

conformity! I do not wish to take a cabin passage, but rather to go before the mast and on the deck of the world, for there I could best see the moonlight amid the mountains. I do not wish to go below now.

I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. He will put some things behind, will pass an invisible boundary; universal, and more liberal laws will begin to establish themselves around and within him; or the old laws be expanded, and interpreted in his favor in a more liberal sense, and he will live with the freedom of a higher order of beings. In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness. If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.

BOOKS

TO ABOLISH STATE BOUNDARIES.

The States-Rights Fetish: A Plea for Real Nationalism. By Henry Leffmann. Published by the Author, 1817 N. 17th St., Philadelphia. 1913. Price, 50 cents.

This as a 63-page argument favoring the abolition of State governments. Under the caption "Baleful Effects of Jeffersonian Theories" is contained a review of the events leading up to what the author terms the "War between the States." He not only charges this war up to the doctrine of States rights, but he shows that it could never have gained such rapid headway in the absence of State governments. "Before Lincoln's administration was six months old," he says, "a new compact had been formed and the nation was ablaze with war. Nothing is more certain than that the extent and rapidity of secession were promoted by the existence of separate States with all the attributes of sovereignty."

The strongest claim made for State sovereignty is that decentralization of power is necessary to liberty. Yet the first eight Amendments to the United States Constitution, "containing probably the most concise and comprehensive code of personal liberty ever given to the world" are thru "the blighting hand of State sovereignty" no protection against encroachments on the citizen's liberty by the States, for any State can "deprive its citizens and the citizens of all other States that may be within its borders, of all rights vouchsafed by the Amendments." These Amendments have "been held by a long line of authorities" to apply only

where the Federal government seeks to invade the rights of the citizen.

The States can and have abridged the freedom guaranteed under the so-called Bill of Rights contained in these eight Amendments. "In the early days of the Union" in some States even "the right to vote and hold office was given only to those professing Christianity; indeed, in some," the particular brand of Christianity was designated. Jews were under civil disabilities in Maryland as late as 1825.

The waste and unnecessary expenditure involved in the duplication of State and Federal activities are not to be overlooked. The pure food acts are good illustrations of these evils. The national pure food law reversed the rule laid down in the Mosaic law: "Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou mayest sell it unto an alien." Deut. 14:21. The reversal of this scriptural rule resulted in dumping all the inferior and adulterated food products on the consumers of the State in which they were manufactured, forcing the States to enact their own health laws and to provide food commissions, inspectors and health officers. Other expensive State commissions of almost endless variety have also been provided. The burden of taxes imposed by reason of more than a score of such commissions in every State is becoming an intolerable burden on the taxpayers. These functions could all be much better performed by the Federal government with practically none of the cost entailed by State administration.

The author concludes the book with an outline of his methods for national administration. He would divide the country somewhat on the plan devised for the regional banks, providing, however, for the maintenance of the present corporate existence of cities. He would "increase the function of local self-government, relegating to the individual communities many powers and duties belonging to State governments and often very badly administered by these." If municipal home rule can only be obtained by the sacrifice of State governments—it may well be said "it's worth the price."

E. J. BATTEN.



JESUS AND HIS TEACHINGS.

Out of the Muck. By Lincoln Steffens. Published by Hillacre Bookhouse, Riverside, Conn., 1913. Price, 25 cents.

There was printed in Everybody's Magazine* in December, 1911, what Mr. Ridgeway called "the most remarkable Christmas contribution I have ever read." It was a letter from Lincoln Steffens written in defense of his challenged statement—made in the course of an editorial discussion on censorship—that Jesus was "against the use of

*See The Public, vol. xiv, p. 1249; vol. xv, p. 42.