

....The interest newly awakened in our public financial and politico-economic policy has brought Albert Gallatin to the front. Mr. Cabot Lodge has given us an excellent volume on him, Mr. Adams another. His works have been published, and now in Mr. Morse's *American Statesman* we have another Life, by John Austin Stevens (Houghton, Mifflin, & Co.) It was of Mr. Gallatin that Judge Story, who was accustomed to weigh his words, wrote, "I rank him side by side with Alexander Hamilton." Yet he knew that at the time of the Whiskey Insurrections in Pennsylvania Hamilton scoured the west counties with writs and soldiers, not without some hope of catching the young Genevan in his net. Of the three great triumvirs who led and ruled the Republican opposition of the day, he drew on himself the bitterest animosity of the Federalists. He was bolder than Madison, and endowed with more practical sense than Jefferson. He excelled Hamilton in methodical power, and in the technical command of the principles and theories of finance. Notwithstanding their political differences, he pursued substantially the same policy as Hamilton, and in the impression he was to make on the whole subsequent financial history of the country was his successor and associate on equal terms. Mr. Stevens does not add much to what we already knew of him, nor change the judgment already expressed by Mr. Lodge. The merit of his work lies in the full and separate treatment of Mr. Gallatin's financial policy, especially as to banking, the currency, and the question of tariff, and the policy of protective duties. Mr. Gallatin was a man of great independence as well as of skill and tact. He dared to differ with his associates in the Republican triumvirate and with his chief in the Cabinet, and even to go to the extreme of voting with the Federalists. His views and his action as to the non-political administration of the Civil Service, and his attempts to save it from prostitution to political ends, show both his courage and his prescience. Both Jefferson and Madison, as Mr. Stevens explains, disclaimed Mr. Gallatin's "declaration of a principle which has since been the base of every attempt at reform in the Civil Service." Mr. Jefferson, by his duplicity and trifling, threw away his opportunity to prevent the curse of patronage from settling down on the American system. But it will require more proof to establish the assertion, which we find on p. 290, that "the Federalists had not hesitated to confine the patronage of the Executive to men of their own way of thinking." We rather wonder that, among the services of Mr. Gallatin, we find nothing said of his relation to the Coast Survey. From a biographical point of view there is a great amount of matter in this volume to interest the general reader, though the plan breaks up somewhat its unity, and requires some repetition. Mr. Gallatin was always brilliant and interesting, and his life is not without romantic features. He was in many respects the typical Republican, living simply and dying poor, with the wealth of a great nation in his hands. It is of him that the story is told, which might be incorporated into Mr. Stevens's volume, that to a generous offer of the banker Alexander Baring, he replied that a man who had the direction of the finances of a country as long as he had should not die rich.