Before anything like an adequate history of American humanitarianism can be written, the activities of a considerable number of voluntary reform and philanthropic organizations must be thoroughly studied. Each well-executed story of such an organization is also of importance to the social scientist who is bent on understanding the personal and social springs of innovations and of opposition to them. For these two reasons, at least, many will welcome Dr. Teeters' *They Were in Prison; A History of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, 1787-1937.*

This monograph, for which Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes has written an appreciative introduction, is based on the manuscript Minutes of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons and on other documentary material. Dr. Teeters has made no effort to write a popular history of the oldest and the most influential organization in the history of modern penology. He has preferred to incorporate liberal excerpts from the minutes and other records of the major and of related Philadelphia institutions for the care of prisoners. In consequence the book is not easy to read, for the details are not always subordinated to the larger problems. But there is a mine of valuable information which is often of great human and dramatic interest.

As Dr. Barnes points out in his introduction, America gave to the world the modern prison system, which was in large measure the product of the humanity and ingenuity of American Friends. In the later part of the seventeenth century Quakers in West Jersey and Pennsylvania substituted for the prevailing bloody and cruel criminal code one which prescribed imprisonment at hard labor in place of barbarous corporal punishments. Although this did not prove to be a permanent improvement, it formed a precedent, together with the work of John Howard in England, for the reorganization of the criminal code in Pennsylvania in the years between 1776 and 1790. The leading impulse for this penological reform came from Philadelphia groups, particularly from the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Bishop William White, Richard Wistar, and other leading Philadelphians, non-Quakers as well as Friends, participated in the early work of the society. Its first achievement was to effect a thorough reform in the administrative system of the Walnut Street jail and to support the movement for the
reform of Pennsylvania's criminal code. Gradually the activities of the society resulted in what came to be known as the Pennsylvania system of prison discipline, the essential principle of which was solitary confinement at hard labor. Although the exponents of this system engaged in bitter strife with those of a modified plan, the Auburn system, their work was both constructive and far-reaching. Humanitarians from other states and from Europe visited the famous model "Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania" and were both inspired and guided by what they observed. De Tocqueville, Dickens, and others who came gave to the Pennsylvania system much publicity. The Pennsylvania Prison Society, as the original organization came to be known, finally, in our generation, broadened the scope of its rôle from that of championing a particular prison discipline to supporting a variety of wholesome proposals for the improvement of criminal law and prison conditions throughout the country. Thus it is particularly appropriate that the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this famous Philadelphia society should be observed by a detailed and scholarly history.

Students of social history may wish that Dr. Teeters, having conceived his work in such a detailed fashion, had gone still further and emphasized, more than he has done, the relation of the ideas entertained by the society to changing ideas of human nature and psychology, to the developing public health movement, and to the rôle of private organizations in a society in which governmental functions have become increasingly marked. But there is here, at least, first-hand material which will enable the student to throw light on these and on many other important problems in social history.

Columbia University

Merle Curti


A writer who has recently called attention to the pioneer biographies of the founder of Pennsylvania (Eight First Biographies of William Penn in Seven Languages and Seven Lands, 1936) now contributes one of his own. This latest study of the great Quaker finds part of its raison d'être in its effective topical treatment, inappropriate perhaps for a study of a little-known career, but one likely to prove refreshing to the many readers who will already be familiar with the life of William Penn. Even those who lack this familiarity will not find so very disconnected a narrative, for climaxes tend to fall in general chronological order. As the author announces at the outset, he has not sought to proportion his treatment of topics to their importance, but rather to the need for exposition in the light of existing literature. Themes lightly treated or ignored in the works of former writers, such as the rôle of Penn as a controversialist, or others over which debate has waxed hot, his relations with James II for instance, are here given the greater attention. The work is thus adapted, in content no less than in form, to round out the literature of a well-tilled historical field. Short of the monumental "definitive" biography of Penn which somebody will doubtless eventually write, one could hardly look for a work more
useful than this, certainly not in a single volume of modest size. It may be
felt that the author's idealism has betrayed him into thinking that "the
*Mayflower* and the *Welcome*, more than other ships which have sailed the
seas on peaceful or warlike errand, have caught the imagination of posterity;"
true doubtless of the Puritan Argo but hardly of the Quaker. From some
other opinions the reader may also dissent, but this is not likely to detract
from his enjoyment of a sound and well-written book.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON.

*Benjamin Franklin's Own Story*. By Nathan C. Goodman. (Philadelphia:
University of Pennsylvania Press. Pp. 268. $2.50.)

In view of the approaching bicentennial of the University of Pennsyl-
vania this volume has especial significance just now as a publication of the
University Press, with the author an alumnus of that institution and Franklin
himself its founder. Dr. Goodman has developed an excellent idea to which
the Press has given an attractive format, including the original cover
illustration.

The *Autobiography* was begun in 1771 in England but was at that time
brought down only to 1730. Years later, in Paris, it was taken up again
briefly. Then at home, in his old age, Franklin completed the account of
the first fifty years of his life, carrying the narrative to 1757. A few obser-
vations made in 1789 on the years 1757-59 concluded the work.

The first complete edition of the *Autobiography*, published in 1868 by John
Bigelow, is reprinted here, with pertinent notes by Dr. Goodman. A setting
for this, "the only unified book written by Franklin, although his engaging
letters, essays and papers fill many volumes," is provided by the introduction,
which very briefly sketches the life and achievements of Franklin and then
outlines the history of the *Autobiography* in manuscript and print.

This engaging narrative cannot be put in our hands too often, not only
because it is unique as a human document but also because of its civic value.
Though Franklin won his greatest fame as a scientist and statesman, he has
left an enduring record of service to his community, much of which has been
lasting in character.

Among his many notable contributions to the life of his city was the
founding of what became known in 1791 as the University of Pennsylvania.
Though he had, as he says, "abundant reason" to be satisfied with living in
Pennsylvania, "There were, however, two things that I regretted, there
being no provision for defense, nor for a compleat education of youth; no
militia, nor any college. I therefore, in 1743, drew up a proposal for estab-
lishing an academy."

Having raised by subscription the initial money necessary and having
helped to provide a building, he tells us that "The trustees of the Academy,
after a while, were incorporated by a charter from the governor; their funds
were increased by contributions in Britain and grants of land from the pro-
prietary, to which the Assembly has since made considerable addition;
and thus was established the present University of Philadelphia. I have
been continued one of its trustees from the beginning, now near forty years, and have had the very great pleasure of seeing a number of the youth who have received their education in it, distinguished by their improved abilities, serviceable in public stations, and ornaments to their country."

An original contribution of considerable value that the author makes to the volume is the sketch that continues the life of Franklin from the close of the Autobiography to his death in 1790. This is done largely through the latter's own words, quoted from his letters and other writings. Thus we have him portrayed as a Colonial Agent in London during the troubled years preceding the Revolution, as the Commissioner in Paris who wins the first diplomatic triumph for the new American nation, and as the aged statesman, once more at home in Philadelphia, still serving as the sands of life run low. Meanwhile scientific and philosophical observations, as well as those of social relationships, add much of interest.

Exception could be taken to the choice of material in some instances and to its interpretation in others. Franklin's marked silence before the Privy Council in 1774, for instance, scarcely prepares us for the author's calling him a hero because of "the dashing manner in which he had conducted himself at the meeting." The lack of an index may be suggestive of eighteenth-century traditions, but might not be approved by him as sufficiently labor saving, were Franklin with us today. From the scholar's viewpoint mention should have been made of Dr. Max Farrand's critical work upon the original manuscript of the Autobiography in the Henry E. Huntington Library.

Temple University

ANNA LANE LINGELBACH.


"Lincoln was made President by the vicissitudes of politics, by events quite mundane, in no way divine, by contacts and agreements which observers who do not understand the hard necessities of political life might well deem corrupt." This is the thesis which is developed in this volume. The procedure is merely one of describing the steps by which Lincoln rose to prominence in Illinois, became the candidate most available for Republican success in 1860, and then was placed in nomination by the political skill of western leaders and the accidents of favorable events.

It is not a new story for the student of American history even in minor detail. It has value only because it is the first effort to tell in popular form the plain unadorned tale of how a candidate and a President were made. The work is, nevertheless, sound in scholarship and the writing, though at times a bit involved for effect, generally well done. The task has long awaited the scholar. Mr. Baringer has rendered a good service by doing it so well.

In brief, Mr. Baringer's contentions are as follows: Lincoln did not aim at the presidency but at a senatorship. He made his way forward into the national arena largely as an opponent of Stephen A. Douglas for this office.
His showing in the campaign of 1858 made him the logical man to check Douglas for the presidency in 1860. The actual nomination came through the weaknesses of other candidates, who were too well known and generally too radical to bring party success, and through a skilful handling of his campaign in the Convention by a group of local politicians who knew every trick of the trade.

The work had been begun by a few scattered editors, such as Jeriah Bonham of Lacon, Illinois; David Locke of Mansfield, Ohio; and Israel Green of Findlay, Ohio. They early suggested Lincoln as the best leader for Republican success in 1860. Lincoln aided them by well-timed visits to Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana, and by the expression of conservative attitudes on the John Brown raid and in the Cooper Union speech. When old John Hanks told of his rail-splitting abilities, the democratic touch necessary for popular appeal had been added.

The story of the Chicago Convention is well told in this volume. Mr. Baringer shows how all doubtful delegates were informed of the inability of Seward to carry New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois and how offices were promised to favorite sons in each of these states. He makes the most out of the local setting and the crowding of the convention hall by Lincoln “rooters” and the skilful handling of the cheering by hired leaders working under signals from the platform. He leaves the impression that enthusiasm properly manufactured and opportuneely let loose carried the day. Lincoln was just another hand-picked candidate.

The moral Mr. Baringer draws is that in spite of God’s failure to take a hand in nominations he does see to it that we get good men in office. This was the case with Lincoln.

The work lacks economic and social background. It is quite uncritical in dealing with Lincoln himself regardless of the harsh hand laid on nomination methods. Douglas is still the villain of the play and receives considerably less than fair treatment. The grasp on the great forces at work in the nation is none too firm, but the story of Lincoln’s nomination is told well enough to justify a wide reading.

University of Chicago

AVERY CRAVEN.