Horace Greeley's New Book.

THE
AMERICAN CONFLICT,
A HISTORY OF
THE GREAT REBELLION
IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
1860–'64:
ITS
CAUSES, INCIDENTS AND RESULTS:
INTENDED TO EXHIBIT ESPECIALLY ITS MORAL AND POLITICAL PHASES, WITH THE DRIFT AND PROGRESS OF AMERICAN OPINION
respecting
HUMAN SLAVERY
FROM 1776 TO THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

ILLUSTRATED BY PORTRAITS ON STEEL OF GENERALS, STATESMEN, AND OTHER EMINENT MEN; VIEWS OF PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST; MAPS, DIAGRAMS OF BATTLE-FIELDS, NAVAL ACTIONS, ETC., FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES.

The first volume of this work has now been completed and ready for delivery to a part of its subscribers for a little more than three months, during which time, though not yet fairly published, nearly 50,000 copies have been printed, bound, and delivered, while about 10,000 subscribers yet remain unsupplied, and more than three-fourths of all the territory in the Free States remains unexhausted. This success, for so large a work, is altogether unprecedented in the history of book-selling; and, while it bears gratifying evidence of the high appreciation with which the work is received, must be regarded as more remarkable from the fact that the country had been so thoroughly canvassed for several other popular histories of the War, previous to any public announcement of this work.

Volume I. contains 648, large, double-column, octavo pages, interspersed with copious references, foot-notes, and quotations from public enactments, orders, letters, speeches, and other documents, thereby thoroughly elucidating the leading events connected with the early history of the War, and its long train of causes.

The work is printed on fine paper, substantially bound, and sold exclusively by subscription, through Traveling Agents, at the following prices:

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The following extract from the author's preface (or, as he modestly styles it, "Preliminary Egotism,") with the succeeding "Index by Chapters," and table of "Illustrations," will convey a very good idea of the plan and character of this Volume:

"What I have aimed to do, is so to arrange the material facts, and so embody the more essential documents, or parts of documents illustrating these facts, that the attentive, intelligent reader may learn from this work not only what were the leading incidents of our civil war, but its causes, incitements, and the motives in sequence whereby these proceed the germ of events. I believe the thoughtful reader of this volume can hardly fail to see that the great struggle in which we are engaged was the inevitable result of antagonisms imbedded in the very nature of our heterogeneous institutions—that ours was indeed 'an irrepressible conflict,' which might have been precipitated or postponed, but could by no means have been prevented;—that the successive 'compromises,' whereby it was so long put off, were—however intended—deplorable mistakes, detrimental to our National character—that we ought—as early, at least, as 1819—to have definitely and conclusively established the right of the constitutional majority to shape our National policy according to their settled convictions, subject only to the Constitution as locally expounded and applied. Had the majority thus stood here, they would have precluded the waste of thousands of millions of treasure and rivers of generous blood.

"I present, in this work, goes further back, and devotes more attention to the remoter, more recondite causes of our civil strife, than any rival. At all events, I have aimed to give a full and fair, though necessarily condensed, view of all that impelled to our desperate struggle. I have so often heard or read this remonstrance—'You Abolitionists begin with Secession, or the bombardment of Sumter, slurring over all that went before, through a series of years, to provoke the South to hostilities,' that I have endeavored to meet that objection fairly and fully. If I have failed to dig down to the foundations, the defect flows from lack of capacity or deficiency of perception in the author; for he has honestly purposed and aimed to begin at the beginning.

"I have made frequent and copious citations from letters, speeches, messages, and other documents, many of which have not the merit of rarity; mainly because I could only thus present the views of political antagonists in terms which they must recognize and respect as authentic. In an age of passionate controversy, few are capable even of stating an opponent's position in language that he will admit to be accurate and fair. And there are thousands who cannot to-day realize that they ever held opinions and accepted dogmas to which they unhesitatingly subscribed less than ten years ago. . . . .

"My subject naturally divides itself into two parts: I. *How we got into the War for the Union*; and II. *How we put out of it*. I have respected this division in my cast of the present work, and submit this volume as a clear elucidation of the former of these problems, hoping to be at least equally satisfactory in my treatment of the latter."

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Numerous inquiries are made, implying doubt respecting the real authorship of this work—arising from a supposed inability on the part of the distinguished Editor of *The Tribune* to perform so great a labor in addition to his other arduous duties. However marvelous the magnitude which any such apparent inconsistency may assume, the credulity which fails to discern a greater marvel, in any conceivable management whereby the author's name could be used to preface such a work when it was not altogether his own production, claims the most charitable enlightenment. The publishers have, therefore, requested a card over the author's own signature—which they herewith present in fac-simile—calculated to dispel all doubt respecting the matter.

To my Countrymen

I submit to your judgment Vol. I of my History of "The American Conflict," conscious of its many deficiencies resulting in part from the haste with which it was necessarily prepared, under the pressure of other and most exacting duties. But I know that I have honestly endeavored to make it a candid, lucid, and, in instruction for, a warning of the course, incitements and earlier incidents of our great struggle. Hence, I trust that I have therein collected, bare, and embodied much important material which the steady flow of time was bearing swiftly to oblivion. I commend this work to you, despite its imperfections, as a contribution not unworthy of your regard to the education of our people into the faith and love of impartial freedom.

Respectfully, Horace Greeley

New-York, Sept. 20, 1864.

OPINIONS ON THE WORK.

From many hundred Reviews and Notices by the Press, we give the following brief extracts. Those from Democratic journals are indicated by a star.*

REVIEW AND MAGAZINE NOTICES.

FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

Mr. Greeley's volume is a valuable contribution to our political history. His intimate knowledge of our politics and instinctive sympathy with the far-reaching scope of our institutions, admirably fitted him for the task. He is clear, compact and accurate, honestly striving after the truth, while his judicious Preface shows that he appreciates fully the difficulties that beset whoever seeks to find it. If some of his readers will be surprised to find his work that of an able man, there are many who will not expect it to be as it is, that of a fair-minded one. He writes without passion, making due allowance for human nature in the South as well as the North, and does not waste his strength, as is the manner of fanatics, in fighting imaginary giants while a real one is in the field. Tracing Secession to its twin sources in Slavery and the doctrine of State Rights, and amply sustaining his statement of fact by citation from contemporary documents and speeches, he has made the plainest and far the most easy reason, we think, the strongest argument that has been put forth on the national side of the question at least in our civil war. Above all, he is ready to allow those virtues in the character of the Southern people whose existence alone makes it worth desirable or possible. It is not a little singular, that while slavery has been for nearly eighty years the one root of bitterness in our politics, the general knowledge of its history should be so superficial. Abolitionism has been so persistently represented as the disturbing element which threatened the permanence of our Union, that mere repetition has at last become a conviction, with that large class of minds with which a conclusion is valuable exactly in proportion as it saves mental labor. Mr. Greeley's chronological narrative is an excellent corrective of this delusion, and his tough little facts, driven firmly home, will serve to spike this Parrott battery, and render it harmless for the future.

FROM THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

The present work is eminently the record of the author's personal experience. It presents in vivid outlines and with striking illustrations the action of political causes with which he has been so familiar as with the alphabet of his mother tongue. The principles of the great Rebellion are traced back to the little germs which have since expanded into a tree of such mighty proportions and of such baleful character. Few men, we may perhaps safely say no men, among us could bring to the composition of a work with this intent such a rich fund of observation, such intimate knowledge of the practical working of parties, such true insight into the aims and motives of the conspirators, such American statesmen, such accurate judgment in regard to the leading measures of government, such a high degree of literary skill and mastership. Regarded as a contribution to the historical treasures of which American literature can boast such rare wealth, Mr. Greeley's work may challenge, if not perhaps unrivalled, the care and respectful commendation. His style is eminently his own and respectful commendation. His style is eminently his own. Familiar with the best models, he follows none. All though showing a vigor and popular effect rather than a graceful and polished elegance, it shows a remarkable sense of the power and aptness of words, and an unusual command of the resources of expression. . . . He is never dull, never lack-lustre, never commonplace, always clear, emphatic, and racy. The purely narrative portions of the volume are truly excellent. In the immense range of his productions as a journalist, to our thinking, Mr. Greeley has written nothing better. Compact, sustained, and enlivened with a choice variety of coloring, the story as it comes from his pen is uniformly clear even to transparency, and never fails to feed with singular interest, while it abounds in fresh and novel information.

FROM THE METHODIST QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Since Mr. Greeley entered the contest in which he was so long prompted by whole sections of Methodism, he has evinced the courage, thoroughness, and sagacity of a great leader. . . . And those high humanitarian views which he has taken of all the secular parts of the subject, will be the views the posterity will take, and the verdict mankind will forever affirm.

RELIGIOUS PRESS NOTICES.

FROM THE NEW-YORK INDEPENDENT.

Mr. Greeley's History of the American Conflict.—After hiding himself during the morning hours of a twelve-month from the search of his friends, sequestered all this while at the Hide House in a little room whose number was kept a secret from visitors, and whose door, when found, was locked as if no one were at home, Mr. Greeley now comes forth to present to his countrymen a book of which the author has a right to be proud, and the reader a duty to be grateful. An equal compassion volume is to follow—to be deferred, however, until the historian can write it under the inspiration of Union restored, liberty established, and peace green again upon the hills—which may his eyes see soon! Meanwhile, the simple fact that a half-wrought work, printed when paper and types cost three times their ordinary price, asking audience during a troublous period when books are rather laid aside than taken up, yet is nevertheless already waited for by 50,000 subscribers, the demand continuing greater than the printing press can supply—all this argues either great interest in the subject, great attraction in the narrative, or great regard for the writer. The extraordinary success of this book is due to all these three causes. The most important literary undertaking of the writer's life, next to The Tribune (for whose columns, meanwhile, he still wrought daily a day's work after dark,) the two volumes, when finished, will be the chief monument which he will leave behind him to attest the skill, the power, and the lifelong noble purpose of his pen. . . . How far this book fulfills its purpose is attested already by the unanimous verdict of many critical minds whose judgments are precious. . . . His style is correct and hearty, direct as a ball to a target, profuse in facts, barren in fancies, yet strikingly compensating for a lack of imagination by an abundance of humor and enthusiasm. . . . Nor can any writer put more substance into the same space than he: for as in his farming he strives for sixteen hundred bushels of tomatoes from an acre, so in his book-making he achieves the largest possible crop of good reading from the fewest possible words—packing his paragraphs as full as he crams his travelling-bag with newspapers when hurrying off at sudden notice to make a speech—or as he fills with apples the cool pockets of his guests on sending them away from Chappaqua!

FROM THE NEW-YORK EVANGELIST.

Mr. Greeley's History of the Rebellion.—Mr. Horace Greeley has undertaken to write a history of The Great Rebellion. We are glad to see the work in such hands, and to know that it will be pursued with a resolute will. The task is a difficult one, for we are too near the scenes and the actors to be able to judge impartially of men or of events. Mr. Greeley, with his great talents, has very decided opinions, but for the task he has some enforced qualifications. He is well acquainted with the political history of the country, perhaps better than any living man, since John Quincy Adams was borne to the grave. In undertaking this new labor, as the work of his closer years, we trust he will lay aside all the resentments of the hour, and write with the calmness and the impartiality of history. There, in addition to his other endowments, we believe, is the work of his own time, he may leave a name as a historian, that shall be head in honor in the literature of his country.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN INTELLIGENCER.

It is hardly necessary for us to add anything by way of commendation of this great work. No man in this country is better known than Mr. Greeley, and no man is more conversant with our past political history. Few men possess, in so high a degree, the rare combination of qualities requisite for the preparation of a work of this kind. While unhesitatingly firm in maintaining his own views and principles, he never misstates nor perverts facts. Honesty of purpose and strict adherence to truth, even his most bitter opponents concede to him.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN AMBASSADOR.

We need not recommend the work. Everybody will read it, whatever friends or foes.

FROM THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

The style is admirably clear and strong, the spirit excellent, the execution ample, and the result successful. We are not surprised to learn that the subscription circulation of this volume has already touched the figure of 50,000, and we augur good for the future from this immense dissemination. . . . . We hope it will circulate by hundreds of thousands. The people need to read it, and they will read it after they have bought it, for it is eminently a readable book.

FROM THE BOSTON RECORDER.

This is no catch-penny affair, but a work of careful research, to which the author is putting the very best of his ability.

FROM THE BOSTON PILOT.*

Although we have endeavored to keep ourselves posted with what works have been issued bearing upon the causes of this terrible conflict, from none have we drawn so clear notions as from Mr. Greeley's. We recommend the perusal of the "American Conflict" to those who do not intend merely to talk about matters and things, but who wish to speak rationally and from conviction.

FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WITNESS.

Of all those who have undertaken to write a history of the present Rebellion, none are so eminently qualified, in our estimation, as the author of the present work.

FROM THE OHIO PRESBYTER.

The character of the work, as well as of the author, will insure it a wide circulation both in this country and in Europe.

FROM THE BUFFALO ADVOCATE.

The style of the work, with the genius of the author flashing on every page, and the combination of facts presented, all go to prove it a volume of great interest.

FROM THE BOSTON TRUMPET AND CHRISTIAN FREEMAN.

Mr. Greeley's intimate familiarity with statements, orders, proclamations, party movements, popular agitations, his personal intimacy with the leading men connected with every social or political agitation; his experience as a public journalist; his quick mind, indomitable industry, and deep interest in all public movements—all give him qualifications for writing the history, recent and palpable, of the Rebellion, such as can be claimed for no other person.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN RECORDER.

We take great pleasure in recommending this reliable and beautifully gotten-up book to the attention of our readers.

SECULAR PRESS NOTICES.

FROM THE BOSTON JOURNAL.

Volume I. of Greeley's History of the Rebellion has made its appearance, and is welcome and timely. It is able, interesting and thorough, not being confined to the movements which led directly to the Rebellion, but tracing back the causes to the very foundation of the Government. . . . . Mr. Greeley's narrative of the systematic efforts to extinguish these principles, [Anti-Slavery] and make the Government the prop and ally of Slavery, is clear and forcible, yet calm and free from passion. He has given stubborn facts, and it will be difficult for the impartial reader to repudiate his conclusions.

FROM THE ALBANY EVENING JOURNAL.

No man in America is more conversant with the subject than Mr. Greeley, and none more competent to do it justice. This Historical sketch will stand as a monument of patient and laborious research. . . . . We confess that in this part of the work we are agreeably disappointed. It is pervaded by a spirit of catholicity and a freedom from partisan leaning that some of his best friends did not expect. The work is magnificently got up. The printing, binding, paper, &c., are superb. The engravings are numerous and capitally executed. Indeed a finer specimen of bookcraft has not recently issued from the American Press.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER.

The work is arranged with the practical clearness characteristic of its author. In two divisions the CONFLICT will put and answer the questions, "First, How we got into the war for the Union, and second, How we will get out of it." . . . . All the typographical appointments are excellent; numerous illustrations, substantial binding, large, clear type and beautiful letter press. A copious index, by chapters and subjects, places every part of the work within convenient reference.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS.

Mr. Greeley sketches American history from 1776 to 1862, more especially with the national toleration of Slavery. He traces Secession to that "peculiar institution," and his narrative, while full and decided, is calm and forbearing. . . . . The illustrations of this book are of a superior order.

FROM THE PROVIDENCE (R. I.) PRESS.

We have read enough of it to convince us that it is the best history of the great Rebellion yet issued, and that the author's reputation as a historian will be acknowledged wherever it is read.

FROM THE WORCESTER (MASS.) PALLADIUM.

The public will read this volume with admiration of the industry it exhibits. Every fact is assigned a place in the history which had its bearing upon the conflict.

FROM THE SPRINGFIELD (MASS.) REPUBLICAN.

More than most other men could do he has transferred to his pages the views and tendencies of the newspaper press, a double power which makes history and records it.

FROM THE CINCINNATI DAILY GAZETTE.

One cannot but be astonished at the wonderful familiarity with political history which Mr. Greeley displays. The minutest facts of thirty years ago seem to throng to his pen as readily as would the details of the Chicago Convention; and this fact in a measure, stones for the haste with which, in the midst of his engrossing occupations, he must have been forced to prepare his work.

FROM THE NEW-YORK LEADER.*

GREELEY'S CONFLICT.—Mr. Greeley has manifestly disappointed many friends and some enemies by this volume. The former expected greater bitterness of tone and expression toward Rebels and more agreeable sophistry concerning loyalists. And his foes were not prepared for the candor and untempered language which, upon the whole, pervades the book. . . . . No public man, whatever his politics and prejudices may be, should refuse to it a prominent place in his library. It teems with the aptest of quotations (with dates and ear marks for reference) from all the prominent political writers and orators of the nation. . . . . The author bounds his standpoints, so that you may obtain the exact angle of vision at which he surveys all those occurrences of the past seventy-five years which in anywise illustrate the sectional items of the land. The Dedication—to John Bright—is gracefully worded. It seems to come from a Belles lettres scholar who had never been a hack editor. . . . . It is useless for any historian on the other side of this Greeleyian question, "How we got into a War for the Union," to write a volume in answer to the present.

FROM THE NEW-YORK WORLD.*

MR. GREELEY AS A HISTORIAN.—He has few equals as a writer of vigorous English. He is terse, racy, direct, going straight to the heart of the subject as it presents itself to his view, hitting it off occasionally by a dash of grotesque humor, but more frequently irradiating it with gleams of shrewd, homely sense. His editorial style in THE TRIBUNE is always a refreshing contrast to the insanity of the would-be-fine writers, who try to disguise poverty of conception by copiousness of language.

FROM THE BOSTON BANNER OF LIGHT.

We took occasion to give an extended notice of Mr. Greeley's history of the American Conflict, on the appearance of some of the specimen pages of the work. We said, at that time, that few pens in the country could furnish a history of this struggle, which would be half as readable and impressive as that which Mr. Greeley's pen is capable of supplying. The appearance of the entire first volume of the work is all that is needed to satisfy any one who will examine it, that for vigor of description, clearness of conception, and naturalness of division, so far as the several causes and stages of the conflict are concerned, it is hardly possible to surpass this work of Mr. Greeley. . . . . The first volume of this history forms a noble book, in respect of type, paper, printing, and binding. It is a noble monument of the industry, taste, and business energy of the popular house which has undertaken the task of its publication.

FROM THE NASHVILLE (TENN.) UNION.

The author has searched every page of history relating to the subject upon which he is treating, and has exhumed a mass of material, the value of which can scarcely be estimated.

FROM THE BOSTON HERALD.*

It is a book which should be in every library, and which can never be entirely superseded by any other history of the great Rebellion, against the desperate attempts of which we are now struggling for national existence.

FROM THE NEW-ORLEANS (LA.) TIMES.

The specimens before us are entirely satisfactory, the letter-press large and clear, the paper thick and white, and the engravings artistic.

FROM THE ST. LOUIS DEMOCRAT.

It is evident from the examination we have given to the pages of the new work before us, that it is destined to be something out of the ordinary line of history. . . . . The distinguished and clear headed author has perceived and constantly borne in mind in the prosecution of his work, that the exciting events of a momentous conflict, involving the mustering and march of armies, the shock of battle and uproar of political agitation, constitute but the cross-work, the foam as it were, upon the surface, while ideas are the powers which move and control beneath.

FROM THE MADISON (IND.) DAILY COURIER.

No work has yet been established which will bear comparison with this book as a correct and impartial history of the Great Rebellion and the causes which have led to it.

FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS DAILY JOURNAL.

We cannot do a better service to the public than guard them against being deceived by second or third rate works, and direct their attention to what must be, for many reasons, the standard authority upon the war and its causes.

Whoever else may write the history of this Rebellion, in whatever way it may be written, these volumes of Greeley must continue to be, for generations, the store-house on which other writers must levy contributions.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE (KY.) JOURNAL.

Mr. Greeley will bring experience, familiarity with political history, and zeal to the discharge of his editorial duties. . . . . He will be industrious in research and bring together a large amount of valuable information. . . . . No one can see clearer or better than he does.

FROM THE EVANSVILLE (IND.) DAILY JOURNAL.

He lays out a large "patch of ground" for cultivation; but we are satisfied, from the specimen sheets before us, that it will not be thinly plowed or carelessly sown. Mr. Greeley is too thorough a workman for that.

FROM THE GRAND RAPIDS (MICH.) DAILY EAGLE.

Mr. Greeley's condensed and graphic style gives additional value and zest to these intensely interesting pages.

It is, indeed, one of the most valuable additions to American literature ever put to press.

FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS DAILY EVENING GAZETTE.

Those who look for a description of the causes of said modes and political disruptions, and national agitations, and terrible rebellions; those who admire the true heroes of all ages—not the idols of a day—will be delighted with Greeley's "American Conflict."

FROM THE ADRIAN (MICH.) EXPOSITOR.

Mr. Greeley's picture of the condition of our happy land just before the war broke out will be received as a better exhibit of the character and value of the book than any language of our own. In this brief space, he has managed to condense the most important facts of the great volumes which contain the census returns of 1860.

FROM THE PONTIAC (MICH.) WEEKLY GAZETTE.

The work is executed in the highest style of the art, abundantly and beautifully illustrated.

FROM THE SAGINAW (MICH.) REPUBLICAN.

We have carefully examined this monumental work, which commences with the original settlement of our country, and can hardly find language adequate to say enough in its favor. . . . . Mr. Greeley takes broad ground, but takes no one to take his ipse dixit. He gives day, date and authority, for every assertion that seems to require it.

FROM THE LANSING (MICH.) STATE REPUBLICAN.

Greeley has great power of condensation as a writer; he has never learned the art of using words without saying anything, and the reader may expect that, whether he agrees with the author or not, every page will be replete with facts or ideas.

FROM THE SOMERSET (N. J.) UNIONIST.

In analytic power, as well as in the mastery of details and their employment for synthetic uses, Mr. Greeley has few equals.

FROM THE TRENTON (N. J.) MONITOR.

The work is an array of facts, compiled from authentic sources, and the authorities given. There are no tirades against slavery, no encomiums upon abolition; the case is stated as it existed, the deductions are left to the reader.

FROM THE TRENTON (N. J.) GAZETTE AND REPUBLICAN.

We would be glad to see the American Conflict circulated in every township in New-Jersey; for when the people of this State are fully informed on the facts, and begin to do their own political thinking, there is no doubt that they will vote in such manner as to put an end to disloyalty, let it take whatever shape it will.

FROM THE R