

**NULLIFICATION AND SECESSION IN THE UNITED STATES. A History of the Six Attempts During the First Century of the Republic. By Edward Payson Powell. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.**

The "six attempts" are the nullification resolutions of 1778; the contested election of 1800, styled "A Northern Confederacy;" attempt to cleave off the Southwest, or "Burr's conspiracy;" New England nullification, or the Hartford Convention in 1812; South Carolina nullification in 1832, and Secession in 1861. A concluding chapter points out several "dangers" which still menace the Union, one of which is "protection of manufactures;" and the final word is one of hope that "the people are yet sound to the core," wanting mainly a "heroic sentiment," which, if the book had come a year later the author might have found furnished them by the present war against Spain's vicious colonial system. One of the author's schemes for saving the State is a national system of education with a great central university at Washington." The religious education by the churches is not mentioned; possibly because it is not thought of sufficient account. The book is the result of much thought and is a contribution to the history of the government; for "history is never wrote so long as any man has not given his version of affairs;" but the views are superficial and colored by the writer's prejudices, and his desire to correct somebody, no matter who, that may have differed from him. The judicial mind is wanting; the author speaks always as an advocate, or special pleader; and he indulges in invective and vituperative adjective with no sufficient reason save his own mood or impulse. The chapter on "A Northern Confederacy" is an attack on Hamilton and the Federals which facts do not justify, and too much is made of Burr's scheme of Spanish conquest and altogether too little of Calhoun's attempt to secede from the Union. The grouping of these so called "six attempts" is not scientifically, logically or historically correct. The centripetal forces in a union of States were necessary at the first in order to establish a stable balance in the system. A proper name for secession is, "the slave holder's rebellion," which history will justify as the title of a reckless attempt to save the slave-hold

ing system at the expense of the Union. No wise and unprejudiced man denies it now; and all are rejoiced that the attempt failed, was put down so thoroughly that it will never be made again. The author's avowed purpose is to do justice to all parties, but he unconsciously becomes the advocate and defender of the party in the wrong. The great defect in his very able work is a petulant, fault-finding spirit that shows out between the lines and makes his book, like Mr. Godkin's "Unforeseen Tendencies," less valuable for the invariable pessimism of view.