

"Writings of American Statesmen" is the title of a new series of books to be edited by Professor Lawrence B. Evans, and published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons. If we may judge from the volume of "Writings of George Washington" which now inaugurates the series, this enterprise gives much promise of usefulness. Most of the statesmen to be included already exist in "Works," but in this form are too voluminous for either the ordinary library or the average student. Such a selection as is now to be provided will do much to extend acquaintance with a department of American literature too often ignored because of the mass of its material. Each volume of the new series will include three classes of matter: first, those documents which are of themselves important state papers; second, accounts of important events in which the writer participated; and, third, papers expressing the opinions of their writers upon public questions of importance. In the case of the Washington volume, this three-fold purpose seems to be very satisfactorily accomplished.

"The American as He Is," by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, is a small volume published by the Macmillan Co. Its contents consist of three lectures given a few weeks ago before the University of Copenhagen, in pursuance of the exchange arrangement recently made between Danish and American professors. The lectures are neatly dedicated to the University before which they were delivered, an institution "whose beneficent activity began before America was discovered." The lectures consider the American in his three-fold character of a political, social, and intellectual being, and are characterized by breadth of treatment and a clean-cut style. To draw, in large lines, a picture of that part of present-day civilization which the world knows as American is the avowed aim of the writer, and he reaches it with marked success. The closing sentence of his brief introduction is pregnant with meaning: "For a genuine understanding of the government and of the intellectual and moral temper of the people of the United States, one must know thoroughly and well the writings and speeches of three Americans, — Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, and Ralph Waldo Emerson."