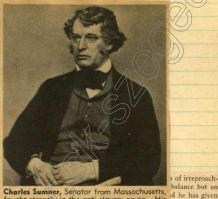
Summer, Charles



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CHARLES SUMNER AND THE COMING OF THE CIVIL WAR, by David Donald (Knopf). A biography of the frenzied abolitionist and pioneer Republican senator from Massachusetts. Summer was an almost insufferable man pompous, petulant, mendacious, ungenerous. Lincoln, at their first meeting, found him "my idea of bishop," and Carl Sandburg has described him as the "perfect impersonation of what the South wanted to secede from." He was, additionally, more a politician than a statesman, and more a hyperbolic ocator (in one of his marathon flights he referred to the Kansas-Nebraska bill as "a soulless, eycless monster-horrid, unshapely, and vast") than either. He was, how-Vever, a ferociously influential figure, and an extremely fascinating one. It is our good fortune that he has succeeded in fascinating Mr. Donald. For Mr. Donald is a rarity among American historical biographers, be-

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