Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar. A Memoir. By Moorfield Storey and Edward W. Emerson. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. $1.50.

The story of the last generation of men who made the antebellum period great—the resistance period, when the forces of evil in the slave problem invaded the free States and tipped the overseer's whip with a snapper even in the courthouse in Boston—could hardly be complete without some account of the two brothers Hoar, born in Concord. Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, son of old "Squire Hoar," who "lived all the beatitudes daily," and eldest brother of the famous Senator who so long kept the Senate of the United States clean and sweet with scholarship and sound learning, as well as with an unique wit, was a Concord child, loyally born in the spirit that made Concord the center of the muster of men who made the town so busy on the morning of April 19, 1775. His life, so his biographers tell us, "was spent within a few rods of the house where he was born. His father's house, his own house, the home where his wife was born and lived, the school where he was fitted for college, were all within a circle of less than twenty-six rods radius." To Concord he was faithful all his life. Tho a Unitarian and not in general a user of the Book of Common Prayer, he accepted one phrase of its invocations, and thought full justice was done to his native town when he prayed, "O God, who art the author of peace and lover of Concord," while he smiled with scorn on the evil genius who suggested Milton's allusion, "Oh, shame to men! devil with devil damned, firm Concord hold." The Concord spirit and the sharp thrust of law went with him into Grant's Cabinet, and into the Arbitration Court that settled our differences with England in the Alabama case, still "chasing the redcoats down the lane," and administering justice after a fashion better known in New than in Old England at that time. The gist of his story lies in the period beginning with the Civil War, but the choice bits are to be found in the aftermath, when the stern judge, as has just been said, unbent among his neighbors. In his reform spirit he belonged to the order of men whom Lowell and Lincoln loved and over whom some of our present-day aspirants for a seat in the White House would wrinkle their brows. "Tho open to great and commanding reforms," say his biographers, he "had a great respect for law and order, tested new nations by strong common sense, and his native love for old usage made him throw the burden of proof on the newcomer." The biographers show with clearness the democratic quality of the man and the spirit of the old democracy that made such men possible.