BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES


Most works bearing upon the history of the United States are expected to make something of an appeal to the general reading public. While the volumes under review, published under the direction of the American Historical Association from the income of the Albert J. Beveridge memorial fund, are not of this class, they should nevertheless be the delight of all serious students of American colonial and British imperial history. For the royal instructions are indispensable to the worker who is seeking to grasp the intimate nature of the political relations between England, and after 1707 Great Britain, and her royal colonies especially as to the varying degrees of control and direction sought and to a considerable extent exercised by the former over the latter; they are equally important in any attempt to understand the peculiar nature of the specific devices adopted by the Crown in attempting to meet the problems of applied government as they arose from time to time within these colonies. In fact, it is generally recognized that the instructions in many respects transcend in importance, as sources for the history of the plantations, the commissions issued under the great seal and which legally, therefore, took precedence over them. For, while a governor would receive during his administration a single commission—without reference to special commissions for the exercise of peculiar functions over and beyond those specifically designated in the commission prepared for him as the chief representative of royal authority within the province—he was on the other hand furnished from time to time with special instructions, some of these of great importance, over and beyond the very comprehensive body of instructions prepared for him at the time of assuming office. As a result, it frequently happened that a governor was much more concerned with the specific directions received as occasion seemed to demand than with the broad and rather general grant of power contained in his commission. Just so is the student of today.

No other American scholar has been so well situated to accomplish the difficult task involved in collating the great body of instructions to the royal governors as has Dr. Labaree who in the course of his exhaustive investigations leading to the publication of his Royal Government in America was brought intimately in contact with at least the more important sources bearing upon this theme embodied in the official records, including, of course, the royal instructions. The ingenious method that he has employed in this collation is not without its complications but no better one has suggested itself to the reviewer that allows for equal economy of space and a more concise view of variations from what may be considered the most character-
istic instruction covering a particular topic. Under headings such as "The Governor and Council," "The Assembly," "Legislation," "Revenue and Finance," "Justice," "Military Affairs," "Maritime Affairs," "Indian Affairs," and "Land," the appropriate instruction with the variants is to be found. In this connection it may be pointed out that the period, from the year 1670 to July 4, 1776, within which the instructions are here considered, is only significant in the history of British overseas administration in that by the year 1670 a certain uniformity now characterized the instructions of all royal governors; the year 1776 evidences no termination of royal instructions as such, but witnesses, of course, the formal repudiation of the Crown and the British connection on the part of the continental colonies to the south of Nova Scotia and to the north of East Florida and West Florida.

It is, therefore, now possible as a result of this admirable collation for one to study without extraordinary effort not only the development of the mechanism for the administration of the royal colonies but also the extent to which on the one hand the Crown sought to employ identical policies in all royal governments and, on the other, its recognition of the existence of certain local divergencies more or less fundamental in the nature of things calling for measures suited to the individual requirements of the colonies.

One may regret that the editor felt impelled, as the result of striking divergencies existing between the instructions given to the Newfoundland governors and those to governors of the other colonies, insular as well as continental, to eliminate the former from consideration, particularly since after 1750, with the development of the instrumentalities for a continuous civil administration of affairs on the Island except in time of war, the tendency was for the instructions to approximate, in many respects at least, those of the other plantations.


Chief Justice Taney's claim to fame or infamy has been popularly attributed to his opinion in the Dred Scott case. The author of this important study has made it clear that the decision in question was only an important incident in a long and useful career.

The first part of the book is devoted to the history of the Taney family in Maryland from the seventeenth century to the birth of Roger B. Taney in March, 1777. Young Taney, who grew up among the landed aristocracy of Maryland, rose to eminence in the field of law and politics. He entered the state legislature at the age of twenty-two. "Through his contacts with legislators he broadened his associations, and mixed somewhat in the mature society of the capital" (pp. 32-33). Although young, Taney participated in the "struggle between the rural areas of the state and Baltimore, which was a phase of the perennial struggle between the planters and merchants" (p. 33). "It indicated the alignment to which he was to adhere throughout his life, when in various more influential positions he came in contact with what he regarded as mercantile cupidity" (pp. 33-34).
Mr. Swisher shows the increasing influence of Taney in Maryland politics; his growing fame as a lawyer, and, with the passing of the Federalist party in the state, his alignment with the Jackson cause in 1828. "The whole course of his life was about to be changed by the warfare between Calhoun and Van Buren, and, incidentally, by the stormy social career of a former barmaid of informal manners and questioned morals" (p. 131).

As Attorney General, Taney upheld the constitutionality of the South Carolina law which authorized the seizure of "free negroes employed on foreign vessels which came into the ports of the state" (pp. 147, 150-152). The legal phraseology given in this opinion is quite similar to the wording in the Dred Scott case.

The history of the bank controversy has too often been written by students, friendly toward the bank, who have rejected the contentions of the opposition without giving them fair consideration. The author of this study shows that the bank was badly managed at various intervals and frequently used its power ruthlessly to accomplish its purpose. Mr. Swisher accordingly appreciates the fact that there were two sides to the question involved.

Taney was no subservient federal official in the bank controversy. It was he who urged a vigorous veto of the bank bill, helped write the veto message, and eventually convinced the President that removal of the deposits was necessary to safeguard the interests of the people. Taney said: "... I have always regarded this as a struggle for the liberties of the country, and that if the bank triumphs, the government passes into the hands of a great moneyed corporation" (p. 280). Mr. Swisher adds: "It was for the most part Jackson, rather than Taney, who was being manipulated, though there is little evidence that Taney ever permitted Jackson to become aware of the fact" (p. 302).

The author shows that Taney, upon becoming Chief Justice, stood for human rights, community interests, and state sovereignty. He believed that so-called property rights necessarily had to be carefully regulated in order to protect the welfare of the people. "While the rights of property are sacrdely guarded," Taney said, "we must not forget that the community also have rights, and that the happiness and well being of every citizen depends on their faithful preservation" (p. 380).

Under Taney's leadership the Supreme Court halted, for the time being, the movement towards the enlargement of national authority emphasized by Marshall. By means of judicial interpretations of the Constitution, corporations were checked, and state and community interests were promoted: "He was hostile to the use of the national government as a tool of business interests, but he was not opposed to federal legislation, or to the extension of federal authority in other ways, if local institutions were not interfered with" (pp. 408-409).

In regard to states rights and slavery, the author states "that Taney believed the negroes to be subject solely to the laws of the state in which they happened to be, that he thought them not subject to the treaty making power as far as the sovereign rights of the state were concerned, and that he held persons not to be articles of commerce. ... His concern was in having it
left to the states in which it was found. He was quite willing that those states hostile to it should abolish it within their borders" (p. 418).

Mr. Swisher has accomplished his purpose in writing, for the first time, an impartial life of Roger B. Taney. The reviewer has no criticism with the main thesis and facts of this excellent study. There is doubt, however, concerning the linking of William Walker's filibustering expeditions into Mexico and Central America with the desire of gaining additional slave territory (p. 534). Again, the impression is given that Harrison was elected President in 1836 (p. 345). There is an occasional oversight in proof reading (pp. 68, 449). In addition the reviewer feels that perhaps too much emphasis has been placed on the possibility of slavery lurking in the background of many Supreme Court decisions even though slavery was not an issue. These criticisms are too minor, however, to detract seriously from such an excellent biography.

The book contains twenty-seven well documented and interesting chapters, a selective bibliography, a satisfactory index, and several well chosen illustrations. GEORGE D. HARMON

Lehigh University

Saint Among Savages: the Life of Isaac Jogues. By Francis Talbot, S.J.


The canonization of Isaac Jogues on June 29, 1930, by Pope Pius XI, brings to mind a story of unswerving faith, heroic self-sacrifice, and high adventure but seldom equalled in recorded history. That story has been told many times, and is reasonably well known to those acquainted with the field. The Relations of Barthélemy Vimont and Jérôme Lalemant as edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, are, of course, the most important source. Parkman gives a good account in The Jesuits in North America in the Seventeenth Century, while The Rise and Fall of New France, by George M. Wrong, exemplifies the judgment of a modern scholar. These works—selected from a much larger group dealing with the history of New France—are not biographies of Jogues but accounts of his time. It is with pleasure that we turn to the book under review—written by a well known scholar and, like Jogues, a Jesuit.

Needless to say, the emphasis is strongly upon the religious life and spiritual experiences of Jogues. Trained in the Jesuit colleges of La Flèche and Clermont, one would suppose him better fitted for a career of classical scholarship than the hard labors of a life with Indians in a wilderness three thousand miles from that "Belle France" which was his home. But missionary work was his leitmotiv. From 1636 to 1642 he labored with the Hurons. Captured by the Mohawk Iroquois in the latter year, he remained their prisoner until 1643, finally escaping through the instrumentality of the Dutch at Rensselaerswyck. After a brief stay in France he returned to Canada, and was sent by Governor Montmagny as ambassador to the Mohawks in the early summer of 1646—immediately after a peace council
between the Indians and the French authorities had met with apparent success. From this embassy he returned to Quebec in July, only to set forth once more—as missionary this time—for Ossernenon. Unfortunately Jogues did not know that the peace which had appeared to be so secure in June was disrupted by September. Upon his arrival in the Mohawk's land he was seized and made a prisoner. On the night of October 18, 1646, a young brave of the Bear clan murdered him. Thus ended the life of one of the most worthy missionaries the New World has ever known.

The work under consideration is an excellent biography, in parts most descriptive, increasing in intrinsic worth as the narrative proceeds. The only important stricture that might be suggested is that, in view of the recognized significance of the Iroquois Confederacy as a factor in the history of New France, it would have been advisable to place a greater emphasis upon its political and economic position. Then too, it must be remembered that while the Jesuits were primarily missionaries, they were also—unofficially—governmental agents, and were regarded as such by the Indians. The Iroquois were at enmity with the French in Canada. Could they then welcome French priests at Ossernenon and Tionontoguen? These facts are rather submerged in the predominantly religious theme of the book.

A selective bibliography, some notes and references, and an index, conclude a most interesting and thoroughly informative volume.

American Philosophical Society

ALBAN W. HOOPES

Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps: Her Life and Work. By Emma Lydia Bolzau.

Where Mrs. Almira Lincoln Phelps has been known at all it has been as the sister, and perhaps the shadow, of Emma Willard. This, the first full-length biography of her, shows that she deserves to be studied and remembered for her own achievements. Although she was much more than a satellite to her famous sister, yet their work lay in the same field, the secondary and advanced education of women; and it was here unfortunate for her fame that she did not succeed, like Emma Willard, in founding a permanent school to carry on her work. Yet she will be included in the list of the pioneers of American women's education along with Grant, Willard and Beecher.

The present volume, in thirteen chapters, describes the ancestry of Almira Hart, the cheerful and intellectual family circle in which her childhood was spent, her school days and the continuing work of self-education, the several schools in which she taught or which she conducted, her writing, her views and the wide variety of her public activities. The two men to whom she was successively married and whose names she proudly added to her own and also her pioneering sister are touched very lightly in this biography. Perhaps that is right. But it is likely that the sister, at least, contributed very greatly in directing her own life.

To the reviewer it appears probable that Mrs. Phelps's two contributions, the knowledge of which helps us most in understanding the educational
development of the time are: her skill and success in introducing Pestaloz-
zi an ideas, especially through her numerous and successful school books on
botany and chemistry; and her excellent study in child psychology, a con-
tribution which might well be brought to the attention of the historians of
psychology who seem to have overlooked it.

The book is competently written; it is well-documented; and the careful
historical research which has gone into it appears on almost every page.
It is also well illustrated. There is a full bibliography and an index. The
volume is a worthy addition to the lengthening list of excellent research
studies which Professor Thomas Woody has succeeded in inspiring and
directing at the University of Pennsylvania. H. G. Good
Ohio State University

Quaker Education in the Baltimore and Virginia Yearly Meetings. By
William C. Dunlap. (Lancaster, Pa.: The Science Press Printing
Company, 1936. Pp. 540. $4.00.)

Mr. Dunlap has made a valuable contribution to the growing literature
bearing upon the educational activities of the Society of Friends in America.
One may wish that the author had been somewhat more generous in his
geographical settings, yet the names of the several "meetings," yearly, quar-
terly, monthly and preparative, suffice to orient fairly well the chief areas of
research. Of primary significance is the fact that the sources of the entire
study are largely manuscripts, minute books, wills and other records quite
inaccessible to the general reader and difficult of access even to the student
well trained in research. Into these materials Mr. Dunlap has gone with
what seems to be a peculiar sense of discrimination. As in other Quaker
communities, Friends in this region have shown a keen interest in a "guarded
education," both spiritual and literary, but have been forced to carry on these
activities, especially before 1860, under more than ordinary difficulties.

The author sets out the facts as revealed by the manuscripts, permitting
the reader to draw his conclusions from the abundant sources presented. In
the sections dealing with Maryland and the limited region northward, the
story does not differ materially from that of Pennsylvania and New Jersey
as told by Dr. Thomas Woody, but in Virginia hostility more bitter and of
longer duration was encountered and results were correspondingly meager.
By the middle of the seventeenth century scattered groups of Friends were
settling in Virginia, much against the wishes of orthodox churchmen by
whom they were regarded as "an unreasonable and turbulent sort of people,"
and almost at once grievous laws were enacted against them. In lower
Virginia conditions were especially hard, yet even here a few temporary
schools were established, though not much was accomplished before the
beginning of the national period.

The author devotes two chapters to the work of Friends among Indians
and negroes, carrying his study of the former westward as these unfortunate
people were forced from their homes to less desirable lands. The reader
must conclude that if the attitude of the Quakers toward the Indians had
become the attitude of the government of the United States, a dark chapter of our history might have remained unwritten. In respect to the work of the Quakers among the negroes the author documents effectively the story of the rising tide of opinion against slavery leading at last to the war between the states.

Abundant evidence appears of the passive resistance of Quakers to public schools in the earlier years, but as the nineteenth century drew near its close the manuscripts and records reveal a change in attitude. Public schools, no longer under suspicion, were supported by Friends who quite generally abandoned their community and private schools, though still retaining their interest in a “guarded” spiritual education carried on in part in “First Day” schools.

Not a treatise but rather a source-book, this work will find its place among the materials which, as the outcome of painstaking research, are beginning to illuminate the study of the history of education in this country. State University of Iowa

FOREST C. ENSIGN