

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR.

By JOHN BACH McMASTER.

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SCOPE OF THE WORK.

In the course of this narrative much is written of wars, conspiracies, and rebellions ; of Presidents, of Congresses, of embassies, of treaties, of the ambition of political leaders, and of the rise of great parties in the nation. Yet the history of the people is the chief theme. At every stage of the splendid progress which separates the America of Washington and Adams from the America in which we live, it has been the author's purpose to describe the dress, the occupations, the amusements, the literary canons of the times ; to note the changes of manners and morals ; to trace the growth of that humane spirit which abolished punishment for debt, and reformed the discipline of prisons and of jails ; to recount the manifold improvements which, in a thousand ways, have multiplied the conveniences of life and ministered to the happiness of our race ; to describe the rise and progress of that long series of mechanical inventions and discoveries which is now the admiration of the world, and our just pride and boast ; to tell how, under the benign influence of liberty and peace, there sprang up, in the course of a single century, a prosperity unparalleled in the annals of human affairs.

EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS.

"What the late Professor J. R. Green did for his countrymen by writing his 'History of the English People,' Mr. John Bach McMaster has essayed to do for us in a 'History of the People of the United States, from the Revolution to the Civil War.' The plan of the two works is essentially the same, but the American narrative is even more faithful to the principles upon which both authors profess to write. We hear less in it about wars, treaties, and politics, and more about the manners, customs, ideas, and sentiments of the great mass of the people, than in the English book. The pledge given by Mr. McMaster, that 'the history of the people shall be the chief theme,' is punctiliously and satisfactorily fulfilled. He carries out his promise in a complete, vivid, and delightful way. We should add that the literary execution of the work is worthy of the indefatigable industry and unceasing vigilance with which the stores of historical material have