It is commonly admitted that the growth of cities in the United States, within recent decades, has been one of the most important of social changes in the nation. The new culture of cities is in reality a new civilization and a new mode of existence. Yet the dominant patterns of American thought are not metropolitan, but are derived from regions, states, villages and farms. The notion of the dominant city or dominant cities developed by N. S. B. Gras, and R. D. McKenzie a decade ago seems less obvious now, although the cities may in fact have a more subtle and indirectly pervasive influence than formerly. At any rate a change has come over the nation, and the close study of particular cities reveals this change.

Mr. Baldwin's story of Pittsburgh shows a great industrial city growing up without very definite urban attitudes. True, he finds a great deal of urban optimism of a business sort. But he lays stress upon the loyalty of Pittsburgh to the nation and its dependence upon the nation. Its industry is continental in its relationships. But this account seeks to avoid special interpretations and to illustrate the entire range of problems and qualities developed over a long period. The emphasis is on the eighteenth and nineteenth century. This history is replete with struggle and triumph and with attention duly given to the intellectual and cultural achievement. In apparent answer to a popular magazine article "Is Pittsburgh Civilized?" he includes a detailed account not merely of the universities of the city, its technical institutes and art exhibitions, but also of Stephen Collins Foster. This writer of homely song was not a product of the farm but of the city. The fact that he touched the heart and gained a popularity nation wide, indicates, in the author's view, that the city of steel is not cut off from the older American humane culture.

While not primarily devoted to recent developments, Mr. Baldwin closes his account with a note of resplendency. To him Pittsburgh is a city with a future because it is grounded in the new ways of technology and of wealth creation. Its Golden Triangle symbolizes greater things to come: "It now stands enthralled upon the threshold of a great adventure—viewing through the doorway to the future an intellectual and material empire such as few other cities have the faith or the opportunity to behold." It is this quality of optimism which is here revealed which is so characteristic of American cities. In the past it has been in a large measure justified by reason of rapid growth; in the future it may counteract to some extent the extreme
nationalism which is now making its appearance and thus give to civilization a better balance.

Teachers College, Kansas City, Missouri

GUY V. PRICE.


On the banks of the Wabash at Vincennes there stands a noble monument to George Rogers Clark, the conqueror of the Old North West who added an empire to the United States, the possession of which saved it from probable dissolution during the Critical Period. But to the man who made this possible, who sacrificed wealth, business reputation, and the best years of his life without reward and with grudging, tardy, and inadequate reimbursement for his generous achievements, no stately evidences of gratitude in marble or Indiana limestone have been raised.

Oliver Pollock’s connection with Pennsylvania is confined to a brief two years after landing from Ireland, occasional visits in the midst of a busy and successful commercial career centering in New Orleans, and the grey days of his latter years.

During the Revolution he turned his notable talents to the cause of saving American independence. Critical indeed were those days! For it was not only in the east, from the sea, along the seaboard, or from the north that the thirteen young “united States” were menaced. The West from the earliest outbreak of hostilities held an ever-present threat for the country which might have been deadly had it not been for the unending efforts of Oliver Pollock. It was he who by his influence with the Spanish authorities and by his generous extension of credit and cash baffled and beat back the rising tide of English and Indians. Taking a leaf out of a little treatise of another and greater Pennsylvanian, he put into practical use the discourse of Benjamin Franklin on the *Rules by which a Great Empire may be reduced to a small One.* In this operation George Rogers Clark was his effective instrument.

There are a number of solid satisfactions to be derived from this book under review. Among such is an example—rare enough in history—of national wrongdoing well requited. For in these important contributions of Oliver Pollock to the success of the Revolution one can see some small retribution for England’s mistreatment of the Scotch-Irish. In trying to account for the extraordinary exhibition of patriotism on the part of this recently arrived “Pennsylvanian,” must not one attribute it in considerable part to the tenacious memory of that virile and vengeful people who, deeply versed in the Old Testament, preferred to exemplify the “lex talionis” of the Mosaic code rather than the “beatitudes” of the Golden Rule?

In September of 1872 Pollock wrote to the president of Congress an account of his services at the close of which he said, “It has not been my Fortune to move on a splendid Theatre... I dwelt in an Obscure Corner... alone and unsupported. I have laboured without ceasing, I have
BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES

neglected the road to Affluence, I have exhausted my all and plunged myself deeply in debt, to support the Cause of America, In the hours of her Distress. . . . But these things I do not boast of, what I do boast of is, that I have a Heart Still ready (had I the means) to hear sufferings, and make new sacrifices. I pray your Excellency to submit this Narrative to the indulgence of Congress. . . . And in their Justice I repose the fullest Confidence."

The United States has already enshrined its Unknown Soldier, and now in rescuing from oblivion an "Unknown Patriot" of whom this country was not worthy, Professor James has done a distinguished service to America and her history.

Temple University

A. E. Morse.

Great Leveler. The Life of Thaddeus Stevens. By Thomas Frederick Woodley. (New York: Stackpole Sons, 1937. Pp. 474. $3.50.)

This is a partially revised edition of the author's Thaddeus Stevens published in 1934. Mr. Woodley made "no attempt at a comprehensive and all-inclusive work" in this single-volume biography, but he has presented much new detail which is the result of his painstaking researches in documents and newspapers. Certainly this biography is superior in that respect to any heretofore read by the public.

Throughout the story the author challenges the prevailing views of Stevens' character. In his honest attempt to do justice to his subject Mr. Woodley appears at times biased in favor of Stevens who is not painted here as the evil-minded statesman, a very devil, wholly "devoid of the finer attributes of character"; yet he is described as having an enormous lack of tact, and as given all too frequently to the use of "bitter satire" and "offensive speech." He was much a creature of environment. Without intimate influential friends, the dour, shunned, club-footed child and youth rose from stark poverty to power and leadership in Pennsylvanina politics, and during the Civil War and Reconstruction he is shown to have been a sort of battering-ram for blunt truth and reality. Always he fought doggedly for the oppressed, the underdogs, doing many unpublicized favors for needy persons and institutions. He is pictured steadfastly as the "pragmatic democrat" fully entitled to the sobriquet, "The Old Commoner." This he was, but one might disagree as to Stevens' right to be known as the "Great Emancipator," or that his plan for reconstructing the South was preferable to that of Lincoln's or some others. The chapter on Civil War "Finance" is a contribution to Civil War history. A more critical analysis of Stevens' course in Congress would have been useful in this volume. Other chapters of special merit are entitled, "Anti-Mason," "Educator," "Secession," "Leader," "Emancipation," "Restoration," and "Justice to Stevens." The story is written in a straightforward manner, now and then illuminated with a good anecdote, but generally in as serious a vein as was Stevens in his determination to make equality of all mankind God's law on earth. Whether one agrees or disagrees with the author's interpretation of the
facts this biography is interesting and worth reading. It is to be regretted
that the chapters were left unnumbered. A lengthy partial bibliography
with some omissions of available, desirable works is followed by seven pages
of footnotes and a very useful analytical index.

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

WILLIAM E. SMITH.

The Life and Letters of Bishop William White, Together with the Services
and Addresses Commemorating the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary
of his Consecration to the Episcopate. Edited by Walter Herbert Stowe.
Church Historical Society Publication, No. 9. (New York and Mil-

Many historical readers and students will pick up this volume from the
table with great expectations. On the cover is merely the abbreviated title,
The Life and Letters of Bishop William White. In the field of Pennsyl-
vania history alone, e.g. Newlin's Brackenridge, such a title has been used
to designate the contents of a volume of well-organized historical research
and literary presentation. And most students of Pennsylvania history and
an even greater number of students of American church history know that
a very important historical figure, ecclesiastical and social, is under con-
sideration.

But any such great expectations are somewhat vain. The fuller state-
ment on the title page quickly tempers the highest expectations. A careful
survey of the contents inevitably still further moderates high expectations.
One quickly notices that the first chapter, "Ancestry and Early Life," is a
reprint of a publication of 1887 by Bishop William Stevens Perry, who died
in 1898; that Chapter II, "The Presbyter," Chapter III, "The Bishop,"
Chapter IV, "Dr. White's Episcopate," and Chapter V, "The Teacher," are
by four different authors; and that Chapters VI, VII, and VIII are typical
of commemorative publications, containing programs of commemorative
church services, short sermons, brief addresses, and biographical sketches.
In Chapter IX one finds valuable imprints of very important letters by
Bishop White and in Chapter X an excellent bibliography.

Possibly the professional historian should not expect much from a com-
memorative volume. As a rule such a compilation is not good historiography.
A vast amount of overlapping and repetition seems unavoidable. The re-
search student really needs a card-note system to get satisfactory results
from such reading. Valuable historical data and statement almost seem to
be hidden away and lost in this process of exposition. In the case of this
volume this defect is partially met by a lengthy and valuable index. The
reviewer's comments concern more the type of compilation than this par-
ticular example. Of its type this volume is one of the best.

The Life and Letters of Bishop William White does furnish much valu-
able historical light on eighteenth-century Philadelphia, on public opinion
at the end of the colonial period and both during and after the American
Revolutionary War, and particularly on religious conditions and develop-
ments during the long lifetime of an important religious leader. While to
the reviewer the contents of the volume do not measure up to the possibili-
ties of the caption on the cover, it is, as doubtless it was mainly intended to be, a worthy commemoration publication. It is remarkably free from casual errors, well printed and well bound, and should prove of interest and value to many members of that branch of the church in which Bishop White rendered such great service.

University of Pittsburgh

ALFRED P. JAMES.


John Welsh was a citizen of Philadelphia noted for his public spirit and generosity. Establishing himself in business during the early part of the nineteenth century, he became a substantial man of property. But public service was one of his ideals. He was the leading figure in promoting the Centennial at Philadelphia in 1876 and he was largely responsible for the great Fairmount Park development. He was rewarded by an appointment to represent the United States at the Court of St. James.

His grandson, Hon. Edward Lowber Stokes, has selected from his large correspondence a significant group of letters here published. These letters begin with several interesting items which passed between himself and his wife describing scenes on journeys into Kentucky and Tennessee in the thirties and forties. Most of the items bear dates in the 1870's and are connected with his diplomatic mission to Great Britain.

These letters contain many interesting facts about the various places visited by Mr. Welsh, the people he met, and his reactions to his various experiences and the important events of the day. His diplomatic files are particularly interesting to the historian. Most important, however, is the revelation of the man himself. Mr. Welsh was an upright man with high ideals of public service. He was blessed with a charitable instinct and a simple code of Christian ethics that made him a valuable citizen. Public life has ever been enriched by such and there are all too few of his type.

The volume contains an appropriate introduction written by Provost Josiah H. Penniman of the University of Pennsylvania, who occupies the John Welsh Centennial Professorship of History and English Literature founded through the generosity of Mr. Welsh.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS.

*The Civil War and Reconstruction.* By J. G. Randall. (Boston and New York: D. C. Heath, 1937. xvii, 959. $5.00.)

The Civil War and Reconstruction stand as "America's tragedy." For the diverse, extensive and partisan literature of this period students have long needed a scholarly and concise work. Professor Randall has essayed the colossal task of such a synthesis in one extended volume. Forty-three pages of classified bibliography, part of which is indicated only by indices, bears testimony to his industry. The work is presented in thirty-seven chapters. Seven of these deal with the background of the war, and eight are devoted to reconstruction. More than one hundred illustrations and maps are included.
The work is hypothecated on no special theory of the war or of history in general. Neither “irrepressible conflict” nor “economic determinism” has been adopted as the theme refrain. The materials selected constitute a well balanced picture composed of the numerous factors that make up the social and psychological complex. The succession of historical problems are presented in what seems to be a natural order without too strict a regard for chronology.

The controversial character of the writing upon the Civil War makes it necessary for the author to treat charges and counter-charges, both personal and partisan, in almost every chapter. His judicious approach to the subject and his careful and extensive examination of both monographic and source materials entitle the writer’s conclusions to the very highest consideration. Pennsylvanians may be proud that President Buchanan “kept his head” in the secession crisis. General McClellan fares much better than do Secretaries Cameron and Stanton at the hands of the scholar. The bungling of the war in its early stages by the Lincoln politicians is all too apparent to require expression. President Lincoln seemed to apply constitutionalism more strictly to the congress than to the executive.

The author is reserved with personal judgments. He prefers to let the facts and quotations point the conclusions. However he does not shy at the controversial questions, and his footnotes usually contain his modest conviction or an expression of judgment withheld.

The period of reconstruction, especially the Grant administration, due to limitation of space, is more briefly presented than the earlier part. The work as a whole is an outstanding contribution to the useful works of American history. It has no rival covering the period that it treats. The author has placed the students of this period under deep obligation to him.

University of Nebraska

J. L. Sellers.