

ments in detail, showing, for instance, how unscientific his etymological basis is, he concludes that for at least one thousand years before the ninth century the Norse had been in possession of a developed religious system, presenting many points of coincidence with the Christian faith. This our readers may recollect was shown to be the case ten years ago by Karl Blind in a series of articles in the *Contemporary Review*.

Mr. Jefferson Davis's "Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government" has been published. The book is a defence of the action of the Southern States. The principal defence of Secession is the contention that it was warranted by the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Davis's argument is that the Constitution was accepted by the States as States, and not by the people of the United States; that the right of withdrawal from the Union was reserved by each State; that the State is the sovereign of each citizen, his allegiance being primarily to his State, and secondly to the Union; and that, should his State elect to secede from the Union, he is not only bound to cleave to his State, but it would be treasonable for him to act otherwise. Those who turn to the volumes for revelations, will find that Mr. Davis has little that is new to tell. Thus, no new light is thrown on the unsolved problem of the assassination of Lincoln.

R. W. B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MATHEMATICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD :

DEAR SIR,—I noticed a letter in your last issue, on "Mathematical Education," containing some suggestions relative to the best method of teaching that branch of study, with which, as a teacher, I cannot concur, and, if you will kindly permit me, I will try to explain to your readers my reasons for differing from your previous correspondent. To follow out the figure somewhat facetiously used by Mr. Parkin, the course upon which he has exhibited his steed is a favorite one of mine, and though I may appear presuming, as a young and inexperienced rider, for attempting to compete with a jockey so much my superior in age and experience, yet I cannot forbear to enter the race with him. My hobby is not a thoroughbred of my own raising, but an ordinary roadster of well-tested endurance, and I frankly acknowledge that I hope to win an easy victory, since my opponent's steed must be ruled out as a *pacemaker*, i.e., an animal that goes one side at a time. And here the metaphor is too weak, for one side of his steed does not go at all.

In selecting the best method of teaching a particular subject, we must take into consideration the object of that study. Your correspondent, in support of his theory, compares the study of mathematics with that of classics, and concludes that the method which is good in the one case is also good in the other. Now, while all do not agree with him in his method of teaching the