

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES

The Two Franklins: Fathers of American Democracy. By Bernard Faÿ.
(Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1933. Pp. xvi, 397. Illustrations. \$3.50).

The title of this volume is a misnomer as there is little in the work about Benjamin Franklin that had not been dealt with already in the author's life of Franklin, save for the account of his association with his grandson. It might well have been called "The Life and Political Influence of Benjamin Franklin Bache," as this is its main theme. The introductory chapter naturally recounts the facts in the early life and education of Bache, and his association with his famous grandfather. Mr. Faÿ's thesis is that historians have attributed too much weight to Jefferson's influence in the rise and the development of the Democratic-Republican party and have overlooked the importance of the work of Franklin's grandson, the editor and publisher of the *Aurora*, which has been well nigh forgotten. Mr. Faÿ considers Jefferson "was the oracle of the party,—not its leader. He guided the party but he did not belong to the party." The author thus believes that Benjamin Franklin Bache and his associates were the real creators of public opinion which led to the formation of the opposition party.

It appears to the reviewer that in his effort to prove his contention Mr. Faÿ has gone to the other extreme and minimizes the influence and leadership of Jefferson. The volume, however, serves a useful purpose in reviewing the series of stirring events, particularly in our foreign relations, which excited both the people and their leaders during the decade 1790 to 1800, and which the author calls the "Second American Revolution." Owing to Mr. Faÿ's familiarity with the French archives, we had anticipated that he might give us a fresh treatment, in the light of the same, of the Genet Mission, the Jay Treaty, the X. Y. Z. Affair and other phases of the Franco-American relations of these eventful years. In this, however, we are disappointed. The author somewhere expresses the hope that the book would present "a true picture of the political party fights" in the United States. This hope has been realized. He deals in detail with the newspaper controversy of the period and especially with the part that Bache played in the attacks on Washington and Adams and their administrations, and his influence in promoting the rise of an opposition party, through the column of the *Aurora*. He also presents a review of several of the other leading papers of the day, particularly the work of William Cobbett in the *Porcupine Gazette*. This paper defended administrative measures, and vigorously attacked Bache, who replied in kind. The newspaper controversy reached a degree of bitterness and coarseness that has hardly been equalled since.

Mr. Faÿ, always readable, writes in an interesting and vivacious style, but almost too vivacious, for at times he makes use not only of colloquial lan-

guage, but also of "slangy" and even coarse terms, perhaps unconsciously having been influenced by the language of the contemporary newspapers. One of many examples will indicate this tendency. "They [the Elite] were highly annoyed to find that all the rabble whom they had required to do the revolutionary job, tar and feather the English, whoop after officials, chase Loyalists and serve in the army, all that lousy mob, who had drunk deep draughts of the revolutionary intoxicant still seemed to believe in it." (p. 79). It seems undignified to habitually refer to his chief character, as "Benny" Bache. Another objectionable habit of the author, is to make use of clever and racy characterizations which tend to belittle or satirize some of the leading characters in our history, as the following examples will illustrate. In referring to Washington the author writes: "He had not enough imagination to become king, and he had too much sense to become Prime Minister. He preferred hunting and growing pumpkins." (p. 80). Of John Adams he writes his "belly was bigger than his prestige." (p. 276). It is such expressions that have led some of the real friends of Mr. Fay to fear that he has identified himself with the school of "debunkers."

The work is enriched with sixteen illustrations, including silhouettes of Franklin, members of the Bache family, and others. Especially interesting are the reproduction of a number of political caricatures of the period.

The author appends a valuable fifteen page essay on the bibliography and notes to his authorities, and mentions his especial indebtedness to the Bache Collection of Manuscripts.

HERMAN V. AMES.

The Philadelphia Theatre in the Eighteenth Century. By Thomas Clark Pollock. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1933. Pp. xviii, 445. \$5.00).

Students of the drama and especially those interested in the history of the drama in the United States will welcome Professor Pollock's brief but discriminating account of *The Philadelphia Theatre in the Eighteenth Century* to which he adds a comprehensive day book of the stage for the same period. This is the first volume, at least chronologically, of a series relating to the history of the Philadelphia stage from its beginnings to the present in process of publication under the direction of Professor Arthur Hobson Quinn of the University of Pennsylvania and takes its place besides such recent works as Professor Quinn's *A History of the American Drama from the Beginning to the Civil War*, Eola Willis' *The Charleston Stage in the Eighteenth Century*, and G. C. D. Odell's *Annals of the New York Stage*. In the preparation of the volume under review, the author fortunately was able to utilize, among varied sources of information, Charles Durang's "The Philadelphia Stage, From the Year 1749 to the Year 1855", that appeared in the *Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch* beginning with the issue of May 7, 1854.

Professor Pollock indicates the difficulties that faced the early promoters of the stage in Philadelphia, having to contend especially with the determined opposition of Quakers in control of the provincial assembly who, from 1700

onward, sought to place in the statute book a law against the giving of plays but who were repeatedly thwarted by the English Privy Council. It is uncertain whether these early attempts at legislation were aimed at those already giving theatrical performances or were due to the fear that unless precautions were taken the Province would be invaded by bands of strolling players as had already been the case with respect to New York and Virginia. However, by 1723, at the latest, a stage existed on the outskirts of the city with Mayor James Logan frowning upon it rather helplessly due to the patronage of Governor Sir William Keith and in 1724 mention is made of the "New Booth on Society Hill," south of the city limits of that period, that is, south of Cedar Street, in Southwark. Outside of the arrival in 1742 of the first marionettes and in 1743 of the first "Magick Lanthorn" show, there is little of interest to record in the history of the theatre until the year 1749 when apparently the Murray and Kean players, venturing within the city, presented Addison's "Cato" at Plumsted's Warehouse on Water Street. Five years later Hallam's Comedians from London, after extended seasons at Williamsburg and New York, secured permission from Governor Hamilton to perform in Philadelphia although this request to do so divided the city into two hostile factions "as violent as the green and red of Constantinople." After this comes the period of David Douglass's wise guidance of the so-called "American Company" when Philadelphia became before the Revolutionary War the American theatrical centre giving the best plays including those of Shakespeare. Here in this theatre in 1767 was presented the first American drama produced on the stage, *The Prince of Partha*, by Thomas Godfrey. The war put an end to the old stage. There was, however, Gen. Howe's "Thespians" counterbalanced by the theatre at Valley Forge supported by American officers. After the American reoccupation of Philadelphia there is little to record regarding theatrical activities for some years, the legislature having passed an act against stage-playing, which was not rescinded until 1789. The year 1794 witnessed the opening of the splendid New Theatre on Chestnut Street which enjoyed high distinction under the management of Thomas Wignell.

LAWRENCE H. GIPSON.

Fort Ligonier and Its Times. By C. Hale Sipe. (Harrisburg: The Telegraph Press, 1933. Pp. xiii, 699. Illustrations. \$3.50).

No section has a more interesting history than that which grew up around Fort Ligonier. From the time of its erection during Forbes' expedition to the passing of the western Pennsylvania frontier this fort held an enviable position, for it never surrendered in any of the innumerable wars of the period.

The author of this book has not only written a history of this fort, but also a history of western Pennsylvania and of the Old Northwest. In Pontiac's uprising, more a "war" than a "conspiracy", Dr. Sipe sympathizes with the Indian's just resentment to the invasion of their lands, "in violation of solemn promises and formal treaties." He points out that far more important than British parsimony were the encroachments on the Indian lands

by the American settlers. Historians have missed the principal cause of this War, he believes, and therefore have misinterpreted the actions of Pontiac.

While the hostile Indian was an ever present source of terror, Dr. Sipe reminds us that life had to go on and civilization developed in spite of Indian raids. Fur traders and Indian agents, farmers, tradesmen and missionaries continuously moved back and forth, and land speculators organized the Ohio Company with boundaries as far north as the Kiskiminetas, not the Monongahela as stated by some historians. It was land hunger that had led Lord Dunmore to wage war against peaceful Indians and to assert Virginia's claim over western Pennsylvania. Interesting lights are thrown on the affairs in Pittsburgh during this conflict with Virginia, especially the account of the interruption of the Indian trade and the exodus of traders from Pittsburgh.

During the Revolution, western Pennsylvania was the object of much Indian hostility. It was also the frontier post from which an expedition was sent to secure ammunition from New Orleans, and from which Clark led his expedition into the west. With the close of the Revolution and the ending of the Indian raids of 1783 the history of Fort Ligonier came to an end and was soon all but forgotten. It is from this undeserved neglect that it has been brought to life again by a Pennsylvania historian, who has long believed that the history of Pennsylvania holds as much interest and significance as that of any other section. He has brought much to light that justifies his enthusiasm.

Some of the best passages in the book are given over to the peace missions of Christian Post and his great contribution to western Pennsylvania. The warmly generous description of the Indian is sympathetic and especially is the characterization of the great Indians, Cornplanter and Logan. The pen-portraits of Bouquet, St. Clair and Irvine are excellent, while the account of the Tories and compulsory military service reveal an often omitted side of western Pennsylvania history.

Approximately one hundred and seventy-five places of refuge and defense in western Pennsylvania are mentioned, but the omission of much needed maps makes difficult the locating of these, though a well compiled index makes accessible much of the information concerning them, as well as the many Pennsylvania pioneers whose encounters with the Indians fill much of the book. To one who has grown accustomed to a well regulated system of documentation Dr. Sipe's method will cause discomfort, and the absence of any bibliography or suggested readings will be felt by students.

LEWIS J. DARTER, JR.

British Regulation of the Colonial Iron Industry. By Arthur Cecil Bining. (Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press: London: Humphrey Milford: Oxford University Press, 1933. Pp. xii, 163. Illustrations. \$2.00).

Dr. Bining has given in this monograph a scholarly treatment of the historical development of the iron industry in the American colonies from the

establishment of the first furnace, soon after the founding of Virginia, to the opening of the war for American independence, when the total annual production of colonial iron was about 30,000 tons or one-seventh the output of iron of the entire world. In his analysis of the complicated factors that influenced the attempt of the British government to regulate and control this rapidly growing industry in conformity with the prevailing mercantilist theories of the period, he has made a distinct contribution to the history of this "neglected phase of British colonial policy." He has traced in detail the conflicting interests of groups of Englishmen in their relations to the American colonies as well as the forces that led to complete colonial disregard of the regulatory measures. Pennsylvania is given an important place in this study because it became the largest iron producing colony.

The author has organized his material well and has presented it in a very interesting and pleasing style. Moreover, he gives evidence throughout the monograph of painstaking and thorough research. The statistical data in the six appendices relating to colonial furnaces, the exportation of iron to Great Britain, the importation of bar iron from Great Britain, and the estimated world's production of iron during the eighteenth century are especially valuable. Equally useful to the student of American colonial history is the eighteen page bibliography. The illustrations include the various types of colonial ironworks.

We are glad to know that Dr. Bining will soon supplement this book with a detailed study of the origin, growth and development of the Pennsylvania iron and steel industry.

ASA E. MARTIN.

Annals of the Penn Square. By J. Bennett Nolan. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1933. Pp. 106. \$1.50).

There is much more to history than a recital of events. There is even more than interpretation. There is that little understood essence called art. Art depends on the artist, and an artist does not work by rule. Therefore artists must not be judged by a set scale but by the canons of beauty. Mr. Nolan has done for Reading what few can do for a town, no matter how cherished or well-beloved. He has taken seven episodes, in some cases mere incidents, and by giving them a rich setting of vivid description has portrayed the succeeding eras in the life that centered in the Penn Square. The French and Indian War, the Revolution, the trying days of the early republic, the development of wealth and culture, are here illustrated in an unforgettable way. Mr. Nolan has a gift of style rare among historians and sets a high standard. It is a very good omen that the first number of *Pennsylvania History* can have such an example to place before its readers as a pattern of literary and historic excellence.

ROY F. NICHOLS.

American History for Pennsylvania. By Charles A. Coulomb. Two Volumes. (New York. The Macmillan Company, 1933. Pp. viii, 402, xxiv; viii, 434, xxvii. Illustrations. \$1.20 each).

As its title implies, this is a history of our country for use primarily in Pennsylvania schools, and it follows in detail the outline of the Pennsylvania State Course of Study in Social Studies for grades five and six. Book One presents the history of the United States from the discovery of America by Columbus to the inauguration of George Washington. Book Two covers the period from the beginning of government under the Constitution to the present. The part played by Pennsylvania in the history of the nation is woven into the work without undue emphasis, although the importance of the state in national history is clearly brought out. The work is organized on the unitary plan, the style is interesting and suitable to pupils in grades five and six, and the carefully selected illustrations are excellent visual aids. Many study helps are provided, including previews, map studies, special assignments and various other activities.

Pennsylvania Government—State and Local. By Jacob Tanger and Harold F. Alderfer. (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Book Service, 1933. Pp. x, 359. \$2.70).

This volume fills the need for an authoritative work for use in the schools of the state on the government of Pennsylvania. Many books have appeared in recent years on state and local government in general, usually in connection with a treatise on federal government, but few have been published on the government of particular states. In this book, the authors have achieved their aim of presenting clearly and concisely "the essential features of the organization, functions and procedure involved in state and local government in Pennsylvania." They go further than this, for constructive criticisms are made of governmental practices and government agencies, especially in regard to the system of tax collection in the state. The work should prove valuable to citizens, who have a real interest in their state government, as well as to teachers and students.

The Geography of Pennsylvania. By H. Harrison Russell. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1933. Pp. 77. Illustrations. Maps. \$0.60).

This book has been prepared primarily for use as a supplement to accompany Huntington, Benson and McMurry's *Living Geography*. It is a brief, simple and direct account of the human geography of Pennsylvania and is organized into four units, which include manufacturing, agriculture, minerals and forests. It should prove valuable in aiding pupils to gain a clearer understanding of their immediate environment and of the relation of man to it. The illustrations are well chosen; the maps are good.

