

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.*

THIS work, on an important and to some persons very interesting subject, is primarily an account of the part taken by the United States, since becoming a nation, in the peaceful settlement of questions of international concern. Incidentally it is also in some measure a treatise on diplomacy as a science and an art; describing its past and its present status and offering suggestions, based on the writer's somewhat varied experience, for the improvement of the diplomatic branch of the federal service. These suggestions seem eminently judicious and patriotic.

Very properly; there are introductory chapters discussing the workings of our national department of state, as related to the subject of this volume, considering the functions of the Senate in the making of treaties, and explaining the difference between consular and diplomatic officials. This last, we suppose, is a distinction very indefinite in most minds. It is substantially this, that, while both classes are representatives abroad of the nation sending them, consuls have to do with commercial interests, and in some cases exercise also, for the protection of their countrymen, certain of the duties and powers of judges; whereas diplomats, in their various classes of ambassadors, envoys, etc., are concerned with matters political. Occasionally, however, these commercial and political functions are combined in one officer, both by the United States and some other nations; generally in places of minor importance.

The author then takes up in succession, and discusses historically, the subjects of piracy committed by vessels of the North-African Mediterranean powers; the slave trade, and the searching of ships of one nation by cruisers of another, as arising out of such trade and as a means for its prevention; the free navigation of rivers and seas, and the curious rights of toll exercised by certain powers, whereby its enjoyment was impeded; the rights of neutral States, and especially in the matters of privateering, confiscation of property, and blockades; rights of fishing, including the present Cana-

dian question; and commercial treaties respecting revenue duties. There is much and various information on these subjects; one of which—that of free rivers and seas—embraces sub-divisions on the Mississippi and the Saint Lawrence, the Northern Pacific Ocean, the tolls formerly collected by Denmark at the entrance of the Baltic Sea, the Bosphorus, the two great rivers of South America, certain rivers in Europe, and the Congo and Niger of Africa. It is very interesting to notice, in the treatment of the various matters of diplomatic history presented in this work, examples of the modern—yet in another sense very ancient—doctrine of the evolution of higher and better forms and principles from lower and cruder. Not suddenly, but by slow degrees, and with occasional reflux, has the tide of civilization made its advance in international as in social and individual matters; nor is progress yet probably very near its goal.

As a whole, the treatise evidences much research among the works of other writers and much careful and painstaking labor. We regret to say that the author's style is marred by errors in grammar, not gross, but such as are usual among speakers of ordinarily good education; which, however, ought to be avoided at least by writers on subjects of such dignity and importance. These we think less noticeable in the middle and later chapters. There is further, unfortunately, a lack of clearness, the quality of prime importance in almost every sort of composition; which defect, however, though it requires the reader to perform extra study in order to grasp the author's full meaning, is not so great as to render the work unsuited to convey much interesting instruction on the subjects of which it treats.

* American Diplomacy. By Eugene Schuyler, Ph.D., LL.D. Charles Scribner's Sons, \$2.50.