## SOME NEW BOOKS.

### Sam Houston.

There have been several histories of Texas and several biographies of the man whose name is associated with the attainment of Texan independence, but what has been needed was the fusion of the stories in a single, compact narrative. This has been done in a thoroughly workmanlike way by Mr. ALFRED M. WILLIAMS, in a book called *Sam Houston and the War of Independence in Texas* (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). The author has not only availed himself of the historical and biographical material extant in print, but he has obtained a good deal of information at first hand from fresh sources, and he has brought to his task a degree of literary skill which has not hitherto been applied to the same subject. The treatment of his theme is distinguished not only for ability, but for a genuine and lively sympathy which the reader will not fail to share. It would, indeed, be difficult to name in American history a more picturesque figure than that of Samuel Houston, or a more romantic episode than the gallant struggle for self-government which, after some vicissitudes, made Texas an independent republic, and eventually a member of our Union. In the popular imagination Houston has long been coupled with Andrew Jackson, although he stands upon a lower plane, and had some weaknesses which the great Tennessecan did not share, as well as some qualifications, including a faculty for public speaking, which were lacking in the defender of New Orleans.

I.

It is remarkable that the two men most conspicuously connected with the struggle for Texan independence, Houston and Austin, were both natives of the Old Dominion. Samuel, or, as he always preferred to call himself, Sam, Houston was born on March 2, 1793, in Rockbridge county, Virginia. The Houston family was of Lowland Scotch origin of sufficient rank to have a coat of arms. But John Houston, the founder of the American branch, came to this country in 1689 from the north of Ireland, and settled in Philadelphia. His grandson, Robert Houston, removed to Rockbridge county, Virginia, and married a daughter of the Scotch family of Davidson. Robert's son, Samuel, inherited the estate and married a Miss Elizabeth Paxton, whose family had accompanied his own in the emigration from Ireland. The position of the Houston family in Virginia was not that of the manorial gentry of the seaboard and tidewater region, but should rather be described as that of the richer farmers of the interior, who constituted a class of independent yeomen, and lived in rude plenty, due largely to their own labor. Samuel Houston served with credit in Gen. Daniel Morgan's brigade of riflemen during the Revolutionary war, and, at its close, was appointed Major and Assistant Inspector-General of the frontier troops. After his death, which occurred in 1806, his widow determined to remove to the new settlements in Tennessee, and, with her nine children, Sam being then 13 years of age, she crossed the Alleghany Mountains and settled in Blount county, at a point eight miles east of the Tennessee River, which was then the boundary between the tribe of Cherokee Indians and their white neighbors. Here a cabin was built, a clearing was opened, and the family managed to live in the rude and toilsome frontier fashion.

It is manifest that Houston could only have obtained the most rudimentary schooling in a thinly peopled agricultural neighborhood like that of Rockbridge county, and that his opportunities for instruction must have been even smaller in a pioneer settlement like that of East Tennessee. Whatever education he acquired in his early youth must have been due to his active mind and fervid imagination eagerly feeding upon such books as fell in his way. The biographer tells us that among the few books which had come to the frontier settlement, tucked in pack saddles or in the corners of chests, was Pope's translation of the Iliad, and that this was devoured by the boy until he knew it nearly by heart. Such a book was an education in itself, for the artificiality of Pope's style could not entirely obscure the heroic and kindling vitality of the original. Throughout his life Houston continued to be a man of few books. It is said, however, that he read and appreciated Shakespeare and acquired some familiarity with the standard works of English classical literature; in his later years, after he became converted, he read the Bible so thoroughly that its phraseology tinged his oratory. It is interesting to learn that, when commander of the Texas army, he studied "Cæsar's Commentaries" for their lessons in the art of war. At the best, however, his reading was limited. What knowledge and wisdom he obtained came mainly from contact with men, and his persuasive eloquence and power of vigorous writing came from the native force of his mind, elevating and illuminating common speech rather than from any training in the methods and vocabulary of the masters of expression.

It was not long after the settlement of his family in east Tennessee that the first of his escapades took place. He had been placed as a clerk in a trader's store, but his spirit revolted at the tame life behind the counter, and one day he absconded and took up his abode with the Cherokees. There were in Houston's nature many of the characteristics of the Indians: his hot blood, strong passions and appetites; fondness for adventure and for the freedom of the wilderness; his solemnly childish vanity and turn for histrionic effects; as well as his personal impressiveness, his shrewdness in managing men and affairs, his eloquence, his loftiness of spirit, and his predominant qualities of determination and courage. The germs of these traits were doubtless visible in youth. At all events, Houston was made welcome to the Cherokee villages, and was adopted into the family of one of the sub-chiefs of the tribe. He thoroughly acquired the Cherokee language, wore the native dress, and became, to all intents and purposes, an Indian. He remained with the Cherokees until his eighteenth year, and it was not until he found himself in debt for the ammunition and trinkets which he had purchased from time to time that he returned to civilization. Curiously enough, considering his qualifications, he undertook to extinguish his debts by opening a country school, and, what is still more curious, he succeeded in his purpose, although he raised the price of tuition from $6 to $8 a year, one-third payable in cash, one-third in corn at 33 cents a bushel, and one-third in cotton goods, such as were used to make hunting shirts. Toward the close of his successful life, it happened that an old comrade said to him: "Now, Houston, you have been commander-in-chief of the Texan army, President of the republic, and Senator of the United States. In which of these offices, or at what period in your career have you felt the greatest pride and satisfaction?" "Well," replied Houston, "when a young man in Tennessee I kept a country school, being then about eighteen years of age, and a tall, strapping fellow. At noon, after the luncheon, which I and my pupils ate together, I would go out into the woods and cut me a 'sour wood' stick. With this emblem of ornament and authority in my hand, dressed in a hunting shirt of flowered calico, a long queue down my back, and the sense of domination over my pupils, I experienced a higher feeling of dignity and self-satisfaction than from any office or honor which I have since held." We should add that, after teaching for a time, Houston attended a session or two of the academy at Maryville, which completed all the education he ever received from schools.

II.

Soon after the war of 1812 broke out between the United States and Great Britain a recruiting party visited Maryville and Houston enlisted as a private soldier, being then in his twentieth year. He was made a sergeant the same day, and marched with his detachment to join one of the regiments which were to take part in the Creek war. He was not, however, left long in the ranks. An application having been made by his friends to President Madison for an appointment, he received a commission as Ensign, which reached him while the regiment was stationed at Knoxville. With the volunteer troops which had been called out under Gen. Jackson, he took part in the desperate battle of Tohopeka, which was fought in August, 1814. Here he displayed extraordinary gallantry. He was the first man of his regiment to gain the top of the enemy's breastworks, and, as he did so, was stricken with a barbed arrow in the thigh. Two attempts to extract the arrow having failed, it was, at last, pulled out by main strength, and a gaping and jagged wound was left, from which the blood gushed in a stream. Ordered to the rear by Jackson, Houston refused to obey, and, rushing to the front, was the only man who answered the call for volunteers to storm the ravine in which the last remnant of the Creeks had taken refuge. Unsupported, Houston dashed forward, but when within a few yards of the entrance received two bullets in his shoulder and had his upper right arm shattered. When Houston was borne from the field his wounds were pronounced by the surgeons necessarily fatal. They extracted one bullet, but the other was not removed until two years later, and the operation nearly cost him his life. The wound, indeed, never entirely healed, and constantly discharged until the day of his death. One is, of course, prepared to hear that his gallantry at Tohopeka caused his promotion to a Lieutenancy, but it is of more consequence to learn that his conduct in that battle gained for him Jackson's confidence and friendship, which he retained throughout his life. The Lieutenancy he resigned in 1818, having taken umbrage at some unwarranted attacks upon the motives which had prompted him to shield his old friends, the Cherokees, from spoliation at the hands of Indian agents.

After leaving the army, Houston determined to become a lawyer, and after six months' study was admitted to the bar. The qualifications for practice in Tennessee at the time were not so much a knowledge of the law and familiarity with legal procedure, as a flow of popular oratory and a determination to hold one's own against the fighting attorneys who were wont to supplement debate in the court room with a personal encounter outside. Houston never pretended to be a lawyer in the professional sense of the term. In Tennessee, and afterward in Texas, he was what was known as a political attorney, and did not profess to be anything else. That he soon became a figure in public life is evident from the fact that, about a year after his admission to the bar, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the district which included Nashville, and, four years later, was chosen a Representative to Congress. Houston served in Congress for four years without especial distinction, though he was known to be an earnest member of the Jackson wing of the Democratic party. It was during his second term that his duel with Gen. William White took place, a duel in which the latter was severely wounded, although Houston escaped untouched. It is recalled that, as they took their places, Houston slipped something into his mouth. That, as he afterward explained, was a bullet which he had put between his teeth on the advice of Andrew Jackson, who said that, on such occasions, it was good to have something in the mouth to bite on. Houston never fought again while sober, and was equally ready with a lofty assumption of dignity, or a joke, to avoid the necessity. To a challenge from a political inferior in Texas, he replied that he "never fought down hill." On another occasion, when called to account by a gentleman whom he had been denouncing, he said: "Why, H., I thought you were a friend of mine." "So I was; but I do not propose to be abused by you or anybody else." "Well, I should like to know," said Houston, "if a man can't abuse his friends, who in hell can he abuse?" and the affair ended in a laugh. Once in Texas, Houston and ex-President Burnett had an acrimonious newspaper controversy, in which they bandied epithets, until finally Houston accused Burnett of being a "hog thief." There was no retort in Texan phraseology capable of matching this, so Burnett sent a challenge to Houston. "What does he predicate the demand upon?" said Houston in his loftiest manner. The emissary replied that it was for his abuse of Mr. Burnett. "Hasn't he abused me to an equal degree? He has done so publicly and privately, until I am compelled to believe that the people are equally disgusted with both of us." Houston's dignity of manner overpowered the emissary, and he took back the challenge. Houston also rejected challenges from President Lamar, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, and Commodore Moore of the Texas navy, besides a good many others. On one occasion, being visited by a gentleman with a warlike message, he took the challenge and handed it to his private secretary with instructions to endorse it "Number fourteen," and file it away. He then informed the visitor that his affair must wait its turn until the previous thirteen had been disposed of. The present biographer considers it a wonder that Houston should have preserved his reputation for courage in such a community while persistently declining to fight. As a matter of fact, his courage seems never to have been seriously questioned. He had furnished his proofs.

III.

It was in 1827, at the age of 34, that Houston was elected Governor of Tennessee by a majority of 12,000, due partly to his personal popularity, but mainly to the fact that he was the representative of the personal party of Andrew Jackson. As to his appearance at the time of his election, we have the testimony of an eyewitness. "He wore on that day," says Col. Claiborne, "a tall, bell-crowned, medium-brimmed, shining, black beaver hat, shining black patent leather military stock or cravat encasing a standing collar, ruffled shirt, black satin vest, shining black silk pants, gathered to the waistband, with legs full, same size from seat to ankle, and a gorgeous red-brown, many-colored gown or Indian hunting shirt, fastened at the waist by a huge red sash, covered with fancy beadwork, with an immense silver buckle, embroidered silk stockings, and cuffs with large silver buckles. Mounted on a superb dapple gray horse, he appeared at the election unannounced, and was the observed of all observers." However fantastic may have been Houston's personal appearance, he exhibited practical good sense and statesmanship in the office of Governor. He was a candidate for reelection for a second term, and he would apparently have been successful but for a mysterious event which put an end to his political career in Tennessee, and apparently ruined him forever. On the 10th of April, 1829, he sent in his resignation of the office of Governor. It seems that in January of that year he had been married to a Miss Eliza Alden, the daughter of a rich and influential man, who had been numbered among his political adherents. After three months of marriage his wife left him and returned to her father's house. Houston wrote to her father asking him to persuade his wife to return, but she refused, and thereupon he determined to retire from politics and from civilization. The cause of the trouble between him and his wife has never been definitely revealed. His enemies circulated the most outrageous reports concerning his conduct, and the worst interpretation was put upon the mystery. For a time it seemed probable that he would be subjected to personal violence, but his friends rallied around him, and he left Nashville in secret, some say in disguise, to bury himself among the Cherokees, a portion of whom had removed from their homes in Tennessee to the Indian Territory. As to this matter, we need only add that nothing could ever be extracted from Houston as to the cause of the separation, even when he had lost his self-control from drink, and whenever he spoke of his wife it was in the most respectful terms. Mrs. Houston secured a divorce from him on the ground of abandonment, and married a Dr. Douglass. She always remained equally silent as to the cause of the separation of herself and her first husband.

Between 1829 and 1832 Houston dwelt in a settlement of the Cherokees at the mouth of the Illinois bayou, which flows into the Arkansas River. Here he found the chief who had formerly received him into his family, and through his influence he was formally adopted as a member of the tribe. In 1830 he visited Washington on their behalf and obtained redress for frauds which had been perpetrated by Indian agents. Two years later he again visited the Federal capital in the interest of the Cherokees, and deeming himself outraged by a reflection on his conduct made in the course of a debate by William Stanberry, a representative in Congress from Ohio, he attacked his slanderer in the street and gave him a severe beating. Arrested for a breach of privilege and brought to the bar of the House, he escaped with a reprimand, which was administered by the Speaker in a mild and perfunctory manner. Moreover, a committee appointed to investigate the affair, which had formed the basis of Stanberry's slur, made a report acquitting Houston of any fraudulent intent. On his return to the Indian Territory Houston passed through Tennessee, where he received an ovation, and was pressed to remain and reënter public life. He never expressed any regret for his assault on Stanberry, but, on the contrary, said, alluding to it: "I was dying out once, and had they taken me before a Justice of the Peace and fined me ten dollars for assault and battery, it would have killed me; but they gave me a national tribunal for a theatre, and that set me up again." There is no doubt that during his residence in the Indian Territory the ex-Governor of Tennessee sank to a low depth of degradation in personal habits. His tall form was often seen stretched in a state of helpless intoxication in the paths about the cantonment of Fort Gibson, and the Indians changed his name of Co-lon-neh to the more expressive one of Big Drunk. Falling in love with a half-breed Cherokee woman named Tyania Rodgers, he took up with her in the Indian fashion as his wife, and, but for occasional stirrings of a better spirit, seemed likely to drop irreparably to the level of the border "squaw man." Houston had no children by this woman, but that he was sincerely attached to her is evident from the fact that he sent for her to join him after his removal to Texas. She refused, however, to leave her people, and died a few years afterward in the Indian Territory. We may say here that to the end of his life Houston remained a sincere and efficient friend of the Cherokees. When in power in Texas, and afterward as a Senator of the United States, he rendered them many valuable services. His memory is still fresh among them, and his name is perpetuated as an honored patronymic, like that of William Penn.

IV.

It was toward the close of 1832 that Houston went to Texas with a commission from President Jackson to arrange treaties with the Comanches and other wild tribes for the protection of American settlers on the border. The biographer deems it probable that there was also a secret understanding that he was to examine the condition of the country, with the view of ascertaining the power of the people to throw off the authority of Mexico, and their disposition in regard to annexation to the United States. The existence of such an understanding may be inferred from a letter to Jackson printed in this volume, in which Houston declares that Texas would undoubtedly separate from the Mexican Confederacy, and, unless annexed to the United States, would become an English province. He informs Jackson of his purpose to accept the invitation of the citizens of Nacogdoches, the principal town in eastern Texas, to take up his residence among them. This he did, and soon afterward, on the outbreak of the struggle for independence, he was elected Commander-in-Chief of the forces in eastern Texas, and at once engaged in organizing and forwarding volunteers. He took part in the organization of a civil government for Texas at San Felipe, and it was with reference to his appearance on this occasion, when he still wore his Indian dress of a blanket and buckskin, that Jackson is reported to have said that he "thanked God that there was one man, at least, in Texas whom the Almighty had the making of, and not the tailor." It was due to a speech made by Houston that the Convention at San Felipe, instead of declaring absolute independence, issued a manifesto intended to conciliate the Liberal party in Mexico, as well as to correct the impression current in the United States that the revolt of the Texans was a filibuster movement originating in a conspiracy of slaveholders. Under the provisional Government established by this Convention Stephen S. Austin was made a Commissioner to the United States, and Sam Houston was made Commander-in-Chief. Houston proceeded to draw up a plan for the organization of the army, and he had the active assistance of the Governor, but the Council delayed passing the necessary ordinances for a recruiting service, and the quarrel which presently broke out brought about a state of anarchy in Texas, paralyzed Houston's efforts, and prevented the creation of any adequate force to resist Santa Anna's expected invasion. Then came the capture of San Antonio by the forces of Santa Anna, and the siege of the fortress of the Alamo, where 2,500 Mexicans were held at bay by 145 Texans until all of the latter lost their lives. It is said that the loss of the Mexicans in this affair was between 300 and 500 killed. It is certain that the cost of taking the Alamo ought to have taught Santa Anna that the subjection of the Texan colonists was an impossible task. By the new Convention, which met on March 1, 1835, a declaration of independence was adopted, and Houston was unanimously reelected Commander-in-Chief. He now experienced less difficulty in collecting soldiers, owing to the outburst of wrath and indignation caused by the fall of the Alamo and the subsequent massacre at Goliad, where 320 prisoners of war were murdered in cold blood by the Mexicans. It was Houston who commanded at San Jacinto, where 630 Mexicans were killed and 208 wounded out of a total of between 1,300 and 1,400 engaged. The number of Texans in this battle, which achieved their independence, was only 743. All the arms, baggage, and camp equipage of the Mexicans fell into the hands of the victors, and Santa Anna himself, the President of the Mexican republic, was made a prisoner. The first words of Santa Anna when he was brought into Houston's tent were, "That man may consider himself born to no common destiny who has conquered the Napoleon of the West. It now remains for him to be generous to the vanquished." Houston replied: "You should have remembered that at the Alamo," and went on to inform him that he had no authority to treat for his release or for terms of peace, but that the matter must be referred to the Government of Texas. A treaty was ultimately made, providing for a cessation of hostilities and an interchange of prisoners, and supplemented with a secret agreement that Santa Anna should procure the acknowledgment of the independence of Texas. But for the protest, however, which Houston sent from New Orleans, whither he had been carried for the cure of a wound, this agreement would not have been fulfilled, the Texans clamoring for the execution of Santa Anna, whom they justly held responsible for the slaughter of the Alamo and the massacre at Goliad. It was foreseen that Santa Anna, as soon as he returned to Mexico, would repudiate the agreement, and, as a matter of fact, the Mexican Congress had previously passed a decree that all treaties and conventions subscribed by Santa Anna while he was a prisoner would be null and void.

V.

At the general election held on July 23, 1836, for a President and Congress to take the place of the provisional Government, Houston was chosen Chief Magistrate by a very large majority, and, in the subsequent October, took possession of the office. He administered the executive functions with remarkable sagacity. It was due to him that Santa Anna was eventually released and sent under an escort to Washington by way of New Orleans. A few months after he became President, the independence of Texas was recognized by the United States, but this act was accompanied by a notification that the question of annexation could not then be considered by the American Government. The British Ministry, although for the time being they refused to recognize the new republic, agreed to make a special commercial treaty with it, and a similar arrangement was made with France. The army, which was insubordinate, was first practically disbanded and then reorganized, Albert Sidney Johnston being appointed senior Brigadier-General. His rival for the post, however, promptly challenged him, and in the ensuing duel wounded Johnston in the hip and incapacitated him from service for some time. Thereafter the successful duellist was allowed to retain his position at the head of the army until Houston outgeneralled him by giving a furlough to nearly all the troops, and virtually forced him to return to the United States.

Houston's manner of life as President of the republic of Texas is described as a singular compound of ceremonial dignity and frontier primitiveness, resembling, in fact, that of an aboriginal potentate. He habitually lived in a log cabin, where he would treat all comers with frank and ready familiarity, but, on certain occasions, he would put on airs of state, and, when he gave audience to agents of foreign nations, is reported to have worn a sort of velvet robe. He still kept up his drinking habits, and was king of the roysterers as well as of the counsellors, without losing, apparently, the respect of the community. Eventually, his second wife, whom he married in 1840, reformed his habits of drinking and swearing, and they were abandoned.

The Constitution of the Texan republic made the President ineligible for two succeeding terms, and in 1838 Houston was succeeded by Mirabeau B. Lamar. It was during Lamar's administration that a convention was concluded with Lord Palmerston for the recognition of Texan independence on the condition that Texas would assume one million dollars of the debt due by Mexico to the English bondholders. The example of Great Britain was followed by France, Holland, and Belgium. The attempt, however, to obtain a loan from European capitalists failed, and the finances of Texas sank into a deplorable condition under Lamar's administration. The public debt of the republic was increased by nearly $5,000,000, whereas $100,000 had covered the expenses of the Government during Houston's term. The redeeming feature of the Lamar régime was the impulse given to a system of public education by a grant of land for the university and an appropriation from the public domain to each county for the establishment of schools.

In December, 1841, Houston was inaugurated President of Texas for the second time, and proceeded to carry out a programme of economy. At his suggestion, his own salary was reduced from $10,000 to $5,000, and the pay of other civil officers was cut down in a like proportion. That his purpose of retrenchment was sincere and rigorously carried out is proved by the fact that, during his three years' term, the payments from the Treasury amounted to less than four hundred and forty thousand dollars. In 1842, Santa Anna, who had again become master of Mexico, felt constrained by public opinion to make at least a pretence of renewing the invasion of Texas, but the war between him and Houston was, for the most part, carried on by paper missiles. In June, 1843, President Houston sent a despatch to the Texan Minister at Washington directing him to make known the friendly proffers made by European Governments, and to withdraw the application of Texas for annexation to the United States. The obvious design of this despatch was to put pressure upon certain lukewarm members of Congress, and it was followed by an attempt to induce Houston to renew the application. Houston desired to know whether the United States could be depended on to protect Texas from invasion while the negotiations were going on. No direct answer was given to this question, but Houston was assured that the necessary two-thirds of the Senators would vote to ratify a treaty, and he was told by the United States diplomatic agent in Texas that the Washington Government would not permit the interference of Mexico or any other power while the negotiations were pending. Houston accepted these assurances as sufficient, and appointed a special commissioner to renew the proposal for annexation. The projected treaty to that end was submitted to the Senate with a commendatory message from President Tyler, but it was rejected by a vote of 35 to 16. No sooner was the treaty thus repudiated by the United States than the British Government acted. Lord Aberdeen proposed to the Texan Minister in London an agreement to which five powers, Great Britain, France, the United States, Texas, and Mexico, should be parties. The purpose of this agreement was to assure the permanent independence of Texas, that republic pledging itself not to unite with any other nation. France agreed to join with Great Britain in compelling the assent of Mexico. Houston professed to favor this plan, and even sent instructions to Anson Jones, the Texan Secretary of State, to close with the offer of Great Britain and France; but, as he permitted the instructions to be disobeyed, it is presumed that he was still playing the game of the annexationists, and was willing that his protégé, Jones, who had just been elected the next President of Texas, should have the credit of concluding a treaty with the United States. There is no doubt, however, that at the close of 1844 a majority of the people of Texas regarded the annexation programme as hopeless, and the prevailing opinion is reflected in Houston's last message to the Texan Congress. "The United States," he wrote, "have spurned Texas twice already. Let her, therefore, firmly maintain her position as it is, and work out her own political salvation. Let her legislation proceed upon the principle that we are to be and to remain an independent people. If Texas goes begging again for admission to the United States, she will only degrade herself." Meanwhile, however, the apprehension that Texas would be bound to Great Britain and France by their guarantee of her independence aroused alarm and jealousy in the United States, and public sentiment there turned decidedly in favor of annexation. In the Democratic National Convention James K. Polk was nominated as an avowed advocate of annexation, and he was subsequently elected on that issue. On Feb. 14, 1845, a joint resolution was adopted by both Houses of Congress for the admission of Texas into the Union. The invitation was accepted by the Texan Congress with only one dissenting vote, that of Richard Bache, a grandson of Benjamin Franklin; and, on Oct. 14, 1845, Texas ceased to be a republic, and became one of the United States. Samuel Houston and Thomas J. Rusk were chosen to represent the new State in the Senate at Washington.

VI.

The American Senate, when Houston entered it, in March, 1846, had among its members a larger number of distinguished and able statesmen than it had ever had before or has had since. Besides the great leaders, Clay, Webster, and Calhoun, there were many other men scarcely less conspicuous, among whom may be mentioned Thomas H. Benton, Lewis Cass, Thomas Corwin, Daniel S. Dickenson, and Reverdy Johnson. Owing to his romantic career and his picturesque appearance Houston became at once a marked figure in the Senate chamber. He remained unconventional in dress, wearing a broad-brimmed white hat of soft fur and draping himself in a cloak with a red lining, or in a bright-colored Mexican blanket. He was accustomed to whittle a cypress or pine shingle during the debates. Having none of the modesty which induces a new Senator to conform to usage and remain silent during his first session, he delivered his first speech just a fortnight after he had taken his seat. Although, at times, forcible in language, his first speech did not indicate that he was likely to take his place among the leaders of the Senate. Not long afterward, he gave great offence to the slave owners by joining Benton in advocating a bill prohibiting the establishment of slavery in Oregon. In 1846, Houston declared himself in favor of the admission of California as a free State, thereby still further exasperating the Southern faction which had counted on controlling the territory acquired by the Mexican war. There is no evidence, however, that the people of Texas disapproved of his action at the time. There was, as yet, no large slave-holding element in the Texan population, and the feeling of loyalty to the Union was still fresh and strong. We should add that Houston voted for the abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and was an earnest supporter of the Clay Compromise measures. In January, 1853, he was reelected Senator by the Legislature of Texas without any formidable opposition. This made him, owing to the defeat of Benton in Missouri, the sole conspicuous representative in the Senate of the old Jackson or Union Democracy from the South. He remained, however, steadfast in his principles, and opposed the Nebraska bill vehemently and unflinchingly. He and John Bell of Tennessee were the only Senators from Southern States who voted against the measure. The silence which he subsequently maintained during the troubles in Kansas may be due, as the biographer suggests, to the fact that he regarded them as simply the fulfillment of his own prophecies of evil. It is not equally easy to defend his silence in regard to the attack upon Sumner in the Senate chamber. It is true that Houston had seen such methods of carrying on political controversies before, and given an example of them in his own person, so that he was hardly in a position to reprimand them severely. But he had assailed Stanberry face to face in the street, and he must have revolted at the mingled brutality and cowardice of Brooks's attack upon an unarmed and unwarned man, seated, and practically pinioned, at his desk.

In 1856 there was a movement for the nomination of Houston to the Presidency. The General Committee of the Democracy of New Hampshire urged his nomination as the people's candidate on the ground mainly of his opposition to the repeal of the Missouri compromise. Houston made a sort of electioneering tour in some of the principal cities of the North, but he could not get the nomination of the Know Nothing party because he refused to vote for any bill to prohibit Roman Catholics from holding office. In the South his opposition to the extreme slave-holding element was equally fatal to his political ambition. There was no room in the Democratic Convention of 1856 for a Southern man with Northern principles; what was wanted was a Northern man with Southern principles, and accordingly Pierce was selected. Houston lost even his seat in the Senate at this time, being defeated for reelection in the Legislature of 1857. The biographer is doubtless justified in attributing this defeat to lack of any special effort on his part, for two years later, when he took the stump, he swept his State against a far more formidable opposition.

VII.

We have said that the State election of 1859 demonstrated Houston's tremendous hold upon the common people. He had been put forward for Governor by the Unionists, but the nominee of the secession Democracy had behind him all the party machinery, most of the conspicuous public men, and the influential newspapers. These united forces were defeated by Houston almost single handed. His triumph, however, was rather that of his personal influence than of the union sentiment. The secessionists elected a majority of the Legislature and almost all the executive officers. In the Presidential election of 1860 Houston took no active part. He was opposed to Lincoln as the representative of Northern aggression against slavery. He was equally opposed to Breckinridge and Douglas, having vowed never to vote for any man who had supported the Nebraska bill. He saw no chance for the election of Bell, and, besides, did not consider him a competent man for the Presidency. In a private letter he declared he stood with folded arms as to the candidates, and could see no way out of the difficulty except by the election of members of the electoral colleges who would be pledged to vote for a Union man regardless of the official nominees. On Sept. 22, 1860, there was a Union mass meeting at Austin, and Houston rose from his sick bed to address it. He declared that the possible triumph of the Republican party would not be a sufficient cause for the dissolution of the Union, and went on to utter words of wisdom which the South must now read with a sad heart. "If," he said, "through division in the ranks of those opposed to Mr. Lincoln, he should be elected, we have no excuse for dissolving the Union. The Union is worth more than Mr. Lincoln, and, if a battle is to be fought for the Constitution, let us fight it in the Union and for the sake of the Union. With a majority of the people in favor of the Constitution, shall we desert the Government and leave it in the hands of a minority? A new obligation will be imposed upon us to guard the Constitution and to see that no infraction of it is attempted or permitted. If Mr. Lincoln administers the Government in accordance with the Constitution, our rights must needs be respected. If he does not, the Constitution provides a remedy." Outside of Texas, Houston's efforts to uphold the Union excited wrath and indignation among the slaveholders. He was denounced everywhere as a traitor to the South. Senator Wigfall said in Virginia what he would scarcely have ventured to say in Texas, that Houston ought to be tarred and feathered and driven from the State. Senator Iverson of Georgia went so far as to hint at his assassination. He said: "Some Texan Brutus may arise to rid his country of this old hoary-headed traitor." When the Texan State Convention met on Jan. 28, 1861, the secessionist legislature promptly adopted a resolution recognizing its authority, and Houston as promptly vetoed the resolution, on the ground that the election of the Convention had been illegal. The resolution, however, was passed over his veto, and the Convention immediately adopted an ordinance of secession by a vote of 167 to 7. Houston's subsequent course showed that he preferred to submit to secession rather than involve the State in civil war, although the biographer suggests that, if he had been supported by the Federal Government before the movement became so strong, he might have resisted it. The ground for this suggestion is the statement made by a Texan merchant that Houston, who was an intimate friend, informed him that President Lincoln, although not yet inaugurated, had sent him a message that he should have all the help he wanted as soon as Lincoln took office, if he could only hold the State until then. Houston went on to say that Gen. Twiggs, commanding the United States troops on the Rio Grande, "has agreed to do what he can to help me. I have 800 men waiting to come at a word. Volunteers will come in. I am sure that I can, with the aid of Gen. Twiggs, hold Texas against any force the Confederacy may send." It turned out, however, that Twiggs refused to deliver the arms and munitions under his control, and the following is the same merchant's account of an interview with Houston after the latter had received Twiggs's reply to his demand: "The instant the Governor had locked me with him in his inner office, he turned to me with rage in his face. 'Sir,' said he to me, in a manner and tone which I can never forget, 'Twiggs is a traitor.' Then he sank down into his chair, the tears trickling down his countenance, and sobbed like a child." It is satisfactory to remember that Twiggs was dismissed from the army for treachery immediately after the surrender of his troops and supplies to the secessionists.

It was on the eve of the day when the ordinance of secession was to be submitted to the people of Texas that Houston made his last appeal for the Union. It was at Galveston, the hotbed of secession, that he spoke, in spite of warnings that he would be mobbed. His fearless bearing intimidated his opponents, but his voice could not stem the tide. It is noteworthy that he predicted the disasters which would follow secession and the defeat of the South. He said: "Some of you laugh to scorn the idea of bloodshed as the result of secession, and jocularly propose to drink all the blood that will ever flow in consequence of it. But let me tell you what is coming on the heels of secession. The time will come when your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers, will be herded together like sheep and cattle at the point of the bayonet, and your mothers and wives and sisters and daughters will ask, Where are they? And echo will answer, Where? You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of precious lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence, if God be not against you, but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of State rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people, as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction where great interests are involved, such as the present issue before the country, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche; and what I fear is they will overwhelm the South with ignoble defeat." Nevertheless, Houston said in conclusion he should abide by the action of his State. On the ground, however, that the Convention, while empowered to submit the question of secession to the people, had no authority to unite Texas with the Confederate States, he declined to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. When the day came to take the oath the presiding officer of the Convention called three times, "Sam Houston, Sam Houston, Sam Houston," but the Governor remained in his office in the basement of the Capitol whittling a pine stick. He was thereupon declared deposed from his office, and one Edward Clark was installed as Governor. An enemy wrote of this incident: "Houston has sunk out of sight, leaving not a ripple on the surface." It is true that he retired to private life, declining to fight against the Union or against the people of his State. He refused the offer of a Major-General's commission from President Lincoln, and when his eldest son entered the Confederate service he fitted him out with arms and equipments, though he is said to have told his son jocosely that the most appropriate place for his secession rosette would be on the inside of the tail of his coat. There is no doubt that Houston's later years were passed in poverty, but he was not destined to witness the fulfilment of his foreboding as to the fate of the Confederacy. He died soon after the fall of Vicksburg, on July 26, 1863.

VIII.

A chapter of this biography is devoted to Houston's personal characteristics. We have already touched on most of these, but a word should be said about the kindliness of his nature. His manners to women were remarkably courteous and deferential. We are told that his word of address was not "Madam," but "Lady," and no matter what might be a woman's rank or station the politeness and consideration which he showed to her would be the same. We are assured that this was not affectation, but sprang from a genuine impulse of respect and chivalric feeling. His family affections were deep and strong. His second wife, to whom he owed so much for her influence upon his personal habits, was regarded with profound love and reverence. The biographer borrows Hawthorne's phrase to make us understand the charm of his manner toward the young: he had, we are told, a smile which children loved, and gained their confidence and affection at once. He was fond of playing with children, and of telling them stories, and was constantly engaged in whittling out toys for them from his supplies of pine sticks. His own children were brought up in freedom and confidence, and at the same time with a judicious education and training. His slaves were kindly treated, and were, in a measure, members of the family. He was generous and helpful to all persons in distress, and what money and property he had were at the call of all who needed assistance. It is recorded that he once pulled off his coat and gave it to a ragged soldier who had served at San Jacinto, and his acts of charity were numerous and spontaneous.

Although the present biographer regards the figure of Sam Houston with sincere and lively sympathy, it is not denied that the limitations of his character forbid his being reckoned among the world's great men. It is submitted, however, that he was a strong man, capable of great achievements, practical minded in spite of eccentricities and weaknesses, with wise conceptions of statesmanship and politics, determined and courageous, and devoted to the welfare of his people. There will never be another Sam Houston in American history, for the state of society which produced him has passed away. A type of his time and circumstances, he rose above them by his capacity and energy. There were others like him, but he surpassed them all, except his prototype, Andrew Jackson. M. W. H.

## TROUBLE BREWING IN HAYTI.

### Signs of Impending Revolutionary Uprisings in the Black Republic.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept. 5.—Hayti seems to be on the verge of fresh treasonable turmoils and troublous times, according to the latest news here from the neighboring black republic. This island is apt to be the best place for obtaining Haytian news before it becomes history. It is the headquarters of the Haytian revolutionists, from whom much important information, naturally not obtainable in the republic itself, is learned. Most of the white merchants of Hayti have correspondents here, and to the latter news of actual affairs in Hayti comes by mail which the writers would not care to discuss on Haytian territory. Besides there is close communication between the two islands and considerable travel, and some of the newspapers here have reliable correspondents in Haytian centres.

The Haytian revolutionists, who style themselves "Haytian Patriots"—they might best be styled simply the "Outs," for most every Haytian who is put out or left out of office at any one of the periodical revolutions comes over here and becomes a "Patriot"—have recently been giving signs of considerable activity. Some time ago the several factions became united, and in one way and another it became known that a "movement" was probable in the near future. The revolutionists have been keeping quiet and talking little lately, which may possibly mean much more than their occasional garrulity does.

The news coming direct from the republic in the past few days is that President Hippolyte and his Government are giving many signs that they believe the volcano on which Haytian governments are founded is working again and that an eruption is probable. Port-au-Prince is full of revolutionary rumors and its residents are filled with excited anticipation. On the streets all sort of stories in which the revolutionary leaders Ten Prophete, Manigat, Piquant, and Canal figure are retailed in the stores and cafés. The Government has been displaying unusual vigilance in the surveillance of suspects. Four Haytian women, who have been resident in this city for some time, went to Port-au-Prince a short time ago and were promptly arrested as they left the steamer and placed in prison, where they still were a week ago.

Within the past month the Minister of the Interior has called upon a number of foreigners in the capital, including some of the leading merchants of the city, and informed them that the Government had reasons to suspect them of planning to disturb the public peace, or giving aid to such plotters. He notified them that if "their treasonable conduct" was continued they would be expelled the country.

A correspondent of the *Gleaner* of this city writes from Port-au-Prince that the season's coffee crop looks promising, which is one of the best evidences that there may be truth in the rumors of unrest in Hayti. The coffee crop is the backbone of revolution, and it may be noticed that revolutions rarely occur in the Central American States or Hayti until the coffee crop has been safely harvested. When the peasants have gathered their crops and paid their taxes there is money in the treasury to enlist the patriotism of the military revolutionists in an uprising against the tyrant "Ins."

Business is reported slow in Hayti just now, with money scarce and work still scarcer. The business community is uneasy over the silver question. There is a feeling that if the United States Congress does not afford some relief in the monetary question, Hayti will be flooded with American depreciated silver, to the detriment of the island's financial prosperity. The Government is trying to get the Chambers' consent to the negotiation of a loan, so that it may "pay off outstanding indebtedness."

## THE FLIRT.

### That is to Say, the Person Who Plays at Courtship.

Do you see the lady?
I do see the lady.
What is she doing?
She is talking to the man.
What is she talking about?
A little of everything.
He seems to be quite interested.
He is.
Is he her husband?
Oh, no.
Has she a husband?
She may have, or may not.
They appear almost like sweethearts.
But they are not; at least the woman isn't.
Why not she?
She's a flirt.
What's that?
Something no woman ought to be.
There are many things no woman ought to be, aren't there?
Yes, and this is three or four of them.
Yet you do not say just what a flirt is?
That's because it is an almost indefinable word. I might, at a venture, say a flirt is an emotional liar.
You mean one who assumes an emotion though she have it not?
Yes, that emotion being the tender passion.
She makes believe she loves a man