

territory, the compromise, and the admission into the Union of this State named after the great river which flows through it. In his treatment of the period from 1844 to 1861, as well as that of war time, some readers may charge Mr. Carr with unduly favoring the Southern and even Confederate view; but to people living this side of the now-vanished Mason and Dixon's line, this is doubtless a benefit; for only when Northern people are able to 'put themselves in the place' of Southerners and see with Southern eyes, can they be sure that they have achieved that impartiality which is essential to the writing of final history. He shows that the Missourians were neither secessionists nor slavery propagandists. He both criticises and justifies the action of the second convention which, in the uncertain hours when other States were seceding and Missouri's Governor had been driven into exile, organized a provisional government, and thus saved Missouri from 'the pit of political degradation into which the States in rebellion were sunk during the period of reconstruction.' Mr. Carr practically and almost abruptly ends his history at the close of the War, believing that the career of Missouri as a bone of contention ended with the abolition of slavery. The fifty years' struggle was over, the State recovered rapidly from the wounds of the Civil War, wealth increased wonderfully, and the Negro was liberally dealt with in most if not all points relating to citizenship. Taken as a whole, this book, with its sustained interest, high average literary merit, and thorough treatment of the voluminous facts, fully justifies its place in the series of 'histories of such States as have exercised a positive influence in the shaping of the national Government, or have had a striking political . . . history.' Like the others, it has a good map and index.

Missouri : A Bone of Contention *

WE WERE aware that most of the States of the Union had their nicknames, more or less complimentary, but to name Missouri 'a bone of contention' is a stroke of wit. It does, however, rightly describe the Missouri of the past, and vividly writes in a phrase her political history. Until the triumph of the Union armies and the close of the Civil War, Missouri was in the jaws of the watch-dogs of slavery and freedom. In war or in peace, the subject of legislative compromise or of military struggle, Missouri was an uncertain factor. Now, after twenty-five years of national peace, her history may be calmly and impartially written. Indeed, the task has been done, and well-done, and the author, Lucien Carr of Harvard, may be congratulated upon his work, which is strong, unimpassioned, scholarly, and as impressed with the firm touch which comes of local knowledge as are the imprinted rocks in the cabinets at Cambridge. Long familiarity with the wealth of archæology in the Peabody Museum seems to have given him the power of comparison and generalization in the evolution of a commonwealth, while thorough acquaintance with living men enables him to blend the results of the study and the field in pleasing literary form. Five of his seventeen chapters give a luminous picture of the early French and Spanish discoveries and domination. Then follow three chapters treating of the

* Missouri. By Lucien Carr. \$1.25. (American Commonwealths.) Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.