
Israel Pemberton is a valuable book for the student of colonial Pennsylvania. The author has had the courage to tackle many difficult problems which the records of the last days of Quaker ascendancy in Pennsylvania politics have left to bedevil the path of the historian. In particular he has handled, with detachment and skill, the history of "The Friendly Association for Regaining and Preserving Peace with the Indians by Pacific Measures," an organization which, despite the imposingly peaceful title under which it presented itself to the world, gave rise to bitter and continuing controversy and caused the shedding of much blood.

The heart of the book has to do with the rather pitiful story of Israel Pemberton's effort to divert attention from Quaker responsibility for Pennsylvania's unpreparedness at the outbreak of the French and Indian War and to place blame for the war on the shoulders of the proprietors. In the course of his maneuverings Pemberton so managed the situation that the political fortunes of the Quakers came to be bound up with the prestige of the Delaware upstart, Teedyuscung. When this drunken braggart, who called himself king of ten nations, was publicly humiliated by the Indians at Easton in 1758, Quaker political influence entered upon a decline; and when in 1762 he withdrew the charges of fraud he had laid against the proprietors, Quaker leadership went into an eclipse. The murder of Teedyuscung by Indians of the Six Nations and the massacre of the Conestoga Indians by the Paxton boys were among the results of Israel Pemberton's blundering attempt to use Indian affairs as a prop for the waning political influence of the Society of Friends.

Not the least merit of the book is its dispassionate handling of Israel Pemberton's character. Pemberton was not a great man, but he was a remarkable one, full of paradoxes so startling as to justify the extravagance of both praise and blame heaped on him by his friends and his enemies. Mr. Thayer keeps his head and, unlike Pemberton's own contemporaries, finds him neither saint nor devil but a man who had a fight on his hands attempting to reconcile his own powerful acquisitiveness and love of dominating others with his sincerely held religious principles. Certainly Pemberton was shrewd to the very verge of rascality in both business and politics, and yet he was public-spirited, generous in support of humanitarian projects, and courageous and independent in his opinions.

In presenting the background of Pemberton's career the author pays
tribute to the Quaker merchants as a class for the sound foundation they laid for the economic and social development of Pennsylvania. In business, philanthropy, and social reform they gave "wise and progressive leadership." It was their tragedy, and perhaps Pennsylvania's, that their principles led them up a blind alley in the matter of defense and so, after the near catastrophe of the French and Indian War, made it necessary that thereafter their destinies of the province rest in the hands of other men.

Indian affairs are well handled by Mr. Thayer, who has gone to primary sources for most of his material. Clear pictures are given of the Indian conferences that prepared the way for the peace treaty at Easton in 1758. The distrust entertained by the Senecas (and through them by the rest of the Six Nations) of the English in the Ohio valley is satisfactorily explained. Less adequate is the account of the Albany Purchase of 1754, the author having accepted too readily the view put into print (and repeated by later writers) during the heat of controversy by Charles Thomson in his *Enquiry into the Causes of the Alienation of the Delaware and Shawnee Indians from the British Interest*—a work which so infuriated Conrad Weiser, who had conducted the purchase negotiations and knew the facts, that he called the author a "Scoundrel." But Mr. Thayer's book as a whole is well balanced in its judgments, and the author is to be congratulated on having handled so much controversial material (the original sources are full of invective) without having succumbed to partisanship on the one hand or a mere lifeless cataloguing of information on the other. *Israel Pemberton King of the Quakers* has life as well as light.

Lebanon Valley College

PAUL A. W. WALLACE


Richard Rush will always be associated with two far-reaching events of American foreign policy, the Monroe Doctrine and the Rush-Bagot Convention. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that a full-length biography of him should appear at a moment when the United States is more concerned about events in Europe than at any time since the Monroe Doctrine was pronounced and when the fruits of the Rush-Bagot Convention are being garnered in bounteous measure. The significance of this biography, however, does not rest primarily on the treatment of these two events, to which Rush made only moderate contributions. Its value lies in its description and analysis of Rush's long career in public life and in its delineation of the times.

Rush's career began in 1811 with his appointment as Attorney-General of Pennsylvania and ended with the close of his term as minister to France in 1849. In the interim he was successively Comptroller of the Treasury and Attorney-General under Madison, minister to England for eight years under Monroe, Secretary of the Treasury under John Quincy Adams, unsuccessful candidate for the vice presidency in 1828, and special agent to England in connection with the Smithsonian legacy under Jack-
At all times he was an indefatigable pamphleteer. It is easy to surmise what difficulties as well as what opportunities confronted his biographer.

In this book of slightly less than three hundred pages, however, Mr. Powell has managed to recount the various important episodes of Rush's political life, to show the salient characteristics of his personality, to survey his political and autobiographical and official writings, and to appraise his services. All this he has accomplished with an ease and grace of style and a facility of language which make the treatise as readable as it is illuminating and give it an enviable distinction. Rush is shown as a man of superior talents and enormous industry who labored faithfully and fruitfully to establish the policies and support the interests of his political superiors, whose alert mind was capable of formulating as well as sustaining proposals, and of whom it may be said that during a long political career he did not endeavor to advance his own interests at the expense of those of his country. If fate had not thrown his accomplishments into comparison with those of some of the most notable of all American statesmen, he might well be considered today a primary rather than a secondary political figure.

The volume under consideration is not only the first biography of Rush but also an excellent one. It does credit to the series in which it appears, to its author, and to its subject. But good as it is, it is not definitive for the simple reason that Mr. Powell was not permitted to use, although he was allowed to read, the great collection of materials in the possession of the Rush family. It is reasonable to assume, however, since he went over this collection and knew its content but did not postpone the completion of his biography, that it does not contain data which would substantially alter the picture of Rush and the interpretation of his career.

Tufts College

Ruhl J. Bartlett


That William Penn's "Holy Experiment" was not the initial Quaker venture in the New World is too frequently minimized in general historical analysis. The Quaker settlements of Salem and Burlington antedated the Pennsylvania colony by some six years, and by the time the trans-Delaware migrants first looked upon the site of the great Quaker colony-to-be, the West Jersey groups boasted an unusually liberal government and a working judicial system.

The Grants and Concessions of Leaming and Spicer, hitherto the best and most widely familiar document of West Jersey government, has been supplemented by the publication of the Burlington Court Book. Students of early colonial history now have access to the judicial records of the Quaker settlement ably prepared and edited by H. Clay Reed—records which
reveal in practice the theory set forth in the generous *Grants and Conces-
sions*. That the Burlington Court Book is more than a legal document is
recognized by Mr. Reed, who admittedly has made no effort to reduce it
into its component parts. Any detailed analysis of the record would pro-
vide a rich commentary of life in the Burlington settlement in the first
quarter century of its existence.

Mr. Reed has made a twofold contribution in editing this manuscript.
First, he has presented an excellent and well-documented introduction in
which the Court Book is placed in its proper historical setting—his stated
purpose in writing this preliminary study. Not only has he produced a fine
survey of the Quaker settlements in West Jersey and traced their early
politico-judicial developments, but in addition he has clearly portrayed the
judicious Quaker whose administrative supremacy was steadily diminishing
even in these early years. Secondly, Mr. Reed and his coeditor, George J.
Miller, have done a splendid piece of work in editing the manuscript itself.
Anyone familiar with the manuscript records of the period can see that this
is no mean task. In an editorial note are pointed out the changes made in
order to simplify the material for the reader. These changes have not in
any wise destroyed the flavor of the period manuscript, as is frequently done
in present-day editing. Irregularities in spelling and punctuation and pe-
culiarities of expression and usage have for the most part been retained.
Although the dating has not been modernized, the difference between the
old- and the new-style calendar has been explained. A valuable manu-
script has thus been preserved in print.

Readers of this volume will be interested in watching for the legal intro-
duction to the Burlington Court Book, a study which will complete the
publication of this judicial record.

*Lois V. Given*

*Quebec to Carolina in 1783-1786: being the travel diary and observations of
Robert Hunter, Jr., a young merchant of London.* (San Marino: The
Huntington Library, 1943. Pp. ix, 393. $5.00.)

Robert Hunter was sent to America by his father, a wealthy London
merchant, partly to further the collection of debts, but more, apparently, to
give the son the experience which such a journey would afford. Business
matters were for the most part handled by a more experienced agent. The
journal which Hunter kept is in two parts. The first describes a trip from
Quebec to Niagara and back to Montreal. It is concerned largely with the
“awesome falls,” which Hunter “did” quite thoroughly. The second be-
gins with the young man’s landing at Boston and traces his progress to
Charleston. Though the diarist traveled hard at times, his journey was for
the most part a leisurely one, punctuated by numerous halts, the longest
being a visit in Virginia lasting several months.

Hunter, who came of age during the course of his travels, was not a
profound observer. His reactions are those of an impressionable young
man whose judgments are influenced by the state of his spirits and whose
estimate of the beauties of the countryside is apt to vary with the condition
of the road. He was very favorably impressed with Philadelphia, the only American city which he deemed worthy of comparison with those of Europe. He especially admired the regular plan of the metropolis, declaring that if it was carried out Philadelphia would be the first city in the world. An affair of the heart in Virginia sent him southward a very lovelorn young man, and little that he saw pleased him. He was by no means the only eighteenth-century writer to speak disparagingly of North Carolina, but the country can scarcely have been quite so dismal as he depicted it.

Hunter evidently had excellent credentials, for wherever he went he met the "best people." The climax of his trip was a night at Mount Vernon, where the rather awed young man was conducted to his bedroom by General Washington in person. The people mentioned in the journal are for the most part identified in the notes, which are almost exclusively biographical and genealogical in character.

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LEONIDAS DOBSON