William Penn's "Holy Experiment," the climax of a series of spiritual colonization schemes which took root in the Valley of the Delaware, actualized his dream of a colony in the New World where "plain and well intending people" might achieve sober and solid prosperity and worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. How Penn's "green countrie towne" developed into the second English-speaking city in the world (not in population alone but commercially, financially, and culturally as well) and then having reached its maturity was eclipsed in turn by some of its more vigorous competitors forms the theme of this interesting volume. At the outset Mr. Burt disclaims any intention of presenting a history of Philadelphia even in a condensed form. Instead he describes what he has written as being "a sort of civic biography; one of those novelistic biographies where you treat the hero as a human being and try to find out what he is and how he got that way."

Burt's interest in Philadelphia is no passing fancy. Although born in Baltimore, he spent his early life in Philadelphia and before entering Princeton worked for two years as a reporter on the Philadelphia Times under the tutelage of Colonel A. K. McClure, a famous newspaper editor of that day. Even though he moved to Wyoming more than thirty-five years ago and has spent most of his life in the West since that time, he has made generous use of his Philadelphia milieu in several of his more recent novels.

A large part of this book is devoted to Philadelphia's Golden Age, the eighteenth century, which Burt characterizes not altogether fortunately as "that crucial century when the past really began to become the past and the present began to take shape." In his discussion of eighteenth century Philadelphia he directs attention to the way in which both Penn and Franklin have been made to take on the qualities deemed suitable by subsequent generations of Philadelphians. Thus one of the most imaginative, adventurous, and extravagant men of an adventurous and extravagant era (Penn) has been portrayed as the personification of patience, dignity, benignity, and thrift. Similarly in Franklin's case the popular conception is that of a frugal, cautious, ultra conservative individual completely unlike the charming, extravagant, versatile personality that Franklin was in real life.

Burt also emphasizes the fact that in Philadelphia to a greater extent than in most American cities wealth and power have remained in the hands of a comparatively small number of families many of whom have lived there
since the days of William Penn. Most of the old Quaker families have long
since become Episcopalian, but the Quaker influence still survives, and in
spite of the infiltration of newer stocks Philadelphia has managed to retain
its integrity to a marked degree and in the process to put its stamp on the
newcomers.

The most original and to this reviewer the most interesting part of the
book is to be found in the concluding chapters, especially the brilliantly
written "Society Hill." Philadelphia Holy Experiment does not follow the
debunking tradition (Struthers Burt is too fond of his Philadelphia for that),
but its author does not mince words in his description of the abuses to which
generations of absentee landlordship and wasteful city government in Phila-
delphia have given rise.

Apart from a tendency to use incomplete sentences, there is little to jus-
tify adverse criticism. The author's style is generally informal, often lightly
humorous, at times gently satirical. The book is favored with a good format,
sixteen full page illustrations, a satisfactory index, but no bibliography.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

J. Cutler Andrews

The Declaration of Independence: The Evolution of the Text as Shown in
Facsimiles of Various Drafts by its Author, Thomas Jefferson. By
$3.50.)

Modern historical scholarship has greatly aided the historian through the
printing of documents. Yet the best edited printed text will not always im-
port all the information contained in the original. Facsimile reproduction
comes much closer to doing this, but present technological factors are apt
to limit its use. For the present project, however, it was ideal, for the physi-
ical proportions of the documents involved are small compared with their
importance and interest. Dr. Boyd has reproduced all known drafts of the
Declaration in the hand of Jefferson, together with a few other documents
which were necessary to illustrate its genesis. This is a well-worked theme,
and the author makes generous acknowledgment to his predecessors. But
he is by no means bound by their conclusions. This new analysis, the happy
product of incisive thought and felicitous exposition, at times results in
entirely new findings.

The story is of course an epic. Congress had postponed action on the Lee
resolution of independence. But its adoption was a foregone conclusion, and
a committee of five, with Jefferson at its head, was meanwhile appointed to
prepare an appropriate declaration. Jefferson drafted the document, perhaps
rewriting it more than once before it reached the earliest extant form, the
so-called rough draft. This was submitted to the other members of the
committee, and Adams and Franklin, at least, suggested changes. It was
then submitted to Congress, and Jefferson endured nameless tortures as
that body made sweeping revisions. Yet, interestingly enough, this group
editing would seem to have improved the Declaration in important respects.

A central issue is that of the extent of Jefferson's authorship. Its precise
degree cannot perhaps be fixed with absolute accuracy. Yet the general situation seems clear enough. Jefferson's task was one "where originality would have been fatal." It was not for him to improvise out of whole cloth. As he himself wrote in his old age, "Neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing, it was intended to be an expression of the American mind." As such it contains the ideas and arguments of a liberal philosophy which Jefferson had indeed made his own, but which was the common property of the America of his day, much of it inherited from earlier times and distant lands. The masterpiece which Jefferson produced was a prime agent in preserving this philosophy for future generations, and transmitting it to the ends of the earth.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON

This Is Carlisle: A History of a Pennsylvania Town. By Milton Embrick Flower and Lenore Embrick Flower. (Carlisle, Pa., 1944. Pp. 72. Pa. $2.00, bds. $3.00.)

Carlisle, Pennsylvania, county seat of Old Mother Cumberland, is the subject of a town history, This Is Carlisle, by Milton Embrick Flower and Lenore Embrick Flower. However, unlike the history of just any town, the Flowers have written the story of the growing-pains of this nation as centered in and around the Square at Carlisle. Their book is a far cry from a local history. On its pages you read the tempestuous activities of the Square in Carlisle, where many a figure of national importance took a leading role in the local drama. Among these men were Benjamin Franklin, General John Forbes, Colonel Henery Bouquet, President George Washington, Thomas Cooper, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Lieutenant General R. S. Ewell, General J. E. B. Stuart and of later date poet Stephen Vincent Benet, athlete Jim Thorp, and many others.

In Carlisle lived Molly Pitcher, Mrs. John Hays McKolly, of Revolutionary fame, and her co-patriot townswoman, Polly McGinnes, who instead of a water-pitcher carried a coffee-pot on her adventure in Civil War days. Miss Polly like another local character, Captain James Smith and his "black boys," who drew English blood a decade before Concord, lacked timely local press agents to place her in the nation's annals.

The Flowers' This Is Carlisle, is written in a terse and informative style, which leads the reader on to further research. Some historians differ with them in such minor matters as to the localities where Regina Leininger was captured by the Indians, and where Fredrick Stump and John Ironcutter murdered ten Indians. These slight differences of opinion in no way lessen the value of this altogether delightfully written narrative.

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AGNES SELIN SCHOCB