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probably the more menacing. The unpreparedness of the United States would have covered any secretary of war with criticism; only the strength and courage of the subordinates kept the Santiago campaign from wreck.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON.

*Samuel Jordan Kirkwood.* By DAN ELBERT CLARK. [Iowa Biographical Series, edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh.] (Iowa City: State Historical Society. 1917. Pp. xiv, 464. \$2.00.)

THE plan of Professor Shambaugh to illuminate the history of Iowa through a series of biographies of the state's leading men is one which might well be adopted in other commonwealths. Samuel J. Kirkwood as Iowa's "war governor" finds a fitting, and, indeed, necessary place in such a series, and in Mr. Clark the editor secured a suitable writer for the volume. Care has been exercised, labor has been expended in a study of letter-books and other sources to bring together material not earlier utilized in Lathrop's *Life*.

Kirkwood was a type of American which made itself a large formative factor in our political life fifty or seventy-five years ago. He was Scottish and Irish in ancestry. Born in Maryland he trekked west over the Cumberland Road to Ohio. He performed farm labor and taught country school. He read law and was admitted to the bar. A Democrat before the Nebraska issue came forward, he joined the new Republican party, and at about the same time removed to Iowa. A rather rough man externally, careless of dress, vigorous of speech, he became a picturesque and effective campaigner for the new party, and in 1859, only four years after his arrival in Iowa, he won the governorship, which he held for two terms, leading that strong, thrifty, new group of people in the performance of their honorable part in the war.

For a little while in 1866-1867 Kirkwood was United States senator. In 1875 he was again governor of the state, resigning after a year in office to take a full term in the Senate, which he in turn abandoned after four years to enter Garfield's cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. Twice he seems to have declined diplomatic posts, first in Denmark and later in Turkey.

At some points Mr. Clark is able to bring Kirkwood's life into contact with national history, though in general the connection is not very essential or close. It is interesting to know of the efforts which Harlan was making at home to get back his seat in the Senate months before he resigned his place as Secretary of the Interior in Andrew Johnson's cabinet, just prior to the Philadelphia convention of 1866. It was in a way his by fair right. He could go no farther with Johnson. But Kirkwood's ambition to be a United States senator was active and constant, and his biographer, in sympathy with his subject, as biographers are rather bound to be, makes it appear that it was not quite as it should have been when a compromise was reached, Kirkwood being given a

year on account of Harlan's unexpired term, still unfilled by appointment of the governor, while Harlan was returned for the full succeeding six years, to sit with Grimes during the impeachment proceedings.

What Kirkwood might have done in this emergency is not particularly stated. But there is no reason to think that he was of heroic mould. He would have broken with Grimes and voted as Harlan did. There is evidence of this in his course at a public meeting convened to read Grimes out of the party, though the author, being unable to find a report of what Kirkwood said at this time, glazes over the incident. In similar wise it is rather remarkable (p. 313), attesting to deficiency of material or else to an almost uncanny shrewdness in Kirkwood, that nothing is at hand whereon to base an opinion as to his attitude on reconstruction while he sat in the Senate of the United States from January, 1866, to March, 1867. Any man in Washington who could conceal his feelings during this period was a past-master in diplomacy, and one cannot but think it a mistake that when the opportunity offered he should not have turned his steps toward Denmark or Turkey.

ELLIS P. OBERHOLTZER.

*Joseph H. Choate: New Englander, New Yorker, Lawyer, Ambassador.* By THERON G. STRONG. (New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company. 1917. Pp. xvii, 390. \$3.00.)

THIS biography should be read by every lawyer in the country who has the money to buy, or the friend from whom he can borrow the book. No man was better qualified than the author for the work that he undertook. Himself of legal lineage, of New England stock and of high standing at the New York Bar, he had already trained his pen when writing his reminiscences. In his *Landmarks of a Lawyer's Lifetime* he had preserved for posterity a record of the appearance and peculiarities of the noted lawyers in New York in his day, who had then passed before him.

The book which he has now published was written with the approval of his subject, who gave him much material. Not the least valuable of this is the sketch of the Choate family with its record of that "simple intellectual life" which was characteristic of the aristocracy of New England until this was supplanted by the plutocracy of the twentieth century. Much of the book was evidently written before Mr. Choate died. This is apparent in the chapter which describes him as a lawyer, which once speaks as if he were still alive (p. 135), and which contains the only error that the reviewer has been able to discover, a reference to Rufus as the uncle of Joseph, which was the general belief of the Bar and which must consequently have been written before the latter gave the author the information contained in an earlier chapter as to the degree of kinship between them. The author's modesty has made him omit what would have increased the value of the book to the student of