

## BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES

*A History of Pennsylvania.* By Wayland Fuller Dunaway, Ph.D. (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1935. Pp. xxiii, 828. \$5.00.)

The expressed aim of the author of this book is to fill the need for "a one-volume history of Pennsylvania suitable for the general reader and adapted to the requirements of a college textbook." In accomplishing this end Dr. Dunaway has been notably successful.

The volume is divided into two parts of almost equal length, the first dealing with colonial Pennsylvania, from 1609 to 1790, and the second with the history of the Commonwealth since 1790. For each period there is given first the political history, in terms of administrations and the men and events that achieved prominence in them, and then a survey of the social, economic, religious and cultural conditions and developments that characterized the era. The latter period, for which the material is naturally more plentiful but as yet imperfectly exploited, is somewhat less exhaustively presented than the earlier one.

There are several qualities which recommend this *History of Pennsylvania*. It is unique in presenting under a single cover a composite up-to-date picture, on an above-high-school level, of the political, industrial and social changes in Pennsylvania. It makes very pleasant reading, particularly in the chapters that give a running account of the external history of the state. The smooth texture of the pages and the suitability of the type increase the reader's satisfaction. Furthermore, the work is unmistakably scholarly, relying on a wide range of standard authorities, specialized monographs and other dependable materials. Each chapter concludes with a detailed and carefully selected critical bibliography.

Throughout this *History of Pennsylvania* the characteristics and ideals of the author shine so clearly that their presence can hardly be said to detract from the authenticity of his work. He is proud of his Pennsylvania: her officials have, for the most part, been honest public servants; her riots and scandals have been the "growing pains" that attended the development of the giant; hers is a noteworthy story of a Commonwealth prominent among the states of a Union to whose greatness her sons have contributed a notable share. The author shows himself, moreover, mild and tolerant; he disapproves of needless severity and violence and of corruption in high places, yet he seldom fails to point out the plausible causes of acts of violence and the redeeming qualities in the less admirable public figures. The outstanding exception to the latter rule is in his treatment of Thaddeus Stevens. Here Dr. Dunaway shows his independence by breaking through the glamorous tradition that has encircled this son of Vermont and painting a bold and unusually unlovely picture. In regard to Governor George Wolf, on the other hand, he joins almost too unquestioningly in the pæan of praise which the educational historians have raised.

In all, Pennsylvania must feel herself deeply indebted for so comprehen-

sive, so learned and so sympathetic a survey of her development and achievements.

JOSEPH J. MCCADDEN

Hunter College

*The Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. A Study in Revolutionary Democracy.* By J. Paul Selsam. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1936. Pp. x, 280. \$2.50.)

Democracy, in America, is a word to conjure with, a philosophy against which no aspirant to political honors would voice criticism, an idealistic concept which few Americans have dared oppose. The belief in democracy was deep, underlying and widespread in America in the years 1775 to 1789, perhaps no where more so than in Pennsylvania, as Dr. Selsam has shown in his admirable study *The Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776*. Why then were such complex systems of government adopted in this period to prevent democracy from coming into full power? Why were there created bicameral legislatures with each house a check on the other? Why were indirect election of legislators and executives, judicial and executive vetoes, long terms for elected and appointed officials and property qualifications for officers and electors written into many constitutions?

The answer to some of these questions so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, may be found in Dr. Selsam's study. Democracy as a political ideal was subscribed to by few outstanding leaders; the democratic forces were the poorer, less educated and consequently less articulate members of society, who were frequently disfranchised or denied fair representation in legislatures and constituent assemblies. Democratic ideals were less well crystallized than the more conservative views of Adams, Dickinson, Morris and Wilson.

Pennsylvania went much farther than many other states in establishing a democratic government. Indeed Dr. Selsam maintains that it adopted "the most democratic state government in America at the time" (p. 183). It provided for a unicameral legislature, proportional representation with septennial reapportionment, abolition of property qualifications for voting and office holding, annual election of representatives, an omnipotent legislature (except for the right of amending the constitution), and a Supreme Executive Council with the power only to execute the law.

Dr. Selsam shows how the eastern conservatives controlled Pennsylvania affairs before 1776 by unfair apportionment, property qualifications and other discriminatory measures directed against the poorer classes, traces the demand for reform, analyzes the sectional interests exhibited in the question, outlines the constitution of 1776 and reveals the controversy in state matters created by its so-called adoption. In the light of the extraordinarily severe criticisms of the constitution and, indeed, the outright hostility to it in 1776 and later, one might ask why, today, constitutions are held in such veneration and why they are considered by some to be above criticism or beyond change?

Dr. Selsam has accomplished a difficult task with much skill. The deplorable lack of material on the convention debates made the task doubly

difficult and necessitated leaning heavily on the writings of John Adams. The *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney* are not listed in the bibliography and it is difficult to understand why the works of McIlwain, Schuyler, Schlesinger, Van Tyne, Osgood and Andrews are omitted when Wertebaker's text is listed. It is to be hoped that Dr. Selsam will carry further his study of Pennsylvania history by a like treatment of the constitution of 1790.

PAUL W. GATES

Bucknell University

*Poor John Fitch, Inventor of the Steamboat.* By Thomas Boyd. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1935. Pp. 315. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

There is nothing more long-lived than an unsettled controversy; nothing more conducive to immortality than doubtful guilt or innocence, a true or false claim to some achievement. It has been the inveterate human love of debate that has kept many old and relatively unimportant disputes alive. It is rather a sad fact that there are few historical questions which have ever been in doubt that are not still from time to time subjected to question. This, however, has its advantages. The memory of many an interesting man has been rescued from oblivion not so much by what he achieved as by the effort on the part of his advocates to prove that he achieved it.

Such has been the history of the controversy as to who was the true inventor of the steamboat. It will not down. The bald and unattested statement in most of the textbooks of American history and in the earlier biographical dictionaries that "Robert Fulton invented the steamboat," with a picture of the *Clermont*, has undoubtedly served as a challenge both to those who seek a more explanatory statement and to those who are concerned with giving honor where honor is due. It is certainly true that several boats propelled by steam had been known on various waters before Fulton's first boat. "To invent" is not a word of clear implication. Since many of those who saw the *Clermont* in 1807 must have seen, perhaps rode on, and certainly read about a steamboat on another American river twenty years before, the term invention evidently needs clarification in this case, and the distinction of being the American inventor of the steamboat might well prove to belong to some other man.

The controversy has brought into prominence an interesting and on the whole a sympathetic figure. John Fitch was a typical inventor—original, sensitive, devoted, unwise, self-centered, self-sacrificing and unfortunate. The "Poor" which the author of this posthumous work has included in its title is not merely descriptive of the last named characteristic but is a quotation from the inventor himself, used by him in a supposititious inscription to be placed on his own gravestone: "Poor John Fitch." Self-pity is not a strong or an attractive quality, but if it is ever justified it is in the case of a man possessed by what he knows to be a great conception destined to be of invaluable benefit to mankind, but balked in bringing it to fruition by lack of petty material support. Weaknesses enough there were in Fitch's character and there are contestants of his originality—Henry, Ramsay, Stevens and perhaps English and French predecessors. However this may

be, the fact remains that Fitch after an adventurous early career, which Mr. Boyd describes in detail, brought with him to Philadelphia in 1785 a clear-cut idea of a boat to be driven by steam power, and during the next six years fought a manly and momentarily successful fight to make that idea a reality. During 1787, repeated trial trips of his boat were made on the Delaware, and during the summer of 1790 his steamboat was making daily trips between Philadelphia and Trenton, taking excursion parties to Chester on Sundays and making evening trips occasionally from Arch Street wharf down the Delaware and up the Schuylkill with young people for the dancing at Gray's Garden. But Fitch's steam boat had one fault, fatal in a competitive and somewhat short-sighted age. It did not pay.

Mr. Boyd has been much helped in making his book a vivid biography by his constant utilization of the autobiography Fitch wrote and left in the possession of the Philadelphia Library, not to be opened till twenty years after his death. In fact, if any criticism is to be made of Mr. Boyd's work it might be that he has made too little use of other sources of information. But after all he is writing a biography of John Fitch, not a history of the settlement of the frontier, of the Revolution in early Philadelphia, or of the invention of the steamboat, and it gives no slight insight into all of these to see them through the experiences of a participant in all. Moreover Mr. Boyd's familiarity with eighteenth century American life shows constantly in his narrative and increases our regret at his untimely death. This is not a book of great pretensions, nor does it deal with events of the highest dignity; but it is interesting, well-informed, well-written and judicious. It gives us the picture of an original, distinctive, but unhappy man; that is if a man can be considered really unhappy when his life is enriched and consoled by the possession of a great ideal.

University of Pennsylvania

EDWARD P. CHEYNEY

*William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania.* By William I. Hull. (Swarthmore, Pa.: Swarthmore College, 1935. Pp. xiii, 445. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

It is always a pleasure to welcome a book which dispels a myth, and particularly so in our own field of Pennsylvania history. Such a book is Dr. Hull's new treatise, the second in his series of ten monographs on Quaker history. Dr. Hull has proven beyond doubt that the first settlers of Germantown were not German but *Dutch* Quakers who, before their removal to Pennsylvania in 1683, lived in the Rhenish provinces of Germany. This discovery was based largely upon a Quaker marriage certificate of 1681, written in Dutch and bearing nineteen "good Dutch names"—those of the members of the Quaker meeting of the little town of Krefeld, in Rhenish Prussia. The author presents biographical sketches of all the families named therein, tracing them from the continent to Germantown; and performs a similar service to the memory of the Dutch Quakers of Krisheim, in the Palatinate, who came to Germantown but shortly afterwards. These were the first settlers. Francis Daniel Pastorius, to whom honor has long been given both in print and in stone as the founder of Germantown, is

characterized as a "German late-comer" by Dr. Hull who again brings to light the existence of the original Dutch colony which was engulfed by the later but mightier stream of German immigration. It is interesting that among these first Dutch settlers was one Jan Luykens—an ancestor of Theodore and of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The first chapters of the book, which are devoted to the story of William Penn's travels on the continent in 1671, 1677 and 1686, are based largely upon the manuscript account of his "Travels in Holland and Germany, Anno MDCLXXVII." There is a question as to whether this document is, as Dr. Hull states in his *Preface*, in the handwriting of Penn himself; it is claimed to have been written by Penn's secretary. This, however, does not seriously affect the validity of the material inasmuch as the journal was published by Penn some years afterwards in substantially its original form. The arrangement of the first part of the book is roughly chronological, following Penn from town to town (he visited more than fifty), describing his activities at each stopping point along the way and presenting brief biographical sketches of all the more important persons with whom he came into contact.

In a final chapter Dr. Hull describes the efforts of Penn, Benjamin Furly and Roger Longworth to swell the tide of Quaker immigration to Pennsylvania. The biographical treatment of Longworth, while more extended than his importance seems to justify, is valuable insofar as it recreates a hitherto little known figure. Five appendices include Penn's itineraries in Holland and Germany; an exhaustive list of the Dutch and German settlers in Germantown, 1683-1709, for the preparation of which Dr. Hull cannot be too highly commended; and a transcript of the original Krefeld marriage certificate.

It might be pointed out, by way of suggestion, that the addition of a map of the regions traversed by Penn would have been very helpful. The makeup of the book would delight any bibliophile. On the whole, Dr. Hull's work constitutes an enviable piece of research and a valuable contribution to the early history of the state.

PHILIP SHRIVER KLEIN

University of Pennsylvania

*Pratt, the Red Man's Moses.* By Elaine Goodale Eastman. (The Civilization of the American Indian Series. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1935. Pp. 285. Illustrated. \$3.00.)

The dominant purpose of this book is to explain the aims of Richard Henry Pratt. We are given the story of his early life, snatches of Indian history of the past half century from the viewpoint of education, and the findings of several sociological studies on aborigines. Indian missions, the Dawes act, theories of racial blends, the Indian bureau, and government Indian schools, all enter the picture at one place or another. Since Mrs. Eastman was the wife of one of America's well-known civilized Indians, she writes with a close personal knowledge and deep loyalty to her husband's race.

The material on the Carlisle Indian School will interest Pennsylvanians,

particularly since there is little in print on this subject. For twenty-five years Pratt labored there to prove his belief that education away from the reservation could fit the Indian for a place in the white man's civilization. Without doubt the Carlisle School will remain Pratt's "one conspicuous achievement in the public eye" (p. 8). By the "Outing" system young Indians were sent to shops and farms to learn a vocation and at the same time to acquire the use of idiomatic English and the habits of civilized life. The "Outing" system was Carlisle's significant contribution to Indian education.

The book has some marked weaknesses. It is not a biography, as the title implies, but rather a collection of chapters on phases of the history of Indian education. The Carlisle School and the "Outing" system are not treated fully nor with the emphasis which they deserve in this account of their founder. A few errors in footnote citations and the omission of "Carlisle Indian School" from an otherwise complete index have been noted. Mrs. Eastman had at her disposal the correspondence and manuscript memoirs of Pratt, but evidently she did not examine the voluminous records of the Indian office at Washington, which would have contributed valuable details.

To the student of later Indian history the book offers little that is new; to the general reader it affords an introduction to a man who had an undeniable influence on the educational policy of the government toward the Indians.

R. L. BRUNHOUSE

Carlisle, Pa.

*The Western Military Frontier, 1815-1846.* By Henry Putney Beers. (Philadelphia, 1935. Pp. vi, 227. Maps. \$2.00.)

The work under consideration, offered as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania, "presents an account of the military history of the western frontier from the close of the War of 1812 to the beginning of the Mexican War." In the reviewer's opinion the scope of the work is far more inclusive than is indicated by the above quotation from its preface.

Military history must necessarily include not merely the study of the evolution of the land armed forces of a nation; or of military strategy and tactics as exemplified in selected wars; but also the relations between the army and the various constituent elements of the civilian population in time of peace as well as in time of war.

The western expansion of the United States offers a field, in some ways quite unique, for the military historian. Frederick Jackson Turner's dictum—that the history of the country from its very inception is the history of successive frontiers, with the Atlantic coast as the "western" frontier of Europe—is, of course, well known and unquestioned among all informed readers today. Each frontier was won by struggle—with the forest, the desert, the Indians. But although separate histories have been written for every state in the Union; although a lengthy bibliography could be compiled dealing with works upon the West or upon the aborigines, it is to be noted that a really definitive history of the latter is lacking.

Over half a century ago Francis Parkman and Theodore Roosevelt

brought the Indian before the literate public in works that must always stand as monuments of "history as literature." Since then numerous monographs have been contributed to the field. Mr. Beers's dissertation fills a gap and acts as a stepping stone—a necessary preliminary toward that great work which must some day be written, showing *in extenso* the role of the Indian in the history of the United States.

The close of the War of 1812 released forces which gave a vast impetus to westward extension. The Mexican War brought the United States to the Pacific coast. Between the two lay the period of Jacksonian "imperialism"; of army control of the West; of Indian recession; of the establishment—and abandonment—of the "permanent Indian frontier" from the Great Lakes to Texas.

It is in a thorough study of the Indian-military frontier that the crux of this book is to be found. It is a perfect mine of information, much of it derived from hitherto unexplored sources in the files of the War Department. As one pursues the narrative it becomes more and more evident that intertribal wars, quite as much as conflicts between settlers and Indians, occupied much of the attention of the army along the frontier from Fort Wilkins on Lake Superior to Fort Jesup in Louisiana.

The plains Indians never cordially welcomed the immigrant eastern tribes. During the eighteen twenties and thirties much friction resulted from the curtailment of the hunting grounds of the former to make room for the habitations of the latter. Thus, in 1821, the army had not only to guard the Osages against the whites but against the Cherokees (pp. 66-67). Military protection of the immigrant Indians was, in fact, an "essential part of the removal policy" (p. 97) and was made an article in several of the treaties negotiated with them.

Another point worthy of notice is the relatively larger force maintained along the southern portion of the frontier. During the period under consideration the northern frontier was twice drained of troops: once due to the Seminole campaign, later in 1845, due to the need for men on the Texas frontier.

This leads to a note upon the chapter dealing with "The Army and the Texas Republic." Not so much a factor in the early years, Texas became of prime importance to the United States from 1836 on. It had its own government—mostly ex-United States citizens—and its own vacillating Indian policy. Sam Houston favored treaties. Mirabeau B. Lamar favored "extinction or exodus" (p. 159). But in either case the burden of guarding the frontier fell upon United States troops from Forts Towson and Jesup, as the forces of Texas—inadequate at the best, were mainly engaged in a "war" with Mexico.

Such is the field of this thesis. It is well treated. It should, perhaps, have been written in a manner more interesting, more in keeping with the vitality—the intensity—of the frontier. Scholarliness should certainly not imply dullness. But that is a minor criticism to which doctoral dissertations are proverbially subject. The work helps to fill a gap in frontier history—a gap attacked some years since by Annie H. Abel and Ruth A. Gallagher.

It is interesting also to note the careers of many men more or less eminent in our history—Thomas L. McKenney and Lewis Cass, both of whom knew the red men well although their views were widely different; Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln, neither of whom knew much about them, although they had their share of Indian fighting; and Albert Sidney Johnston, Secretary of War of Texas; to mention but a few.

Two maps, an excellent bibliography, and a good index complete a work that will long remain significant in its necessarily limited field.

American Philosophical Society

ALBAN W. HOOPES

*Our American Heritage: From Subject to Citizen.* By L. S. Coyle and W. P. Evans. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1936. Pp. xvi, 404. Illustrations. \$1.36.)

This junior high school textbook is designed to follow *Our American Heritage: From Wilderness to Nation*, by the same authors. In both volumes emphasis is placed on the method of procedure for the pupil. They supply the basic elements of study, which the pupils round out from sources suggested by the text and teacher. The treatment is topical, and geography and civics have been woven into the history to contribute to the interest and understanding of the books. The style is simple, the language has been checked to determine the comprehension of the reading, and the illustrations and maps have been carefully chosen.

*The Making of Today's World.* By R. O. Hughes. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1935. Pp. viii, 807, 25. Illustrations. \$1.80.)

A new textbook in world history written by a well-known writer of civics texts. This work traces the important developments in human progress, clearly and concisely. It is well-organized into seventeen units, each centered around an outstanding movement in history. The style is direct and clear. A wealth of supplementary teaching aids, including summaries, vocabularies, questions, projects, reference work and well selected illustrations are included.

*A History of Medieval Civilization in Europe.* By Ross William Collins. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1936. Pp. ix, 800. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

This college textbook follows a topical rather than a strictly chronological arrangement of material. Emphasis is placed upon the social and cultural aspects of the Middle Ages, as well as on the development of political institutions. References and bibliographies are included. The black and white maps are simple and easy to understand—exactly what textbook maps should be. Some interesting illustrations add to the value of this well-written text.

University of Pennsylvania

ARTHUR C. BINING