

especially as no notice is taken of recent controversies; for instance, whether Columbus really lies buried at Havana or San Domingo; whether the Pilgrims landed exactly on the day of the winter solstice, as is apparently Bancroft's opinion, and whether 'The King's Missive' was ever sent, as told by Whittier. Other changes aim simply at improvement of style. The volumes are printed in the stately octavo style of the first edition, which seems more appropriate to such a standard work than the cheaper form of the other revision."—*Boston Advertiser*.

"On comparing this work with the corresponding volume of the 'Centenary' edition of 1876, one is surprised to see how extensive changes the author has found desirable, even after so short an interval. The first thing that strikes one is the increased number of chapters, resulting from subdivision. The first volume contains two volumes of the original, and is divided into thirty-eight chapters instead of eighteen. This is in itself an improvement. But the new arrangement is not the result merely of subdivision: the matter is rearranged in such a manner as vastly to increase the lucidity and continuousness of treatment. In the present edition Mr. Bancroft returns to the principle of division into periods, abandoned in the 'Centenary' edition. His division is, however, a new one. As the permanent shape taken by a great historical work, this new arrangement is certainly an improvement."—*The Nation (New York)*.

"In modifying the narrative, Mr. Bancroft tells us that his chief aims were accuracy and lucidity, and that 'no well-founded criticism that has been seen, whether made here or abroad, with a good will or a bad one, has been neglected.' Apparently no new material of particular moment has been inserted, although several sketches of famous characters have been rewritten either entirely or in part. The work as a whole is in better shape, and is of course more authoritative than ever before. This last revision will be without doubt, both from its desirable form and accurate text, the standard one."—*Boston Traveller*.

"It has not been granted to many historians to devote half a century to the history of a single people, and to live long enough, and, let us add, to be willing and wise enough, to revise and rewrite in an honored old age the work of a whole lifetime. This good fortune has been granted to Mr. Bancroft, and he has largely profited by it, as have also the majority of readers among his own countrymen, who, when American history is in question, go at once to his volumes as to an authoritative tribunal, and abide by his decisions, which in no case of any consequence, we believe, have ever been seriously or for long disturbed."—*New York Mail and Express*.

"The extent and thoroughness of this revision would hardly be guessed without comparing the editions side by side. The condensation of the text amounts to something over one third of the previous edition. There has also been very considerable recasting of the text. On the whole, our examination of the first volume leads us to believe that the thought of the historian loses nothing by the abbreviation of the text. A closer and later approximation to the best results of scholarship and criticism is reached. The public gains by its more compact brevity and in amount of matter, and in economy of time and money."—*The Independent (New York)*.

"We have made a comparison of the first volume with the edition of 1876, and find that the work has been largely recast, the arrangement of the chapters and the minor divisions has been changed, many portions have been rewritten, and no pains have been spared in making necessary corrections as the result of criticism on the work or of