. Nor did Baily's departure from New York in January, 1798, end his series of trials. Taken into custody as a prisoner of war by a French privateer, he was finally released and arrived home in