

Roosevelt vs. Fiske.

In the Herald were published some weeks ago the opinions expressed by President Theodore Roosevelt, in his most strenuous language, of some of his predecessors in the White house. It is interesting to compare them with the opinions expressed by one of the greatest American historians, the late John Fiske.

Here, for instance, is Mr. Roosevelt's opinion of Thomas Jefferson: "The scholarly, timid and shifty doctrinaire . . . was the father of nullification and therefore of secession. . . . Cheap pseudo-classicism that he borrowed from the French revolutionists. . . . Constitutionally unable to put a proper value on truthfulness." Mr. Fiske, Massachusetts Yankee as he was, calls Jefferson "the conservative reformer," and says "as a political leader we have hardly seen his equal."

Mr. Roosevelt says that Martin Van Buren "faithfully served the mammon of unrighteousness. . . . Succeeded because of and not in spite of his moral shortcomings." Mr. Fiske says: "Van Buren had a more philosophical and luminous view of the proper sphere and functions of government, in its relations to the people, than any other American statesman since Jefferson. The mantle of Jefferson fell upon Van Buren and it was to Jackson's credit that he took that statesman into his innermost councils."

Mr. Roosevelt says of President Tyler: "He has been called a mediocre man; but this is unwarranted flattery. He was a politician of monumental littleness. . . . His chief mental and moral attributes were peevishness, fretful obstinacy, inconsistency, incapacity to make up his own mind, together with inordinate vanity." Mr. Fiske says: "While we cannot call him a great man . . . he is not so trivial a personage as his detractors would have us believe. He was honest and courageous. . . . If he was small as compared with Jackson and Van Buren he was great as compared with Pierce and Buchanan.—Columbia (Mo.) Herald.

THE SONG OF THE SIREN.



"The sailing hour has come and gone, but still the captain dallies."

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