

Franklin's Albany plan, the only ones which Mr. Schouler considers, are, of course, the most important; it would have been interesting, however, to trace the development of the idea in other suggestions, notably that of Penn. in 1696-'97, and the plan proposed in 1754 by the Lords of Trade. The chapters devoted to the provisions of the Federal Constitution cover familiar ground, and form, at the same time, quite the least valuable part of the whole work. In comparison with such an elementary manual as Cooley's 'Principles of Constitutional Law'—whether one considers simplicity of statement, fulness of exposition, or adequateness of illustrative application—Mr. Schouler's pages contain little more than the commonplaces of a high-school textbook on "civil government," and suggest, at the most, only a meagre working outline for graduate students. It is in the chapters treating of the State constitutions that we find the best part of Mr. Schouler's book. Less readable, to be sure, than Bryce, but skillfully avoiding too great detail, the development of both the form and the content of State government during the century is traced rapidly and clearly, and not infrequently with illuminating comment. As an introduction to a field as yet little investigated, these chapters may be commended.

The references to authorities are rather loosely put. Cooley's 'Principles' is cited as 'Elements,' and Story's 'Commentaries' as (p. 24) 'Constitutional Law.' The citation of Supreme Court decisions by volume and page only, without giving the title of the case, greatly limits the usefulness of such references. A few statements need revision. It is at once confusing and hardly correct to say (p. 24, note) that "the New England Confederation kept its vigor and efficacy for some forty years, and until after the accession of Charles II." The Confederation did, indeed, continue to hold meetings until 1684, but its importance practically ceased after 1664 or 1665. That the grants of Charles II. "breathed loving-kindness to his beneficiaries" (p. 14) might, perhaps, be gathered from an exclusive study of the texts of the grants; as a matter of fact, however, Charles was far more concerned to pay his political debts, and keep on good terms with those influential enough to obstruct his plans, than he was to display his affection for his subjects. The statement (p. 270) that "about half of our State executives are chosen for three or four years" should, of course, read "two or four years." But one State, New Jersey, now chooses its Governor for a three-year term. Kansas should not be included in the list (p. 262, note 1) of States having "annual sessions for a biennial Legislature."

*The Principles of Chemistry.* By D. Mendeleeff. Translated from the Russian (Sixth Edition), by George Kamensky. Edited by T. A. Lawson. In two volumes, 8vo, pp. 621, 518. Longmans, Green & Co., 1897.

The fifth Russian edition of this work was translated by Kamensky, and published under the editorial supervision of Mr. A. J. Greenaway in 1891. The present is almost equivalent to a new translation. It is somewhat surprising that it should be called for so soon, for there are many serious objections to its use as a class-book or text-book of any kind, while it is not full enough for

a hand-book or work of reference. But the secret of the wide favor which it enjoys among students of chemistry is that the facts are so strung upon a thread of argumentation and of theory as to render the retention of them in the memory less operose.

We must not, however, be understood as saying that this is the chief claim of this treatise upon our attention. Nothing could be further from the truth, for, as an achievement of reasoning, it must for ever stand as one of the great monuments in the history of the progress of science. It was in writing this book that Mendeleeff discovered the periodic law of the chemical elements. Now there is no kind of physical law so difficult to demonstrate as a periodic law, nor any phenomena so deceptive as those which appear to manifest a periodic character. With very few exceptions, of a trifling kind, all those periodic laws which had been made out were either simply harmonic, or easily analyzed into harmonic constituents, or were supported, as in the case of the law of tides, by deductive considerations. In these cases they had been studied by means of residual phenomena—a method which supposes that the phenomena, at least in their means, are not much deranged by causes in which no regularities can be traced. But the chemical periodicity is extraordinarily complex; it is known to us only by pure induction, and, for reasons which are altogether unknown to us, only very roughly determines the phenomena. Thus, according to the latest calculations of atomic weights by Clarke, there are two cases in which values are transposed in their order of succession. In addition to that, the lacuna in the list of chemical elements known to us, and the mistaken ideas which prevailed in regard to the chemical characters of some elements, rendered the attempt to discern the true order of nature in this respect excessively difficult. But Mendeleeff's predictions based upon his theory were such as to show a perfect mastery of it and extraordinary confidence in the truth of his *aperçus*. The next three elements to be discovered were gallium, scandium, and germanium. They not only fell into the places indicated by Mendeleeff, but they possessed precisely the properties which he had described them as having.

Considering all the difficulties and the striking success of this purely inductive inference, it may be ranked as second to the research of Kepler into the motions of Mars. But this is not the sole feature that makes the extraordinary work in which it occurs important in the history of chemistry. Mendeleeff's views upon many branches of chemical theory are highly original and suggestive, and are urged home with great force. To be rated rightly, the book should be read consecutively from beginning to end. Unhappily, it is impossible to praise the work of the editor. Errors of every description abound, and the English is here and there such that the meaning is doubtful.

*The Personal Equation.* By Harry Thurston Peck. Harpers.

This volume contains a number of essays on a great variety of subjects of "contemporary human interest." Some are literary, some political, and one is on a subject quite out of the common way—"The Migration of Popular Songs." We cannot conscientiously

say that we understand what the title is intended to convey.

Mr. Peck writes about most of the topics which he discusses like a man of sense, but his style has somewhat a Phyllis flavor, and for literary criticism his method is hardly adapted. Of a highly combative turn, he will tolerate no nonsense from the reader, or any one else whom he has at his mercy, but insists that everything shall be distinctly understood and clearly defined as he sees it himself. Yet we are not always sure how clearly he does see it himself. Sometimes what he advances as original turns out on analysis, to be rather commonplace, as when he first says that we ought to consider Howells as a "critic," and then explains that he means a critic "of life." As a matter of fact, he does not mean that Howells is a critic at all, but that he has put into his novels life and manners and men as he has seen them. Such a book as 'Silas Lapham' shows us life; the thing it avoids is criticism of life. Mr. Peck is better himself as a critic of life than of books, and in his paper on Marcel Prévost he makes a good defence of the Anglo-Saxon love-marriage, as against the French system of parentally arranged marriages. On Nordau he advances with a whoop, and deals with him in a way that leaves no more doubt as to his meaning than did the old bludgeon-swinger of an earlier critical régime. "Every large hospital for the insane knows his representative—the one sane man in a world of lunatics," has the true ring. The tone of the article is such that it whets our appetite. The reader feels that an actual physical contest between critic and author would be fine sport. Mr. Peck does not like the Germans, and expresses his approval of the declaration made in 'Regeneration' as to German tendencies. But here, in the excitement of the struggle, he is rather carried away, and describes the typical German in terms which really excuse Nordau; for if the race is what Mr. Peck says it is, Nordau can hardly be considered responsible for his acts.

In "The Downward Drift of American Education" there are some very sensible remarks, especially those (p. 341) on the impossibility of including in the curriculum courses in virtue, wisdom, and rationality. He thinks the modern dream is that legislation shall give every one an income, and that education shall make him chaste, temperate, honest, truthful, patriotic, and deeply religious. He thinks that the so-called "liberal" policy in university government has "not raised mediocrity to the plane of scholarship, but has degraded scholarship to the plane of mediocrity," and suggests (as we believe we have done in these columns) that the loss of the old "identity of training," which once bound university men together, is a serious matter. In matters of the mind his ideal is distinctly aristocratic, and he would have the *amé d'élite* of the universities "dominate and control the destinies of States, driving in harness the hewers of wood and drawers of water who constitute the vast majority of the human race, and whose happiness is greater and whose welfare is more thoroughly conserved when governed than when trying to govern." This being so, why has he such a contempt for the German "veneration for authority"? (p. 165). In an article on President Cleveland, he declares that the reason why the great body of the people admired him so much was that their love for political independ-

P 00641