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TREASURES

—)OF(—

USE AND BEAUTY:

—)AN(—

EPITOME OF THE CHOICEST GEMS OF WISDOM, HISTORY, REFERENCE AND RECREATION.

TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED.

BY A CORPS OF SPECIAL AUTHORS.

F. B. DICKERSON & CO., Publishers,
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Preface.

THERE are few persons, no matter what their calling or education, who do not occasionally find themselves in search of information regarding the machinery of our government, the duties of our public servants, and the salaries they get; the wonderful growth and prosperity of our country, and the important events in America's history just as they occurred. How often are they at a loss to know what answer to give to the many questions that daily arise, or are asked by children, as to the *why* of certain things.

No other branch of study is so sadly neglected in our schools and colleges as that of Letter Writing, and even the best educated are often obliged to consult some authority as to the proper wording, beginning, ending or form of a note, invitation, acceptance, regret, etc. In the chapter on "The Science of Letter Writing," most of the materials employed are gathered from original sources, and now appear in print for the first time. The specimen letters are from many of the most eminent persons of the world, including some of its most noted authors, and the Presidents of the United States, which, besides being valuable from a historical point of view, furnish sample letters that no one individual could presume to supply.

How often do we hear it said: "I wish I could find a book

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OUR NATION.

By S. B. McCRACKEN.

MOST persons twenty years of age have read the story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, and those who have not should do so. For the story, as a play of the fancy merely, is very entertaining to the young mind. Of course, as we grow more staid and accustomed to the tread-mill work of practical life we vote Aladdin a myth, and the author an ingenious writer of fiction. Yet the story typifies the wonderful processes that we see at work at the present day—processes that would seem magical, only that we can comprehend their method. Probably few persons twenty years of age reflect on how many things that are common to their observation were unknown to their grandfathers and grandmothers.

Take, for example, the railways that intersect each other through the country. Go into their large shops, into their

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renowned in literature and in great and good works. Schools and colleges have multiplied in an increasing ratio. Our earlier school laws contemplated three months of school per year. In most of the States public schools are now maintained nine months in each year. Religion has extended its influence and power under the earnest efforts of its devotees. The popular pulse and heart have been warmed by numerous fraternal associations, by the Patrons of Husbandry, and the labor unions, while the whole heart of the nation seems to have been drawn into more sympathetic relations in proportion as the facilities for intercommunication have been multiplied and extended.

Certainly the United States is a great country, which it would be impossible to epitomize in a few pages. But the foregoing will suggest something of its greatness and progress, and of the wondrous development of the age in which we live. The future we cannot anticipate—we only know that new surprises burst upon us almost every day. The telephone is a baby of less than five years, and yet it has grown prodigiously, and will no doubt grow to much greater proportions. And there are other discoveries and inventions budding that will blossom ere long upon mankind.

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Growth in Population.

IN speaking of the progress of the country, especially in population, we are apt to go back only a hundred years, and to assert that the growth of population from 3,000,000 to 50,000,000 is without precedent in human history. This being true, it is equally true that the circumstances of the country, in its relation to the sources from which its population has been drawn, are also without precedent in human history. For, while we take credit for having advanced from 3,000,000 to 50,000,000 in 100 years, we forget that the sum of 3,000,000 Europeans settled within the limits of the original United States during the preceding period of little more than 100 years, was quite as remarkable a phenomenon in the growth of population. In other words, that the growth from nothing to 3,000,000 prior to 1780 is quite as remarkable as the growth from 3,000,000 to 50,000,000 since then. Indeed, the increase during the past 100 years has no more than maintained the rate per cent shown by our previous history, and it is very probable that a careful analysis on the basis of the law of increase by ratios would show that our later history is even behind the earlier, to say nothing of the difference in circumstances between the two periods. The men of the first period had to struggle for a foothold, and maintain it against the Indians. Their reliance for population was from immigration, while their facilities for transportation were greatly less than ours, especially during the past 50 years of steam navigation. They had to import clothing, supplies and stock. Our

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A HISTORICAL CHART OF THE UNITED STATES.

States.	Square Miles.	Year Settled.	Where First Settled.	By Whom Settled.	Admitted.	Capital.
Alabama	50,722	1711	Mobile	French	1814	Montgomery.
Arkansas	52,198	1685	Arkansas Post	French	1836	Little Rock.
California	188,981	1769	San Diego	Spaniards	1850	Sacramento.
Colorado	104,500	1858	Denver	From Western States	1876	Denver.
CONNECTICUT*	4,674	1633	Windsor	From Massachusetts	1788†	Hartford.
DELAWARE*	2,120	1627	Cape Henlopen	Swedes and Finns	1787†	Dover.
Florida	59,268	1565	St. Augustine	Spaniards	1845	Tallahassee.
GEORGIA*	58,000	1733	Savannah	English	1788†	Atlanta.
Illinois	55,410	1720	Kaskaskia	French	1818	Springfield.
Indiana	33,809	1690	Vincennes	French	1816	Indianapolis.
Iowa	55,045	1833	Burlington	From New England	1846	Des Moines.
Kansas	181,318	1850	Fort Leavenworth	From N. Eng. and W. States	1861	Topeka.
Kentucky	37,680	1775	Boonesborough	From Virginia	1792	Frankfort.
Louisiana	41,346	1699	Iberville	French	1812	New Orleans.
Maine	35,000	1625	Bristol	English	1820	Augusta.
MARYLAND*	11,124	1634	St. Mary's	English	1788†	Annapolis.
MASSACHUSETTS*	7,800	1620	Plymouth	English Puritans	1788†	Boston.
Michigan	56,451	1670	Detroit	French	1837	Lansing.
Minnesota	83,531	1816	St. Paul	From New England	1857	St. Paul.
Mississippi	47,156	1716	Natchez	French	1817	Jackson.
Missouri	65,350	1764	St. Louis	French	1821	Jefferson City.
Nebraska	75,995	1854		From N. Eng. and W. States	1867	Lincoln.
Nevada	104,125	1861	Washoe	From California	1864	Carson City.
NEW HAMPSHIRE*	9,280	1623	Dover	English	1788†	Concord.
NEW JERSEY*	8,320	1624	Bergen	Dutch and Danes	1787†	Trenton.
NEW YORK*	47,000	1614	Manhattan	Dutch	1788†	Albany.
NORTH CAROLINA*	50,704	1663	Albermarle	English	1789	Raleigh.
Ohio	39,964	1788	Marietta	From New England	1803	Columbus.
Oregon	95,274	1811	Astoria	From New York	1859	Salem.
PENNSYLVANIA*	46,000	1682	Philadelphia	English	1787†	Harrisburg.
RHODE ISLAND*	1,306	1636	Providence	English	1790†	Providence & Newport.
SOUTH CAROLINA*	29,385	1670	Port Royal	English	1788†	Columbia.
Tennessee	45,600	1757	Fort London	From North Carolina	1796	Nashville.
Texas	274,356	1690	San Antonio	Spaniards	1845	Austin.
Vermont	10,212	1725	Fort Dummer	From Massachusetts	1791†	Montpelier.
VIRGINIA*	38,400	1607	Jamestown	English	1788†	Richmond.
West Virginia	22,950	1862	See Virginia	Formed from Virginia	1862	Charleston.
Wisconsin	53,924	1669	Green Bay	French	1848	Madison.

* Capitals denote the thirteen original States. † Date of adoption of the Constitution.

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The Republic and its Founders.

WE are accustomed to speak of our political system as the most perfect the world has ever known, and of its framers as among the wisest and best of statesmen who ever lived. It is well to regard both the system and the men with respect, but it should be borne in mind that the system, so far as it can be called such, is one of growth and evolution, and that the fathers, as they are sometimes called, did not originate the principles or elements that underlie or compose it, but that the most they did was to study the principles of government as they found them, and apply them to the condition of things that they found to exist.

The principles of government are as eternal as matter. But they are applied in different ways, as physical and social conditions vary, and the study of man has been first to discover principles, and next to apply them to conditions, for the formulas that seem to work so well with us would not work as well in Egypt or Corea.

Our constitutions are simply digests of human law and practice, traceable back through the Anglo-Saxon race, and more remotely to Rome. They are found, in fact, in some form, wherever human society exists. Their more immediate prototype is what is called the English constitution, or the common law, with which the founders of our government, who were descended almost exclusively from the British islands, were familiar.

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instrument for the government of the District, which was originally ten miles square, or one hundred square miles, the Potomac river passing through it. It was ceded to the United States by Maryland and Virginia, and is officially known as the District of Columbia. The Virginia portion, however, having been re-ceded, the District now embraces but sixty-four square miles on the Maryland side of the Potomac, and includes the city of Washington, the capital. Congress exercises exclusive jurisdiction over the District. Congress and the Supreme Court hold their sessions at Washington, the President's residence is there, the different departments of the Government are located there, and most of the foreign Ministers reside there. The population of Washington by the last census was 147,307.

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Officers of our National Government.—Their Duties, Salaries, Etc. Powers of Congress.

THESE are generally set forth under another head in enumerating the powers surrendered by the States. In addition to those things in which the concurrent action of both houses is required, each house has certain specific powers. The Senate acts upon all treaties negotiated, and ratifies or rejects them. It also acts upon nominations made by the President for the more important public offices, and confirms or rejects them. The House must originate all bills for revenue, such as tariff and internal revenue bills. The House also has the sole power of impeaching public officers, while the Senate has the sole power of trying impeachments. That is, the House stands in the relation of a grand jury of inquest in presenting public officers alleged to be guilty of offenses, and the Senate acts as a court to try them. When the President is tried, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides. It is believed there have been but two impeachments tried in the history of the country—that of President Johnson in 1866, and that of a judge some years previously. It requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate to convict on an impeachment.

The Executive.

It is sometimes said that the President of the United States is a king except in name. The office of an executive is the same, whether he be called king or some other name. It is true that

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