REFERENCE HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN HISTORY BY THE LIBRARY METHOD, FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS; PERIOD OF THE CONSTITUTION, 1789-1889

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Reference handbook of American history by the library method, for secondary schools; period of the Constitution, 1789-1889 by A. W. Bacheler

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A. W. BACHELER

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"NO SUBJECT CAN BE LEARNED FROM A SINGLE BOOK."

Woodrow, Wilson.

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TO THE TEACHER OF AMERICAN HISTORY

THE Manual now offered for use in Secondary Schools is the outgrowth of several years' study of the problem of teaching History in a large New England High School. The earlier method, by the use of a single text-book, uniform for the entire class, was beset with difficulties, brought little enthusiasm to the class-room, shut in the pupil's view to the narrow limits of a single author, and left surprisingly little room for the free use of authorities or the interchange of class-room opinions.

Discussion was debarred, for there was nothing to discuss. The opinions of the one author in use being accepted as the opinion of the class, no incentive remained to wider investigation or the assimilation of variant views. The Library Method, now so generally adopted by the best schools, is the outcome of a study of these difficulties, and this Manual is but one of several attempts to render lighter the work of the teacher of American history, and that of the pupil more varied and interesting.

Care has been taken, in making the choice of topics, to select only those whose bearing upon the history of the country has been important and permanent; the trivial and evanescent have been discarded. Chronological arrangement has, in the main, been preserved, but where sequence of cause and effect, or the close relation of subjects somewhat widely separated in point of time, has seemed to demand it, chronology has been disregarded.

To the Teacher of American History

Experience has seemed to emphasize the following suggestions:

Let the pupil be encouraged, or, better, required to consult more than one authority on the topics which constitute a day's lesson. Guard carefully against the tendency of the careless to use but a single authority, and that the briefest and most elementary the library affords.

However desirable that the entire list of books appended to this Manual be accessible, it should not be considered necessary before the adoption of the Library Method. There is always a library within a library, and, while the general field is large, it is possible to make a judicious and limited selection, the cost of which shall be within the means of any town; the interested teacher will not long lack for ways of enlarging the scope of the history library. The kindly interest of a private purse, or the possibilities of a school exhibition, or the school-lecture course, will easily supply what the scantiness of the town appropriation forbids. A minimum list for a class of thirty pupils might include, perhaps, the following:

One copy each of

Blaine's Twenty Years of Congress.
Bryant & Gay's History of U.S.
Draper's Civil War.
Hildreth's History of U.S.
Greeley's American Conflict.
Lalor's Cyclopædia of Politics.
McMaster's History of the People.
Stanwood's Presidential Elections
Rhodes' History of the U.S.
Taussig's Tariff History,
Wilson's Rise and Fall.
Mrs. Richardson's Story of our Country.
The four volumes of C. C. Coffin.

Add to these three copies each of the Epochs of American History Series (the two later volumes of Hart and Wilson).

Fiske's History of the U.S.
Higginson's Young Folks' History.
Johnston's History of U.S.
Montgomery's History of U.S.
Schouler's History of the U.S.
Thomas' History of U.S.

A total of seventy-three volumes; and the class would be tolerably well equipped for good work. Nor should the teacher omit from his list the abundant material which might be classed under "original sources," such as the Lowell and Old South Series of our great State papers. The Declaration, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, the Ordinance of 1787, the Inaugurals, and Farewell Address of Washington, and many others, all of which are now so cheaply and readily accessible as to remove all objection on the score of expense.

The value of memorizing the topics under the groupings of the Manual seems to be proved. Two such groupings are made in the present work, one by Presidential Administrations, the other, and the larger, by Historical Periods.

For example, the second, or period of "Federalist Supremacy," includes the two administrations of Washington and the one of John Adams. To memorize the topics under such a group is deemed an important feature of the Library Method.

The outline map in the hands of each pupil should steadily accompany the progress of the class, growing with its growth. When new territory is added to the original area, or a new State admitted to the Union, or an important event occurs, let the map indicate this with date, and initials of the President under whom the event occurred. The series of outline maps issued by D. C. Heath & Co. of Boston are admirably adapted for this purpose. Lastly, there is abundant room for the play of the occasional class discussion, or the more formal essay upon topics in which special interest has been evinced as the study has progressed. The interest and alertness of the teacher will not fail to improve upon, and enlarge these few suggestions out of a past experience.

A. W. B.

JULY 4, 1894.

LIST OF THE BOOKS REFERRED TO IN THIS VOLUME

Abbott John S. C The History of the Civil War in Amer-
Abbott Willis J Battlefields of '61
Abbott Willis J Battlenelas of or
Adams Henry History of the United States of Amer-
ica during the Administrations of
Jefferson and Madison bv. Ser. Sons.
Anderson John J New Grammar School History of the
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Bancroft George History of the United States of Amer-
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Benton Thomas H Thirty Years' View, from \$20-1850 2 v. App. & Co.
Blaine James G Twenty Years of Congress, from Lin- coln to Garfield
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Campaigns of the Civil War 13 v. Ser. Sons.
Coffin Chas, Carleton Building the Nation
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Comte de Paris History of the Civil War in America . 4 v. P. & C.
Cooper J. Fennimore . History of the Navy of the United
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viii List of the Books referred to in this Volume

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Jay Wm A Review of the History of the Mexi-
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Lalor John J Cyclopædia of Political Science 3 v. Mer. & Co.
Lossing Benson J Field Book of the War of 1812 G. S. Lester. "Field Book of the Civil War G. S. Lester.
Lovell A American History Leaflets 13 Nos. L. & Co.
Maclay Edgar S A History of the United States Navy . 20. App. & Co.
McMaster John Bach . A History of the People of the United States
Montgomery D. H The Leading Facts of American His.
Moore Frank The Rebellion Record 12 v. D. Van N.
Morse John T., Jr [Editor] American Statesmen Series . 12 v. H., M. & Co.
Nicolay & Hay Abraham Lincoln, A History 10 v. C. Pub. Co. Old South Leaflets
Parton James Life of Aaron Burr Mason Bros.
" " Life of Andrew Jackson Mason Bros.
Patton Jacob H Four Hundred Years of American History F., H. & H.
Pollard Edward A The Lost Cause Treat & Co.
Porter David D The Naval History of the Civil War . S. Pub. Co.
Rhodes James Ford . History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850
Richardson Abbie S The History of Our Country H., M. & Co.
Roosevelt Theodore The Naval War of 1512 Put. Sons.
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Schouler James History of the United States of Amer- ica
Scudder Horace E [Editor] American Commonwealth Sc-
ries
Sheldon-Barnes Studies in American History

Stanwood Edward A History of Presidential Elections H., M. & Co.
Stevens Alexander H., A Constitutional View of the War be-
tween the States
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Von Holst Hermann . The Constitutional and Political His-
tory of the United States v. C. & Co.
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