BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES


The first three volumes of Professor Gipson's work on The British Empire before the American Revolution have appeared recently: Volume 1, Great Britain and Ireland; Volume 2, The Southern Plantations; Volume 3, The Northern Plantations. These books, in a sense, are a unit in themselves, but they are also part of a larger work of important magnitude which the author has undertaken to write.

The chief aim of this comprehensive study is "to get a view of the old Empire in a state of tranquillity and equilibrium for the last time in its history," during "the brief period between the end of the War of the Austrian Succession and the outbreak of hostilities between the English and French in North America that led to the great Seven Years' War." This is accomplished by means of "a cross section survey" of the British Empire, emphasizing the significant interrelations of its constituent parts. The study is therefore concerned with "an analysis of some of those forces—economic, social and political—motivating various geographical groups within it [the old British Empire], before the American Revolution."

In the first volume a picture is presented of conditions in Great Britain and Ireland about the middle of the eighteenth century. A succinct review is given of England, the center of imperial activity. Population, culture, standards of living, industry, agriculture, social and anti-social forces, and polity, together with the vast scope of the lex non scripta and the lex scripta portray a civilization in bright colors, but also with dark shadows. The interpretation is excellent and well-balanced. Scotland, which was in a state of real transition at this time, is not neglected. Due attention is also given to Roman Catholic and Protestant Ireland.

The discussion of the southern colonies in the second volume begins with "The Empire of the Old Dominion"—Virginia. The other mainland colonies of the south are then taken up. Later chapters are also devoted to Jamaica, Barbadoes, the Leeward Islands, the Bermudas and the Bahamas. This volume concludes with a chapter on sugar, the great export staple of the British West Indies, and one on the African slave trade and its importance. The third volume is devoted to the mainland colonies of the north, and also to the Hudson Bay fur trade, the Newfoundland fisheries, the iron industry, and the revival of the Baltimore claims to Avalon. A concluding chapter summarizes in broad fashion, the political, religious, social and economic characteristics of the Empire at the middle of the eighteenth century.
The study brings out clearly the great extent, the remarkable diversity and the material wealth of the Empire. By 1750, the “British flag was flying from outposts scattered from the Arctic to the equatorial belt, from the Great Lakes of North America to Borneo in the Far East.” It had come into existence as a result of wars of conquest, by treaties of cession, and through overseas trade and colonization. Its fifteen million people included white, bronze, black and brown subjects. Thirty-one governments subordinate to Great Britain ranged from the practically autonomous charter colonies to the crown possessions and the factories of the East India Company. Diversity is seen not only in peoples and institutions, but also in economic life. Wool, coal, iron and corn from England, flax and livestock from Ireland, ships and timber from New England, articles of food and iron from the middle colonies, tobacco from the Chesapeake Bay region, rice and indigo from South Carolina, logwood from Honduras Bay, sugar and molasses from the West Indies, fish from the regions of Newfoundland, furs and skins from Hudson Bay and the back country, slaves and ivory from the West African coast, and a variety of desirable articles of consumption from the East India posts, attest to the material wealth of the Empire.

While political and governmental aspects are not neglected, the emphasis throughout the work is on the economic aspects of civilization. The economic life of the American colonies, especially, are viewed in their true perspective. The importance of slaves, tobacco, sugar, fur, fish and iron in the economy of the Empire is well brought out. The developing colonial iron industry, largely neglected by historians, is given a rightful place. The much abused Iron Act of 1750 is accurately interpreted.

The author has indeed well succeeded in his presentation of a picture of the complex British Empire of 1750. In his interpretation of the American Revolution that began a quarter of a century later, he accepts the modern view that the crisis “came largely not only by reason of measures pursued by the British ministry in the course of the Seven Years’ War and subsequent thereto, but also as a result of an altered outlook on the part of colonials themselves, especially after the Peace of 1763.” The liberal political institutions of England had spread into those dependencies prepared to receive them. A “political sense and awareness,” therefore, led to the final break.

Professor Gipson has done his work in a painstaking manner. The style is fresh and stimulating. Original sources, here and abroad, have been used largely, but throughout, it is evident that the author is quite familiar with the recent research and findings of scholars in the field, which have been woven into the narrative. The study is well documented and a future volume is promised which will be devoted exclusively to a critical examination of sources for the history of the Empire from the middle of the eighteenth century to the outbreak of the American Revolution. Other volumes already projected will include a consideration of the problems of the frontiers of the Empire and also the diplomacy of the period. The succeeding volumes of the work, therefore, will be awaited with anticipation.

University of Pennsylvania

ARTHUR CECIL BINING.

“What is the Matter with Pennsylvania?” No satisfactory answer to this challenging statement made by William Russ in a recent issue of Pennsylvania History has been forthcoming. But it is abundantly patent that the malady if such there be, is deeply rooted in the character of the inhabitants of the commonwealth, and must, therefore, be diagnosed in terms of people. Consequently, our historians must increasingly devote themselves to the demography of early Pennsylvania. And in Dr. Knittle’s admirable study of Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration they have an extraordinarily fine model to follow.

The broad outlines of the Palatine emigration from the Rhineland to England, its transference to New York, its migration to Pennsylvania, and its eventual dispersal to the southward are familiar to all students. Here we have the story again, but with this difference: it is an essay in the revision of ideas. Dr. Knittle’s monograph comes very close to entering that historian’s paradise wherein a few chosen works are labelled “definitive.” Particularly valuable is the analysis of the European backgrounds of the emigration of 1708-1709. The apparent causes were the devastation of the Palatinate by marching armies and the bitter winter of 1708. In addition burdensome taxation, oppressive feudal exactions by petty rulers, land hunger among the older peasants, desire for adventure by the younger people, and the existence of intra-sectarian bickering and religious disputes (not religious persecution) produced a state of chronic unrest. Upon a people thus discontented, the high pressure publicity of colonial proprietors, particularly William Penn, and the unplanned benevolence of the British government acted like an electric spark. Within two years about 13,500 Palatines swarmed into England to claim largess from a government ill equipped to care for them. Nor were the crusading proprietors financially able to transport them to new lands in Pennsylvania or Carolina as these simple folk confidently expected.

The uncertain supply of Baltic naval stores, so evident to the Navy Office in the recent Northern War, and the prevalent admiration for French mercantile experiments like the manufactures royales gave birth to a government project for solving many problems at once. The Germans could produce naval stores on the New York frontier, thereby assuring to the navy an ample domestic supply of needed materials, to the province the production of a staple to exchange for British manufactures, to the frontier protection from the encroachments of the French and to the mother country freedom from the burden of relief expenditures.

From the mercantilists’ point of view this plan, which was put into execution in 1710, was practically perfect. Unfortunately the Germans, expecting to procure lands in Pennsylvania or Carolina, proved unwilling laborers. Moreover, they knew nothing about the production of pitch or tar. Yet, even so, things might have muddled along had Governor Hunter been provided with adequate funds to promote the manufacture and had not political
exigencies brought on by the party revolution of 1710 in England forced
the abandonment of the project—and of the Palatines.

The naval stores project constitutes the core of this book, but Dr. Knittle
unearths much new material and reinterprets other important aspects of the
Palatine question. He chronicles the settlement of some of the Germans in
Ireland and their eventual assimilation with the native population. He gives
an excellent account of life at Schoharie and lays to rest the legend of an
Indian grant of land to the settlers. He also moves the date of the migration
to Pennsylvania forward from 1723 to 1717. There is no longer any excuse
for the textbook statements that Conrad Weiser led the Palatines to Tulpe-
hocken, or that the unfortunate treatment of the Germans in New York was
responsible for retarding immigration to that province. That Later Ger-
man immigrants eschewed New York for Pennsylvania is better explained
by the prevailing high prices of land there and especially by the favorable
publicity Pennsylvania secured in the Fatherland. That the stream was
diverted in 1710 was only a vagary of British mercantilism.

In a recent study of immigration the following statement appeared: "For
none of the American colonies are the surviving records sufficiently com-
plete to permit a statistical study of immigration, and, unfortunately, it is
for New England where immigration was of relatively little importance,
that we have the most material." If the old information in the Pennsyl-
vania Archives, the works of I. D. Rupp and the recent compilations of
Strassburger and Henke do not invalidate Dr. C. K. Shipton's assertion
Journal of Political Economy, XLIV (1936), 225.), it most certainly
becomes incorrect when we add the lists of 12,000 German immigrants
assembled in the appendices of Dr. Knittle's work from the papers of the
Public Record Office. We now have a most workable list of German
immigrants covering 1683 to 1818.

For Dr. Knittle's scholarship the reviewer has nothing but praise; as
much cannot be said for his literary craftsmanship. Although clear, the
work makes heavy reading, and occasional grammatical lapses and a fond-
ness for split infinitives mar the text. The continued use of the title
"Reverend Kocherthal" jars one's sensibilities.

When studies of the Ulster Scots paralleling the work of Dr. Knittle are
made, some assessment of the effect of immigration on the early Pennsyl-
vania character will be possible. For the lesser national groups we have
the work of Dunaway on the French, and of Myers and Hull on the Irish
and Dutch Quakers. There is also the recent report on linguistic and
national stocks made by the American Council of Learned Societies. Such
an examination of the diverse elements in our colonial population must
include not only numbers, tongues, and nationalities, but an analysis of
the economic, religious, social and cultural folkways of the first settlers
on something more than a filio-pietistic or an antiquarian base. Where was
the German frontier or the Scotch Irish frontier in 1740? Did they coincide?
How real was the nativism of Benjamin Franklin and the Philadelphians?
The clashing or merging of cultures as well as of bloods must be under-
stood along with many other complexities of the immigration problem. And
until we comprehend these things the colonial history of Pennsylvania is meaningless.

At long last we are beginning to have the materials and the scholars we have so much needed. Let us hope that ten years hence no Dr. Russ will feel impelled to cry out "What is the matter with Pennsylvania's historians?"

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Carl Bridenbaugh.


This book is a continuation of the earlier work of these authors entitled Prices in Colonial Pennsylvania. This new volume grows out of a truly large project in cooperative research. The search for, and transcription of monthly prices of between 300 and 400 commodities for the seventy-eight years from the close of the Revolution to the Civil War, the testing, sifting, and winnowing of the series collected, these steps were but the beginning. Once assembled the data were subjected to all the probings and soundings of modern statistical technique. Finally, after careful research into contemporary commercial records, many of which have heretofore been unused by students, an effort was made to interpret the short-time price fluctuations.

The results are presented with emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of the data and with a nice subordination of statistical detail. The first section of the book is devoted to statistical analysis and deals with such subjects as changes in price stability, frequency of price change, and seasonality. The second section is largely historical, and the last, in addition to summarizing general tendencies, includes a comparative study of price movements in seventeen cycles and an examination of the prices of twenty commodities for the period 1720-1861.

The general index of prices, which the authors have constructed for the period 1784-1861 is of central importance not only because it has been used throughout the book as the chief basis for measuring and comparing price changes, but also because it will be seized upon by many readers as the most important result of the study. The decision of the authors not to weight this general index was no doubt based on careful consideration, but it does leave the reader with certain perplexities. Of course the term "unweighted index" is anomalous for it merely means that each series is of equal weight. Nor does increasing the number of items in an unweighted index necessarily improve it, for if the added series fall within a particular group or sub-group the result is merely to increase the weight of a group of commodities which, for the purpose in hand, may already be over-weighted.

Of the 140 commodities included in the general index sixty-seven are industrial items. Industrial products count for forty-eight per cent and United States farm products for twenty per cent. This "weighting" may be satisfactory for certain purposes, despite the fact that, for the country as a whole, manufacturing was of less importance as a source of income than agriculture. Occasionally, the authors seem to forget the importance of
their "weighting." For example, they show that prices of the two groups of industrial commodities "held closest to the general average" (p. 322). But it is not pointed out that this might be expected from the fact that industrial price series constitute nearly fifty per cent of all prices in the general index and other groups a considerably smaller percentage. If the weights of the agricultural and industrial groups had been reversed, then it seems very likely that agricultural price averages would have held close to the general index and industrial prices departed considerably from it. In fact, many of the statistical comparisons made seem to have little significance when used without clear reference to the relative weights involved. But it may well be that the reviewer's doubts result from his prejudice in favor of indexes covering short periods of time, related to a particular area, and deliberately weighted to bear on a given problem.

The unsatisfactory nature of any general index probably accounts for the emphasis which the authors have placed on the analysis of price movements of sub-groups and individual commodities. In fact, so important are individual series regarded that the authors have planned a companion volume in which the individual price series will be printed in full. When this is published, the student will have a treasure house of data from which he may erect his own indexes to suit his own purposes.

Unquestionably, Wholesale Prices in Philadelphia 1784-1861 will be of permanent interest to students of the business cycle. Economic, as well as political, historians will find it abounding in information which they cannot afford to ignore, and students of American price history will welcome it as a work of pioneering research which will not soon be equalled either for comprehensiveness or thoroughness.

Amherst College

GEORGE R. TAYLOR.

Eight First Biographies of William Penn in Seven Languages and Seven Lands, by William I. Hull. (Swarthmore College Monographs on Quaker History, No. 3. Swarthmore, Pa., 1936. Pp. xviii, 136. Illustrations. $2.00.)

Dr. Hull's third volume in the Quaker history series is a collection of essays rather than a monograph proper. The author has sought to discover and review the earliest biographical sketch of Penn produced in England, America, Holland, Germany, Italy, France and Spain. This basis for selection requires him to deal with a curious hodge-podge of biographical materials derived from Quaker histories, general church histories, encyclopaedias, collections of works and formal biographies which were written in two continents over a span of two centuries. The essays under review of necessity share to a considerable extent the unequal value of the materials treated.

In each essay, Dr. Hull discusses the aims and probable sources of information of the biographer and analyzes his portrayal of Penn—the latter, usually by the objective method which assumes that the amount of space allotted to a given incident reflects the emphasis intended to be placed upon it by the biographer. The pleasure of reading is impaired
by these mathematical calculations as well as by the author's inclusion in
the body of the text of every foreign word the translation of which is
doubtful or not of common usage. Such things, however, are of first
importance to Penn scholars for whom the book is obviously intended,
presupposing in the reader, as it does, a thorough familiarity with the life
of the Great Quaker and the literature upon it.

The volume bears throughout clear evidence of the patient labor of the
translator and the broad scholarship of the annotator, but lacks the leaven
of interpretation which might have been expected of one so intimately con-
versant with his field. For this reason the reviewer feels that Dr. Hull
has succeeded better in fulfilling his first stated purpose of making available
to scholars a considerable body of almost inaccessible biographical material
than in achieving the second—the picturing of Penn in the minds of people
of many lands.

University of Pennsylvania

PHILIP S. KLEIN.

Old Historic Churches of America—Their Romantic History and their
Traditions. By Edward F. Rines. (New York: The Macmillan Com-
pany, 1936. Pp. 373. Illustrations. $6.00.)

This is a beautiful book—most appropriate as a gift but equally as valu-
able as a source book in any library. We have long needed this work,
for the churches of America are closely linked to her history, from north
to south and east to west. Mr. Rines gives not merely a list of these sig-
nificant churches and pictures of their splendid, and sometimes quaint,
old buildings, but he also tells in fine dramatic form historic incidents con-
nected with many of them.

Grouped according to localities, generally as to present state lines, the
author begins with the cavalier churches of old Virginia. Among these
is St. John's in Richmond, where during the Virginia convention Patrick
Henry delivered his immortal speech: "Give me liberty or give me death."
In the same city is St. Paul's, the church of Jefferson Davis and of Robert
E. Lee—a shrine of lost hopes, but of glorious ideals and steadfast character.

Then north to the "Churches of the Pilgrim Country," with stories of
King's Chapel, Boston, the first Church of England edifice to be erected in
New England, 1686, and the first church to become Unitarian in this
country (1785). Old North and Old South of Boston again have their
histories related, and likewise the lovely old meeting houses scattered here
and there in the hamlets of the country-side.

"The Land of William Penn" contributes much of Quaker story and
sombre little meeting places, but Philadelphia has her shrines of the Revo-
lutionary period and earlier. Old Swedes and Christ Church are the chief
among them. And snuggled in the hills not far distant is Old St. David's of
Radnor, of which Longfellow wrote a poem of simple beauty.

These historic churches however are to be found not alone in the colonial
area, but as far west as the region of the ancient Spaniard of New Mexico
and California. Here are the beautiful and picturesque old Missions such
as that of Santa Barbara. And at Acoma, New Mexico, stands a church
building “said to be the oldest European structure now extant in the United States in anything like its original form.”

America is indebted to Mr. Rines for this exceptional work of art and what may in truth be called “a labor of love.” He has traveled the country over and has spent five years in the study of his subject. Over three hundred churches are mentioned and fifty illustrations are given, together with a bibliography on old churches. The oldest church mentioned is San Miguel, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1606, and the latest one, Independent Presbyterian, Savannah, Ga., 1889. The work in large measure is a history of Christianity in America.

Crozer Seminary, Chester, Pa.  R. E. E. HARKNESS.


The Catholics of colonial Pennsylvania were a minority, who for that reason have been given scant attention in most histories. Yet Jesuit missionaries as early as 1730 entered the colony to minister to them. Later mission centers (such as the one at Bally, 1741, near Reading) were established, from which trails radiated to various settlements in eastern Pennsylvania. The story of these settlements and trails is here set forth in a factual record, with great reverence for the pioneers and their work. The treatment is biographical, and by localities, a method more satisfactory for the religious than for the historian, yet there is much here for which the latter will be grateful. This new edition is well printed and profusely illustrated, with end papers displaying a map of the trails and earliest Catholic establishments.

Albright College  MILTON W. HAMILTON.