prehensive work by the honourary professor of the history of American foreign relations in New York University. Very few Americans, even of those who know our domestic history fairly well, are familiar with the story of our somewhat complicated relations with the rest of the world. There is even a widely spread and generally believed fairy tale that we have thus far lived a life of isolation and that we are only now just awaking to the fact that we must henceforth, as the parrot phrase has it, "take our place in the family of nations." Mr. Johnson's scholarly work, which evidences long study of the subject itself and of its outlying and tributary matters and thorough familiarity with them, ought to serve as a corrective for that mistaken notion. For it shows that our political dealings with the rest of the world have always been many, important, and often complicated and difficult and that they have usually been carried on with dignity, resourcefulness and wise and shrewd statesmanship, in a way that ought to make every American proud to read their story. Therefore his book ought to have the widest possible reading. He has the commendable knack of writing in an interesting way and he shows also ability and care in marshalling all the facts that are concerned with any particular subject, no matter how far afield he has to go for them. No one who is interested in the history of our country will find a dull page in the entire two volumes.

Mr. Johnson shows that our foreign relations had their beginnings before the Revolution in the jealousies and intrigues of the European nations which sought to strike at each other through the American colonies and he shows also that even in those early days America had begun to be of consequence to Europe through the reflex influence of our civil and religious policies.

A highly interesting part of Mr. Johnson's work is that in which he makes it evident that during the first eight years of our existence as a na-

"AMERICA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS"

A very real need is filled, and filled capably and interestingly, by this com-

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tion we had laid the great fundamental principles upon which all our developments of external policies have been based. "In all the more than a century of foreign relationships," he says, "which remains for us to consider, we shall find scarcely a single new principle, but merely a further working out of the principles of Washington's administration." The first of these cardinal doctrines was the equal sovereignty of the United States with the other nations of the world. The second was that of neutrality, "a far greater novelty," he comments, "both to America and to all other powers." The third was that "Europe was no more to use this continent as a fighting ground in her wars, and she was no more to manipulate our politics, our laws and our customs, our commercial and fiscal systems for her advantage." Next he enumerates "the doctrine of the freedom of the seas and the application to naval warfare of a measure of the international law which prevailed in warfare on land." "This principle was embodied," he adds, "in one of our earliest treaties, and it was certainly and altogether in respect of American commerce that the principle was first practically tested." The doctrine of the arbitration of international disputes, of which Franklin and Hamilton were among the earliest advocates in its modern form, was another, and a sixth principle was that of extradition of criminals from one country to another which was established in Gray's treaty with Great Britain.

Mr. Johnson pays some attention to those episodes in our diplomatic history that sometimes led impassioned orators to declaim about the obligations this country is under to sundry European nations for friendly services rendered at opportune moments. And when he gets through with those friendly services and their diplomatic accompaniments and their origins in European politics not even a high power microscope could find reason for national obligation in any of them.

Most admirable is the cool and judicial temper in which almost every page of Mr. Johnson's two volume work is written. Looking back through the perspective of years, he gathers in his facts from every quarter and weighs and balances with entire impartiality. Even in more recent years, when personal feeling pro or con American policies would naturally make much more difficult the preservation of an unbiased judgment, he has evidently, most of the time, scrupulously tried to divest his account of personal prejudice. Nevertheless, he has not always succeeded quite so well as he himself will probably wish, ten years hence, he had done. In the matter of the Spanish-American war, for instance, although he shows to what an extent that conflict was forced upon the government by popular clamour instigated by yellow newspapers, he hardly credits the final offerings of the Spanish Government toward peaceful settlement with as much value as did General Woodford, our minister to Spain, who thought that they would have made the war unnecessary if President McKinley had dared to oppose popular passion. So, also, in the matter of the Panama Revolution he glides with far too much rapidity and complaisance over the part in its making that was played by certain American financial representatives of the interests of the French company and the extent to which they cunningly contrived to mix up the authority of the Government at Washington in their scheme. In fact, he practically justifies the whole proceeding—a proceeding which many good Americans have come, by study of the matter, to consider a blot upon the national honour. When he comes down to very recent years, Mr. Johnson's efforts to keep away from the personal viewpoint in his examination and narration of our foreign policies and relations seem to have ceased entirely. But these fill only a few pages of a work which as a whole it is a pleasure to commend heartily to American readers.

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