BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

Edited by JAMES A. BARNES
Temple University


In 1638 a Swedish trading company began a colonial experiment on the banks of the Delaware, which never during its brief career of seventeen years involved more than two or three hundred people, and which left virtually no permanent impress on the American scene. Now, three hundred years later, Swedish-Americans, whose contributions to our national life have been truly great, are engaged in celebrating the first attempt of their forebears to settle in this country. It is to their credit that the expected flood of books appearing in the wake of their tercentennial celebration is characterized by an admirable restraint and an absence of extreme nationalist claims. Yet a knowledge of the Swedish colonial venture, unimportant as most of its chroniclers readily admit it to have been, is not without value to students of colonization, and New Sweden has been fortunate in its historians. In 1911 Dr. Amandus Johnson published his Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, a full-dress history based upon painstaking research. So thorough was his achievement that succeeding writers can do little more than re-evaluate his materials; there is little by way of fact to add. Such is the case with the two volumes reviewed here.

Mr. Christopher Ward, lawyer and author of charming parodies of current fiction, some years ago published an urbane and well-written account of New Sweden. For the purpose of this year's celebration he has condensed and rewritten this earlier volume. Based upon Johnson's facts, yet supplying fresh interpretations, the result is admirable. The reviewer knows of no work on the colonies which so successfully combines accuracy and critical insight with pungent wit and a graceful touch. Mr. Ward's thesis is that New Sweden was never more than "a mere trading post," (p. 35) and from this point of view he assesses the significance of the venture. Among the best sections of the book are the portraits of important personalities, especially Governors Printz and Rising. While regretting only the small space accorded the actual life on the Delaware, we could not ask for a better piece of "occasional" historical writing.

Professor Wuorinen's work is a solid, scholarly performance devoted to a discussion of the part played by the Finns in the Swedish settlements. In the seventeenth century, Finland belonged to Sweden, and present-day his-
torians still tend to speak of the mother country as Sweden-Finland. The description of social and economic conditions in the Scandinavian peninsula which led to the overseas project constitutes a considerable part of the work. Professor Wuorinen brings out clearly the role of the Finns in colonizing "frontier" regions of Sweden, where their tendency to burn forest lands in order to clear them brought official denunciation and resulted in the transportation of some of them to the Delaware valley. It was a Finn, Admiral Klas Fleming, who more than any other promoter, infused energy into the trading venture, and first and last Finns made up half of the settlers in New Sweden. An elaborate appendix exposes the faux pas of the United States government when it failed to invite Finnish delegates to the tercentennial celebration. Fortunately, interested parties advised the authorities before it was too late.

These two good books both overlook, curiously enough, an important contribution of the Swedes and Finns to the life of colonial America. Coming from a heavily forested, partially settled country, they understood pioneer technique in wooded regions, and on the banks of the Delaware built the first log houses in the New World. Borrowed by the English from the Swedes, the log cabin became for a time the usual dwelling of the American frontier, and a stock property of much of our later folklore.

Brown University

CARL BRIDENBAUGH.


When J. Bennett Nolan undertakes a journey into any field or bypath of history, his readers know that some new path to the past will be thoroughly explored. And so in his latest book Benjamin Franklin in Scotland and Ireland, 1759 and 1771 this confidence is richly rewarded.

Unquestionably a treatment of such considerable extent was needed and requires no justification, for in the latest and most extensive biography of Franklin (by Carl Van Doren) the first journey is dismissed in seven lines and the second is dealt with in a scant page and a half, though the author regards it as "the longest he ever made in the British Isles, and the most important." Mr. Van Doren's account concerns itself almost wholly with the Irish Parliament and politicians, and disagrees markedly with Mr. Nolan's as to the political importance of this visit.

Of the various journeys which Franklin made from London two have been chosen both of which concern Scotland, the first wholly so and the latter likewise but via Ireland. To connect these two journeys, separated as they are, by twelve years, the reader is treated to a brief summary of the intervening years in a chapter entitled "The Interlude" in which among a few other things the efforts of Princeton to obtain a Scotch president receive generous attention. This is quite understandable, for to chant the praise of Old Nassau her sons are always eager. At this point the reviewer must call attention to the lamentable lack of the index in missing at least two references to Alma Mater. And since Franklin made a number of
journeys it is not uncharitable to suggest that the persistent choice of Scotland was by no means fortuitous—the connection between Presbyterian Scotland and the Presbyterian college in New Jersey was then close and important.

In 1759 Franklin set out with his then dutiful but still dubious offspring to scout the enterprises of England in Birmingham, Sheffield, and Liverpool and to scour Scotland, especially "Auld Reekie," for philosophers, savants, and scientists. To judge by his letters to Lord Dick and to Lord Kames his holidays in Scotland were most fruitful in friendships. What trade secrets were disclosed to his ever-watchful eye he keeps closely to himself. It is interesting to note that Franklin persists in voicing a sharp protest against the prohibitions and limitations of manufacturing imposed by the mother country.

Seemingly hopelessly handicapped by a "dearth of fundamental data," Mr. Nolan has had to draw heavily and handsomely on "local records, observations of contemporaries, a few scattering notices in newspapers of the period, diaries and correspondence of Benjamin's fellow tourists." For "Benjamin" has not been at all helpful—in fact, quite the contrary.

Of Franklin's letters there are extant only a handful, most of which are merely letters of gratitude for hospitality. For the journey of 1759 there is but one letter which gives much of a clue to the itinerary, and that Mr. Nolan makes do double duty. As to the second journey of 1771 the sage was almost equally silent. But 1759 is very sparing of letters. In Smythe's edition of the *Writings of Benjamin Franklin* there are but five for that year, although there are more than that extant.

It is idle to speculate on the failure of Franklin to record his impressions of his journeys. Mr. Nolan finds it unaccountable. Prudence may have stayed his hand—George III and his ministers regarded all letters as their proper prey—from writing down conversations with Scotch, Irish, and English notables. His silence, however, in regard to the usual or unusual things which strike the imagination or the stomach or the feelings of anyone who was rash or brave enough to expose himself to the perils and hardships of an eighteenth-century journey is quite inexplicable.

Regarded then as a picture of the times in the British Isles drawn not by Franklin, but by Mr. Nolan, this volume is rich in revelations of the important circles political, philosophical, and scientific in which Benjamin Franklin moved and wherein he busily gave and received wisdom.

Mr. Nolan's discourses are not as a rule too discursive, though what might be deemed a generous allowance in allusions and excursions appears to approach prodigality when the reader is informed (p. 195): "It is interesting to record that the Lord Elphinstone, Knight of the Thistle, of our own day, the great-great-grandson of the nobleman whom Franklin met at Carron, is brother-in-law to the present Queen of England."

Nor is this the only place where one might feel that the illustration approached the irrelevant. Nevertheless in general the illustrative material and the citations to a multitude of well-chosen sources are as informative as they are germane to a subject so admirably handled.
Let the letter of the great traveler who spent many years of his mature life in keeping 3,000 miles of salt water between himself and his Debby witness to the difficulties of Mr. Nolan:

We have been out now almost three weeks having spent some time in Derbyshire among the gentry there to whom we are recommended as also at Manchester and this place [Liverpool]. We shall set out today for Lancaster. The journey agrees extremely well with me and will probably be many ways of use to me.

The American Ulysses concludes the above-quoted letter to his Philadelphia Penelope: "I long much to hear from you and shall endeavor to return early next spring." Alas for fond hopes! London and Paris saw much more of him than did homeward-bound packets at any time of the year. It is undoubtedly most fortunate for his country that Mistress Deborah hated and feared the Atlantic more than death.

Again let it be said that Mr. Nolan has performed prodigies of research in so skillfully reconstructing these by no means unimportant episodes and travels of one who was certainly the First Citizen of Pennsylvania and probably the greatest American of them all.

A. E. Morse.


Much has been written about Benjamin Franklin, the sage of Philadelphia. His life, "the most remarkable success story in American history," is the subject of several recent volumes. It is not strange that this extraordinary person, whom George Wharton Pepper, in one of the brief illuminating forewords supplied by prominent Americans for the series under consideration, calls "the most civilized man of his day" and "the wisest man of his time," exerts a strong appeal to the biographical impulse, for the amazing versatility and true depth of character, ability, and achievement which made him outstanding throughout his long life render him a worthy subject for any man's pen.

The Poor Richard pamphlets, edited by Nathan G. Goodman for the Franklin Institute under the apt heading "Profile of Genius" and printed, appropriately enough, by the Franklin Printing Company, founded in 1728 by Franklin himself, do not pretend to constitute a complete and traditional biography. The first of the set of nine titles, "Life of Benjamin Franklin Year by Year 1706-1790" (58 pages), does cover, however, the significant incidents of Franklin's life. It is a succession of brief excerpts from his writings (principally his famous Autobiography), filled in with some explanatory material, presenting in graphic chronological form his career as "editor and publisher, scientist, public servant, diplomat, civic-minded American, philosopher, inventor, and versatile human being." Each of the other pamphlets represents a cross section of one of the phases of this many-sided individual's personality, thoughts, and activities as expressed in well-chosen extracts from his Autobiography, some of his pamphlets and news-
paper articles, various of his letters, and *Poor Richard's Almanack*, Franklin’s “foremost achievement in the journalistic field.” Thus Pamphlet II, “Benjamin Franklin on Honesty” (35 pages), consists of selections from his writings which deal with honesty and personal integrity, reminding the reader of that simple standard of honesty which Dr. Thomas S. Gates calls “Franklin’s legacy to his countrymen” and offering “practical advice on how to handle specific situations.” Pamphlet III, “The Way to Wealth, and Words of Wisdom from Benjamin Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanack*” (35 pages), gives us intact the proverbs that appeared in the Almanack over a period of twenty-five years relating to the way to wealth through industry, frugality, and diligence, assembled and published by Franklin in connected form in his Almanack for 1758 as “the harangue of a wise old man to the people attending an auction.” It includes such gems as “He that riseth late must trot all Day, and shall scarce overtake his Business at Night,” and “Handle your Tools without Mittens; remember that the Cat in Gloves catches no mice.” Carter Glass in his *Foreword* points out the fine distinction between *wealth* and *riches*. Part II of this pamphlet, “Words of Wisdom,” is composed of a miscellaneous collection of maxims from *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. Like the rest of Franklin’s writings, they are shot through with a genial humor and a deep understanding of human nature.

Pamphlet IV, “Benjamin Franklin on Peace” (27 pages), is made up of a series of excerpts from those of Franklin’s letters, written for the most part while he was in France representing the United States during the Revolutionary War, which express in no uncertain terms the author’s abhorrence of bloodshed and conviction that war is futile, expensive, and mischievous, together with his earnest wish that conciliation might take the place of force. Pamphlet V, “The Practical Dr. Franklin” (49 pages), recounts the many inventions and constructive suggestions of “the most inquisitive and the most practical man in the American colonies.” The “incredibly curious” contriver of the Pennsylvania fireplace, the lightning rod, the one-arm lunch-room chair, bifocal spectacles, ventilated street-lamp globes, the “long arm” for removing books from high shelves, and other devices, and the instigator of plans for education, the first public library (“mother of all the North American subscription libraries”), street paving and cleaning, police protection, and many other projects, Franklin was interested also in, among other things, the development of agriculture, the fire-proof construction of houses, silkworm culture, and the establishment of the Pennsylvania Hospital. While deputy postmaster-general for North America he bent his energies to increasing the efficiency of the sadly inadequate postal service. In fact, there was scarcely an important phase of life on which he did not have some helpful proposals, if not actual inventions, to offer in addition to his penetrating discussions.

Pamphlet VI, “Benjamin Franklin on Industry, Frugality, and Thrift” (31 pages), and Pamphlet VII, “Benjamin Franklin on Citizenship” (39 pages), carry out the plan of the series on the subjects named; Franklin’s “lengthy and distinguished career as a ‘good citizen’” adds weight to his
sentiments. In Pamphlet VIII, "Benjamin Franklin on the Art of Virtue" (34 pages), is a passage from the Autobiography in which are discussed the virtues as Franklin saw them: temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquillity, chastity, and humility. In an excerpt from the Dogood Papers pride is characterized as "a vice the most hateful to God and man."

The last pamphlet of the group (39 pages), has to do with Franklin's ideas on religion. "A genuinely religious man," Franklin was an advocate of an active Christianity, doers being preferred far above mere hearers. He was an implicit believer in the immortality of the soul, and regarded the human body as a divine loan from a benevolent God to "assist us in acquiring knowledge or in doing good to our fellow creatures."

Thus may be summed up Benjamin Franklin's working pattern of life. It is fitting that the story of so fluent a man should be told in his own writings. Although not, strictly speaking, a biography, the series offers in compact, readable form an effective picture of what the highly respected, much-loved genial philosopher was, etched in Franklin's own poignant words and expressive deeds. A delightful portrayal of a delightful personality, the study supplies the appreciative reader with pleasant matter from the perusal of which he emerges with his admiration of the "patron saint" of many things refreshed and invigorated.

Philadelphia

ELINOR BARNES.


In 1740 Benjamin Franklin, prompted by the success of contemporary British magazines, resolved to produce a monthly magazine for the English colonies in America. His own time being already well occupied, he approached John Webbe, a pedantic lawyer of Philadelphia, with the proposal that Webbe undertake the editorial work, while Franklin took care of printing and publication. Webbe, however, sought to better himself by disclosing the scheme to Franklin's bitter rival Andrew Bradford, from whom he obtained more favorable terms. Thus threatened with competition Franklin hastened his plans, though not quite sufficiently. The first number of the General Magazine, dated January 1741, was placed on sale on February 16, having been forestalled by the narrow margin of three days by Bradford's American Magazine. The latter thus became the first American magazine, though it seems clear that Franklin was the inspirer of both. The General Magazine enjoyed a larger measure of success, or perhaps one should say that its ultimate failure was longer delayed. It ran for six months; its rival for only half that time. Who, if anyone, took the place of Webbe is not known; Franklin may himself have done most of the editorial work.
One is immediately impressed by the eclectic nature of the *General Magazine*. It is a veritable miscellany. A good deal of space is allotted to reports of the proceedings of the British Parliament, of colonial legislatures, of the Board of Trade, of governors, law officers of the crown, and to other official matters. Other copy is culled from English and American newspapers, from new books, and from works, like Robert Beverley's *History of Virginia*, which had been in print for some time. The New Manual Exercise for infantry is printed in the numbers for February and March. Considerable space is devoted to theological issues, the activities of George Whitefield receiving attention throughout the six issues, as does also another timely issue, the currency question. Close to the end of each number, under the caption "Historical Chronicle," appears a survey of current events. It has been estimated that less than ten per cent of its 426 pages represent original material.

The present facsimile reproduction is printed, with a preface, in size identical with the original. The small type of which Franklin was so proud makes serious demands upon the eyesight, the more so since the reproduction falls short of doing justice to the typography of the original. However, so significant and interesting is the *General Magazine* historically, and so scarce is the original, few files even approximately completeness, that the present little volume should receive a warm welcome.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON.


(Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1938. Pp. 316. Illustrations. $2.50.)

Here is the book for which both Pennsylvania Germans and Pennsylvania Dutch have longed. In our ranks there is but one serious difference of opinion—are we Pennsylvania Germans or are we Pennsylvania Dutch? No blood has been shed, but there have been moments when bloodshed has been imminent.

Miss Hark cites authorities on both sides—on the German her distinguished father, on the Dutch, Dr. Cornelius Weygandt and Governor Samuel Pennypacker. She takes her own stand on both sides, writing of Pennsylvania Dutch art in one sentence and of Pennsylvania German art in the next, meaning, of course, the same art. I am not sure that she does not use both denominations in one sentence. The only possible exception that a Pennsylvania German can take to her delightful book is that he is sometimes called Pennsylvania Dutch, and the only exception a Pennsylvania Dutchman can take is that he is sometimes called Pennsylvania German. How Miss Hark would explain the Ephrata translation of the *Dutch Martyr Book* into German, this reviewer was curious to see. Wisely she translates the great work into German, but does not say from what.

She makes the reader see the Pennsylvania German landscape in all its beauty, the fields of grain, the towering Swiss barns, the winding streams. We attend with her a baptism in Snitz Creek and look back into the past to see the huge Conestoga wagons bringing produce eastward to the cities, and carrying emigrants to the westward. She describes with understanding
affection the ways of Dunker and Amish and Seventh Dayer. She stands by Conrad Beissel's grave "with slightly misted eyes." She views the vagaries of *hexerei* with the appropriate humor which is too uncommon.

She calls the roll of the "dumb Dutch," so labeled by their fellow citizens—Pastorius, learned founder of Germantown; Rittenhouse, America's first mathematician, and astronomer of note; the Muhlenbergs, famous in theology, war, statesmanship and science; Casper Wister, James Lick, and Charles T. Yerkes. Here is "Baron" Stiegel, and here is Regina, the Indian maid.

Bethlehem has her heart. There she grew up; there she helped to bake the Christmas cakes, "Moravian brown Christmas cakes" and "Moravian white Christmas cakes" and *leckerle*. There she attended the Christmas Eve service and watched the church "bursting into a sea of lights" as the candles were lighted, and when the service was over, sped from house to house to see the *putz*, the representation of the manger and its guests, under each tree.

This reviewer read the book "in one piece" and proposes to read it again, and then again. She left off in such a glow that for a few minutes she was almost willing to be called Pennsylvania Dutch!

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Elsie Singmaster.


This volume presents the fruits of an endeavor to ascertain why the United States experienced an accelerating flow of big business and corporate enterprise in the years following the War of Independence. In brief, Dr. East's thesis is that the war released constructive, as well as destructive, forces—

the encouragement of a gainful and speculative business spirit; the expansion of some markets, foreign and domestic, along with the loss of others; the stimulus for new investment ideas, resulting from war loans and from the discouragement of older investment habits; the rise of new business groups and the idea of large scale business association, as a result of extraordinary war activities (p. 30).

In a brief sketch of colonial business on the eve of the Revolution the author shows how the colonists had accumulated capital which they were investing in business directly, by means of personal loans, notes, and mortgages. The typical enterprise was still on a small scale and usually on an individual or partnership basis. Business development was lagging, particularly on the side of financial organization, because of the lack of leadership for large ventures, British mercantilistic restrictions, and a considerable amount of popular hostility to commercial enterprise—a feeling which seems to be natural in an agrarian people.

The outbreak of war forced a tremendous outburst of business activity. The armies required food, clothing, and other supplies in unprecedented amounts; and merchants hurriedly organized themselves locally and nation-
ally to cope with the new situation. Money and public loans had to be raised to meet sharply expanding government needs. With Imperial restrictions cast off, men opened trade with Sweden, France, and Holland and enlarged that with the West Indies—new trade to replace the lost British markets. With all this came a wave of money chasing and speculation.

As the war progressed, business men generally obtained much experience in handling large-scale ventures, devised new mechanisms for investment and institutionalized business activities to a marked extent. Gradually, moreover, they overcame radical and rural opposition and added political power to their economic gains. In so doing they created an atmosphere in which Hamilton's economic philosophy could live and wax strong. After the first few years of confusion and depressed business which followed peace, the way was open for such large undertakings as turnpike construction, manufacturing, land companies, and banks.

In one way and another, much of this was known to us before, but it is useful to have the various parts of the story assembled and worked out in some detail. Pennsylvanians will be especially interested in the many pages which relate developments in and about Philadelphia. Perhaps the most significant contribution which Dr. East makes is a rather intimate, though somewhat fragmentary, picture of supply operations during the war. This aspect of Revolutionary history has received little systematic attention. At first glance it may seem to be somewhat beyond individual scheming and profiteering, but trade in supplies and government contracts was essential to the conduct of military operations, and we ought to know more about it.

The author has done a staggering amount of research in many manuscript collections. Perhaps he has used too many, for some readers will feel that the effort was spread over too wide a field, with the result that it is inevitably thin at any given point. The work is certainly not superficial, but in places it does seem as if hit-and-run tactics had been used. Indeed, no other method would be feasible in the circumstances, if so large a question is to be attempted before we have many detailed histories of individual firms of the period as a basis for generalization.

Without challenging the main thesis one may well feel that the author has dismissed without adequate consideration the business developments, particularly along cooperative lines, which preceded the war. In New England, at least, there were several attempts to establish joint-stock banks between 1690 and 1740, while several fire-insurance companies were formed before 1770. The failures seemed to have been more the result of a lack of liquid capital than of any inability of the merchants to work together in large ventures. True, the colonies did lag behind England in degree of commercial and financial organization, but that clearly was because America was so much younger and had a smaller volume of business to handle. Time and normal economic developments were changing that situation.

Still, the war undoubtedly hastened the growth of mobile capital, increased the use of credit instruments, and fostered large-scale enterprise. As a result, many changes occurred in American business before 1800 that
otherwise would have waited until the effects of the Industrial Revolution were really felt on this side of the Atlantic, beginning about 1815.

Both the general and the economic historians can read this book with profit, and many in both groups will see in it many opportunities for further investigation. The greatest of these, in this reviewer's opinion, is that of studying the impact of the Revolution upon individual firms, internally as well as in their external aspects. Until this is done we cannot give a thorough test to a thesis which Dr. East explicitly labels a tentative one. Harvard University

RALPH M. HOWER.


Mr. Klein's survey, while not ignoring history and economics, forms an indispensable sequel to Mr. Baldwin's story of Pittsburgh (Leland D. Baldwin, _Pittsburgh: The Story of a City_, The University of Pittsburgh Press, 1937). The latter account reflects much of Pittsburgh's opinion of itself, while the former gives much of an outsider's view. The basic assumption of the social study is that the industrial organization is primary and the human community is secondary. Industry rises not out of the community, but creates it. One of the most striking things about Pittsburgh, at least to those not familiar with the topography of Allegheny county, is the fact: "Everything that has made this area ideal for the building up of our steel civilization is balanced by factors that make it unfit for urban living" (p. 215). One of the notoriously bad spots is Lorimer Street (Skunk) Hollow. The present study quotes from a survey made in 1914 in which it was declared that with respect to the shacks on Ewing Street: "No visitor can tell, without inquiry, whether they are for cows, horses or human beings." There was a fantastic and general dilapidation of houses, unpainted and falling down, without sanitary toilets and with the perspective blurred by rubbish, tin cans and other refuse. The collaborators of the present study are puzzled as to which deserve most condemnation, the conditions or the apathy with regard to them. But spurred on by Secretary H. L. Ickes and the Housing Association of Greater Pittsburgh, a long range program of slum elimination has been undertaken.

This reference to housing indicates the scope of this social study. It deals with living conditions. The economic conditions are but preliminary to the study of social work, why it is needed, what it costs, what it has accomplished, and how it can be made more effective. But the report has a wider utility, for the various chapters, such as those on racial and ethnic concentration, problems of relief, public health administration and leisure time, are definitely oriented with reference to the general aspects of urban life in the United States. The chapter on social work for children is especially complete and illustrates current practices in foster homes, education and guidance. The book makes a plea for more coöperative planning for the welfare of children, one that every city may heed, since all urban institutions are now affected by results growing out of a trend toward a stationary population.
The social aspects of leisure which are here described are not unique to Pittsburgh, for the report shows that leisure is beset by three main problems. The first is that of possible excess, particularly in those forms of leisure which are associated with drinking, gambling, sex and idleness; the second is that of commercial exploitation which often converts leisure activities into vice, indulgence and association with criminal groups; and the third is poverty, economic and cultural. How to develop provision for adequate leisure of a creative sort under the diverging conditions of congestion, inadequate financial resources, social disunity and social prejudices which tend to associate idleness with leisure and ungodliness is one of the most challenging problems of urban living.

This thorough study of Pittsburgh from the standpoint of social work is one indication of the civic interest in the city and is a special contribution of the Buhl Foundation. What will Pittsburgh do with it? In that question lies the significance of the report for social science teachers who are not specialists in social work. Will the demand for planning and coordination in social work—one of the longest chapters in the book being devoted to this topic—lead to more fundamental forms of social and civic planning? Will it correct the tendency to make industry paramount and the human community secondary? This report offers the hope that the press of the city, its schools, churches, business and labor organizations will so cooperate that during the next quarter century strides will be made toward a better life. If so, the knowledge assembled in the report is indispensable.

The temptation of the reviewer is to compare this volume with Middletown; yet its method and purpose is quite different. The social study assumes that Pittsburgh is quite able to supply all the social services here outlined for a long time to come. This suggests that the citizen must relate this report to business and political aspects of the city.

Teachers College, Kansas City, Missouri

GUY V. PRICE.


There is something to be said for so partisan a biography as Mr. Konkle's _Thomas Willing_; at least men and their attitudes stand out in sharp relief. Mr. Konkle glorifies the early Federalists, particularly the Philadelphia triumvirate of Willing, Robert Morris, and James Wilson—leaders of enlightened, "scientific," and enlarged views, saviors of the country, and architects of the republic, always opposed, alike in Pennsylvania and in the nation, by men who were deluded, "unscientific," and provincial. Mr. Konkle's principal method of enhancing Willing's reputation is to link his name frequently with Washington's and to assert an identity of characteristics between the two men.

Willing, as president of the Bank of North America in the 1780's and as president of the First Bank of the United States (1791-1807), deserves a better biography than Mr. Konkle has prepared. Willing is important chiefly in the history of the accumulation of capital by American merchants,
and yet, although he left an estate of £303,000, Mr. Konkle gives us practically no information as to how so princely a fortune was amassed. Instead, this skeletonized biography deals mainly with the formal aspects of Willing's personal and public life; even the chapters on the First Bank are confined to its familiar external features. Mr. Konkle's difficulty may have arisen in part from deficiency of sources; Willing's rule that the "truth is not always to be spoken" (p. 127) must have limited his literary output. Partisanship has led Mr. Konkle into two major errors: his assertion that Willing secured Pennsylvania's vote for independence and his claim that Willing's financial measures saved the Revolutionary cause.

The chief contribution to the biography pertains to the conflict in Pennsylvania during the 1780's over the Bank of North America. The issue then uppermost (public or private control over money and credit) is not revealed, although Mr. Konkle does show that the Wilson-Morris-Willing group stood for private control. The attack made in 1785 by the paper money party of Pennsylvania on the Bank impaired its charter, restricted severely its right to issue notes, and thus induced its managers to support the Constitution (among other reasons) as a means of establishing the Hamiltonian bank, with its solid national charter and its generous powers of issuing paper currency.

NOTES

From the Aurand Press at Harrisburg comes with pleasing regularity books and pamphlets concerning the Pennsylvania Dutch. Not only does Mr. Aurand study diligently the social customs and habits of these "plain people" of Pennsylvania; he is himself something of source material. While many of the stories relating to the group often referred to as the P. D. are common to all agrarians, they make delightful reading when worked into the warp and woof of the life of the various sects of Germans in Pennsylvania. Pamphlets this year contain Little Known Facts about the Amish, and the Amish and the Mennonites (30 pages); Little Known Facts About Bundling in the New World (31 pages); and a reprint of the History of Pennsylvania published in London in 1698 by Gabriel Thomas.

Asylum: French Royalist Colony of 1793, Fact and Fancy (published in 1937 for the Tioga Point Museum, Athens, Pennsylvania, 40 pages) by Elsie Murray is a well-written and fascinatingly illustrated story of a refugee colony and land-speculation project, which never grew to maturity, attempted in a bend of the Susquehanna River. A queen, great nobles, and America's most noted financier of the Revolutionary War were among the figures involved in this indistinct and sometimes mythical plan of succoring the aristocratic victims of France's bloody days of 1793.

In the Susquehanna University Studies for January, 1937, the article of greatest interest, perhaps, to historians is William A. Russ' "The Influence of the Methodist Press Upon Radical Reconstruction (1865-1868)."