

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

EDITED BY J. ORIN OLIPHANT

Bucknell University

The Disruption of American Democracy. By Roy Franklin Nichols. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1948. Pp. xviii, 612. \$7.50.)

Dr. Nichols' new volume is a careful diagnosis of the disease which attacked the American political system in the years 1856-1861 and weakened it to the point where it no longer could resist the virus of civil war. More specifically it is the story of the breakdown of the national Democratic Party during the presidency of James Buchanan. As a re-interpretation of the Buchanan administration, it is of especial interest to Pennsylvanians. As a microscopic examination of the manner in which politicians and private citizens infected a body politic with antagonisms stronger than existing means of political control, it is of outstanding importance to everyone.

This book is a scientific case study which supplies impressive evidence to support the concept that "ideas have consequences." Dr. Nichols tries to isolate and identify three dominant types of attitudes among Americans in the 1856-1861 era: those which aroused hatreds between classes and sections ("divisive attitudes"); those which created friendship and unity among varied groups ("cohesive attitudes"); and those which were universally accepted but might be used to divide or to unite as local circumstances suggested ("pervasive attitudes"). In defining more fully the nature of these attitudes the author uses terms which, for review purposes, will suggest the nature of his thesis. The divisive attitudes he calls Metropolitanism, Territorialism, Southernism, New Englandism, and Anti-slaveryism; the cohesive ideas were Nationalism, Regionalism, and Democracy; the pervasive attitudes were Protestantism and Romanticism. These forces, cultural rather than political, controlled the political behavior of the voters.

The Democratic Party of 1856 was the only national party remaining in the United States; it was the only one which had been able to withstand the various divisive forces just enumerated. But Democratic politicians needed to strengthen their resistance to these disruptive forces; they needed to evolve leadership and political machinery capable of controlling them if the party was to retain a united front. In this they failed. Preoccupied with the recurrent necessity of getting re-elected, the Democratic politicians tended increasingly to appeal for local votes by stirring up those antagonisms most influential in their own communities. Because state elections were then held at every season of the year, the nation was exposed to an unceasing repetition of political contests based on group hatreds. The divisive attitudes, under such intensive cultivation, ultimately grew roots which strangled every other consideration, including loyalty to party and to country. A hyper-emotionalism

set in regarding them which conservatives were helpless to restrain and which extremists in all quarters were greedy to exploit.

Conservative Southern Democrats who for years had sought re-election by extremist appeals which originally were political bluff finally found themselves forced by their excited constituents to implement their demands for slavery extension (for example), or give place to others who would. Northern Democrats who rejected the divisive ideas as a political program succumbed to the Republican extremists who made political capital of sectional hatred. The triumph of bitterly antagonistic political groups in 1860 brought secession to the Democratic Party and to the nation.

At this stage thoroughly frightened conservative Democrats (of whom Buchanan was an example) made frenzied efforts to achieve party unity by the time-honored methods of political pressure, diversion, and compromise. These, however, were wholly inadequate to the task. The party organization was loose and decentralized, composed of dozens of state organizations suffering from internal feuds and unresponsive to national leadership. The familiar political mechanisms of national patronage, political compromise in Congress, active foreign policy, and threats of party excommunication were powerless to discipline unruly state factions or to induce local politicians to change their tune and try to quiet the passions they had aroused among their constituents. Conflicting ideological forces had been blindly created for petty political advantage until they were far too potent to be controlled by existing political machinery. Extremists blocked all efforts at compromise after the election of Lincoln and, though a minority, hurried an unwilling majority into war. Dr. Nichols' basic conclusion is: "War broke out because no means had been devised to curb the extravagant use of the divisive forces."

The story thus told is a chronological narrative built on a philosophical framework. The descriptions are graphic, the characterizations are brilliant, and the plot has elements of suspense and climax rarely found in scholarly writing. The pace of the book is somewhat retarded by detailed analyses of complex parliamentary struggles in Congress, and by the explanation of factional quarrels in practically every State then in the Union. But it is in these very details that the main value of the study lies. It is the cumulative force of personal and local details, skillfully woven into the well-known pattern of national events, that gives the work its originality and its dramatic impact. An atmosphere of developing tragedy dominates the story as each trifling episode lends its fateful force to the slowly mounting divisive pressures which at last burst explosively into war. Though the main focus is on Congress and the Buchanan administration, Dr. Nichols traces the conduct of national politicians back to their personal and political connections at home. He examines the motives and the actions of hundreds of locally influential men (seldom mentioned in "standard" versions of this era), and fits them tightly into the larger political picture. He finds that it was here, in the home community, that the seeds of disruption were sown. The total effect is to suggest the terrible but unrecognized responsibility which rests upon those who directly influence popular attitudes to curb appeals for power based on the hatred of one group of citizens for another.

Dr. Nichols' thorough study of the growth and spread of divisive attitudes during the Buchanan administration, and of the failure of the Democratic political machine to cope successfully with them, is not only a documentary record of tragic human blindness in the past, but a very pertinent warning to the present age. Modern statesmen "must seek skill in counteracting divisive attitudes, so that they may not nourish the fears and frustrations which breed secession and war. They may well heed today the danger signals which in the 1850's lined the road leading to the disruption of the American Democracy."

The Pennsylvania State College

PHILIP S. KLEIN

Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr. By Edith Finch. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1947. Pp. viii, 342. \$3.50.)

Martha Carey Thomas (1857-1935), the first dean of Bryn Mawr College, and its second president, was a woman of such strongly-marked qualities, arousing such enthusiasm or antagonism, that it must have been a difficult matter for her biographer to see her justly and write of her fairly. Miss Finch has succeeded in doing both. She has used skillfully letters, diaries, and personal anecdotes, and the clear picture which emerges from her pages has a wider interest than simply that of Carey Thomas, the individual. Without stressing the point, Miss Finch makes one aware of the strength and weaknesses of a type: one who is essentially an organizer and administrator rather than a scholar and woman of culture.

About half the biography is devoted to the first twenty-seven years of Carey Thomas' life, before she became dean. We watch with amusement the headstrong, energetic child leading a swarm of Quaker cousins across rooftops and cutting up a mouse to the greater glory of womanhood. Her passion was to prove that women were the equals of men, if not their superiors. Against the opposition of her father, she got as good an education as America had to offer a woman in the 1870's, at Howland Institute, then at Cornell, and then a year at Johns Hopkins. When it became apparent that Hopkins would not give a woman a degree, she went to Leipzig, and finally to Switzerland, where she received a Ph.D. degree, *summa cum laude*, in 1882. Naïvely pleased with herself, she returned to America, where by virtue not only of her energy and enthusiasm, but also through family influence, she became dean, in 1885, and in 1894, president, of the newly founded Bryn Mawr.

She threw herself into her new position with intelligence, with a certain ruthlessness to individual feelings, and devoted herself to the college until her retirement in 1922. Certain of being right, coming to decisions quickly, and hating delay, she inevitably antagonized some of her associates. But always her goal, to make Bryn Mawr the intellectual leader among women's colleges, dominated her. Although not an originator of ideas, she had the "power to recognize, even in circumstances other than those with which she was to deal, points and details that might be useful to her, and combine them in a fresh pattern." Although she did not herself enjoy solitary thought and study, she could fire students with the joys of the intellect.

Legends clustered about her: her friendship with the mysterious and faintly sinister Mamie Gwinn, her journeys with thirty-seven pieces of luggage to far places, whence she brought Chinese bronzes and Indian copper for the adornment of her college, her terrifying tea parties for undergraduates, and her youthful struggle for an education. She appealed to the imagination, and Miss Finch makes her live again.

Bucknell University

MILDRED A. MARTIN

American Building: The Forces that Shape It. By James Marston Fitch. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1948. Pp. xv, 382. \$5.00.)

The conventional history of American architecture is a chronicle of successive "styles"—a kind of bloodless dance of the architectural categories. James Marston Fitch by contrast has chosen to write a book about American *building* and the forces that shape it. The difference in terminology is significant, for it reflects a fundamental divergence in method and aim. *Building* for Mr. Fitch is a process carried on by human beings, using the technological means at their disposal for human ends, and it is conditioned inevitably by the social as well as the natural environment. He is not oblivious of esthetic considerations; in his concluding chapter, "Toward a Democratic Esthetic," he contends persuasively that even these have meaning only when seen in relation to the "underlying technical, economic, and social forces" which shape their development. Thus we are finally forced, he argues, "to examine not building but man." This method of approach strikes this reviewer as salutary and long overdue.

The first half of the book traces the development of American building from 1620 to 1945, starting with a discussion of the colonial period, in which the author is at great pains to point out that the picture of "neatly bricked physical comfort" conjured up in the popular mind by the phrase "colonial architecture" is true for only a relatively small number of buildings constructed between 1700 and 1775. Especially illuminating in this connection is the treatment of the technological developments that affected colonial building—the evolution of the power saw from the manually operated pit saw, for example, and the invention of the Franklin stove from which, Mr. Fitch points out, "all modern stoves and most air-conditioning are lineally descended." He has appreciative and perceptive things to say of the Roman manner of the early Republic and especially of Thomas Jefferson, its greatest exponent. The Greek Revival he considers to have been in its time "the idiom of the most progressive forces in American life," although it fell ultimately into the hands of Southern slaveowners.

Towards the middle of the nineteenth century, the advent of the factory, together with such technological advances as gas lighting and central heating, inaugurated a new era in American building. Mr. Fitch deplores the influence of Ruskin with his distrust of the machine and of the common man, but he has high praise for the functional theories of the newly rediscovered Horatio Greenough. In a most interesting chapter he hails three momentous achievements in nineteenth-century structural theory: "the enclosure of great areas in the Crystal Palace; the spanning of great voids

in the Brooklyn Bridge; and the reaching of great heights in the Eiffel Tower." Making no attempt to bring order out of the welter of "revivals" which characterized the Gilded Age, he contents himself with recording the impact of Victorian technology and evaluating the work of two giants—H. H. Richardson and Louis Sullivan. The opening decades of the twentieth century he treats as a period of stagnation and of gradual recovery from the retrogressive tendencies symbolized by the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Not until the 1930's, except for the brilliant work of Frank Lloyd Wright, does he see another significant forward step. But that step, when finally taken, was full of promise—the promise of modern architecture. To the spelling out of that promise he devotes the second half of his book.

As citizens and as "consumers" of American building, we all ought to be interested in what Mr. Fitch has to say of its present status and future prospects. (Incidentally, those who are hostile or indifferent to modern architecture, feeling that it is "cold," "geometrical," "bare," or "impersonal," will be pleased to note that Mr. Fitch calls for an injection of the quality of sentiment into modern building.) As students of history, we shall find much to be grateful for and little to cavil at. One may feel, perhaps, that, in his eagerness to debunk the cult of "colonial architecture," he has done less than justice to the virtues of the Georgian mode; and one could wish that, after stressing the importance of the factory in the progressive movement of nineteenth-century building, he had given us a little more by way of actual description or illustration of early factory design. Occasionally his socio-political analysis goes a little astray, as when he hints that Jefferson approved L'Enfant's plan for the national capital as a clever stratagem to impress foreign diplomats with America's strength and to hide its real weakness. But these are small matters. What is important is that at last we have an account of American building which reveals its organic relationship to American culture as a whole.

Swarthmore College

FREDERICK B. TOLLES

The National Road. By Philip D. Jordan. (Indianapolis and New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1948. Pp. 442. \$4.00.)

In this, the third volume in the American Trails Series, edited by Jay Monaghan, state historian of Illinois, Dr. Jordan has written a sprightly narrative of the first U. S. highway to be built under the auspices of the Federal Government. Whereas the earlier accounts of Searight, Hulbert, and Jeremiah Young either devoted special emphasis to particular segments of the Road, or, in the case of the last-named, treated simply its political and constitutional aspects, this volume attempts broader and more even coverage and makes use of sources which were not available to those writers. The author tells us, however, that it was written not primarily for historians, but rather for that wider audience for which most academic historians yearn and which some few attain.

Although the first construction contracts for the National Road (originally known as the Cumberland Road) were not let until the spring of 1811, Jordan begins his narrative with a resumé of Washington's mission to the French

forts in the upper Ohio Valley in the winter of 1753-1754, and follows it up with the story of the building of Braddock's military road, which, in general, established the route followed by the subsequent Cumberland Road as far west as Laurel Hill. In succeeding pages, the reader is made acquainted with Zane's Trace, with which the National Road coincided for many miles through eastern Ohio; with information concerning the actual construction of the pike from the first surveys to the final surfacing; with reminiscences of early travelers along the Road; with anecdotes and human-interest stories pertaining to stage-coach kings, waggoners, drovers, peddlers, politicians, tavern keepers, Old World emigrants, and other familiar characters in the annals of the "Great Western Road"; with the ancient folk lore of the highway; and finally with the new life which the National Road (now rechristened U. S. 40) has taken on in an automobile age.

Students of Pennsylvania history will be interested to learn that the chief opposition in Congress to the Act of 1806, which gave birth to the Cumberland Road, emanated from the Pennsylvania delegation. The Pennsylvanians seem to have been disturbed by the fact that the new project would traverse only a small part of their state and that, in the process, Philadelphia was being by-passed. Subsequently the Keystone State made its grant of a right of way conditional upon the Road's passing through Uniontown and Washington, both of which lay somewhat to the north of the route originally planned. When, in the 1830's, the Federal Government relinquished the control of the National Highway to the states, both Pennsylvania and Maryland refused to accept such control until the Federal Government repaired the road and erected tollgates. In view of the unfriendly attitude exhibited by Pennsylvania in these and other instances, it seems peculiarly fitting that the most recent threat to the prosperity of this historic highway has been presented by the new Pennsylvania Turnpike, which is mentioned in the concluding paragraphs of the book.

Jordan is at his best in those chapters which are devoted to what may be styled social history. To the economic historian, this volume may be somewhat less significant than some other recent works in the field of the history of transportation, such as—to mention one example—Walter Sanderlin's excellent study of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. But this limitation is characteristic of the series as a whole, designed as it is to cater to the taste of the general reader. Although the Jordan volume seems to be based upon a wide range of source material, certain questionable statements appear. The "Madonna of the Trail" mentioned on page 158 is a misnomer. The correct name of this monument is "The Pioneer Woman." Not one but twelve such statues have been erected along U. S. 40. It is not strictly accurate to say that newspapers were not admitted to the United States mails until 1792 (p. 275). The statement that William Henry Harrison "never made what some Westerners would admit as a good speech" (p. 328) is also too sweeping. One wonders how Jacob Coxey would react to the pronouncement (p. 369) that "Ohio was never better off than during the crowded, busy years from 1880 to 1900."

Pennsylvania College for Women

J. CUTLER ANDREWS

Gettysburg. Edited by Earl Schenck Miers and Richard A. Brown. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1948. Pp. xviii, 308. \$3.50.)

Patterned after the compilation of documents relating to the Civil War entitled *The American Iliad*, and related closely in method of presentation to a more recent publication in the field of Lincoln literature, *The Lincoln Reader*, this volume dealing with the campaign and battle of Gettysburg emphasizes the human feelings in that great struggle. The editors of this book make no attempt to explain, through their selection of diaries, letters, reminiscences, and military reports, either the play of strategy in the campaign or the tactical maneuvers at Little Round Top or at Cemetery Hill, a phase so ably and minutely dealt with by the Comte de Paris in the third volume of his *History of the American Civil War*. It is rather their purpose to bring together from eye-witness accounts historical writings which add vitality and the human touch which so often comes closer to relating what actually happened than does the story of battle plans and their execution.

Mr. Brown, who undertook the research, and Mr. Miers, who provided the editorial passages, have brought together in this volume a fairly comprehensive and vivid picture of the battle by careful arrangement of documents and by well-written explanatory notes. Noticeably lacking, however, are critical estimates of the items selected, and thus the general reader is left to judge for himself the value of each document. Haskell's frank story of the events at Gettysburg, written a few days after the battle and with no thought of publication, contains much valuable information, and is drawn upon so liberally by the editors that it becomes the thread which holds the book together. The diary of Sallie Broadhead, a Gettysburg school-teacher, revealing the apprehension of the residents of Gettysburg as Lee's army crossed the Potomac and later the stirring events which occurred at Gettysburg, as well as war correspondent Whitelaw Reid's vivid account of the unfolding artillery and infantry fire in the tremendous Union effort to hold the line at the Peach Orchard, likewise contributes much to a better understanding of actual battle events. On the other hand, it has not been made clear that the reminiscences of William H. Bayly, who wrote years later of his experiences during the battle as Billy Bayly at the age of 13, cannot be fully relied upon.

Unfortunately, indeed, are certain errors in the series of maps, an interesting feature of the book which aims to show graphically the course of the campaign and of battle action at Gettysburg. In the first campaign map, Longstreet is placed at the head of the march toward Harrisburg, followed by Ewell (p. 6). This should be indicated in reverse. It should be noted, also, that no part of Ewell's Corps passed through or near Emmitsburg, for the march of Early's division of Ewell's corps followed the road from Cashtown to Gettysburg and York. In the convergence of the Confederate Army upon Gettysburg on the morning of July 1 (p. 47), Rodes' division was in the vicinity of Biglerville, seven miles north of Gettysburg, instead of approaching Carlisle; and Early's division, after returning from York, was then at Heidlersburg, ten miles northeast of Gettysburg. Seminary Hill, on two maps of the battlefield (pp. 94 and 100), should be shown as Oak Ridge.

General Solomon Meredith, not General John Gibbon, commanded the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg (p. 32). John B. Hood was a major general, not a brigadier (p. 118). The Fahnestock building (footnote, p. 61), the roof of which General Howard employed as an observation post, still stands at the northwest corner of Baltimore and Middle Streets.

Gettysburg National Military Park

FREDERICK TILBERG

The Rise and Fall of Third Parties, from Anti-Masonry to Wallace. By William B. Hesseltine. (Washington: Public Affairs Press, 1948. Pp. 119. \$2.50.)

This book deserves wide distribution and reading before the November elections. It is timely. Yet it is not a hasty compilation that seeks the market at a moment of excitement. Rather it has the quality of permanence and of lasting wisdom, distilled not from an immediate project of research but from long experience and contemplation of American political phenomena. Its data are well known; but the author's insights reveal meanings that too few ever find or are likely to find except under such tutelage.

The writer recites the familiar only to reach useful conclusions. The effort to economize leaves many statements without qualification or elaboration. Some are oversimplified. To find their warrant is the business of the reader. There should be many busy moments as readers apply the critical tests. For example, the author will hardly find ready acquiescence in his characterization of the New Deal.

It is refreshing to go over well known historical data with one who can find meanings of practical utility, with a view to attaining a lofty objective. The objective is to create a permanent liberal party that will not be content, as in the past, with merely stimulating, prodding, and leavening established governing groups, only to disappear, but which can of its own right win the power to govern for an appreciable time.

The author's fine contribution lies in showing how this may be done. He isolates and clarifies the four permanent elements in our socio-political history, in terms of which enduring success for liberalism must be sought: in identifying the "task" of liberals as the consolidation, by "compromise, conciliation, and bargaining" of any three of those elements; in describing the "trick of political tactics" essential to success; in providing workable and sensible definitions of "liberal" and "progressive"; and in insisting upon the old formula of LaFollette, "Reform, Research, and Regionalism," in which "reform" comprises "opposition to the police state, devotion to democratic processes, insistence upon complete social responsibility, and civil liberty."

Herein are things we need to comprehend if we are to become mature in political behavior, and if the creation of a permanent liberal party appeals to us as desirable and possible. This is a tract for the times. It is also an admirable example of how to utilize historical knowledge for a purpose.

The James Millikin University

DANIEL J. GAGE

Pennsylvania Petroleum, 1750-1872: A Documentary History. Compiled and edited by Paul H. Giddens. (Titusville, Pa.: Drake Well Memorial Park, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1947. Pp. xv, 420.)

Petroleum, the life blood of modern civilization, has a very fascinating history the beginnings of which in Pennsylvania are covered completely in this book by the leading historian of the oil industry. The story is developed chiefly through the use of excerpts from newspaper stories, letters, books, and documents. In many cases interviews with the pioneering individuals directly responsible for the development of the industry are quoted.

The book is divided into sections covering the Pennsylvania petroleum industry before 1859; letters, documents, and contemporary accounts of Drake and the Drake well; Colonel E. L. Drake after 1863; and contemporaneous accounts of the oil region, 1859-1872.

It is pointed out that petroleum was known in America almost two centuries before the Drake well was drilled. The Indians collected it from seepages and used it chiefly for therapeutic purposes. It did not become an article of commerce until an enterprising operator of canal boats, Samuel Kier, conceived the idea of bottling and selling the oil as a medicine. The oil, a major nuisance, was obtained from salt wells operated by Kier's father and others at Tarentum on the Allegheny River near Pittsburgh. This is an interesting paradox, for the situation is reversed today in the petroleum industry, salt water being now the nuisance in oil wells.

It was not until it was realized that petroleum could be used to produce illuminants and lubricants that the groundwork was laid for the petroleum industry. It was at this point that financiers entered the picture and promoted the drilling of wells for the production of oil. Colonel E. L. Drake was chosen by a group from New Haven, Connecticut, to investigate the situation, and the famous Drake well, which marked the real beginning of the oil industry, was the result. The overcoming of numerous difficulties testified to the persistence and ingenuity of Colonel Drake.

In many respects, a large number of the circumstances surrounding the beginnings of the oil industry were quite fortunate. These were the shallow depth (69½ feet) at which the first oil was found, a drilling technique from the salt industry, a ready market for illuminating oil (whale oil was becoming scarce) and lubricating oil, the availability of refining methods already being used by the coal-oil industry, and a crude for producing products with a minimum of processing. The absence of any of these would have undoubtedly delayed the development of the petroleum industry.

The book also describes the problems of financing, refining, and transportation in the early phases of the oil industry. Numerous problems had to be solved, and what appears to be commonplace today was a major undertaking in those days.

The law of supply and demand as affecting price is aptly illustrated in the historical development of the petroleum industry. During the early days when supply was short, petroleum sold for as much as two dollars a gallon, or about eighty dollars a barrel. By the end of 1861, production was so far in

excess of demand that the price had dropped as low as ten cents a barrel. This same situation has been repeated in the oil industry within the fairly recent past.

The book is a rich source of information on the beginnings of one of our largest industries, and this reviewer recommends it for reading by individuals in that and associated industries.

The Pennsylvania State College

S. T. YUSTER

American Painting: First Flowers of Our Wilderness. By James Thomas Flexner. [A Life-in-America Prize Book.] Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947. Pp. xxii, 368. \$10.00.)

The history of America's life in art is a great and noble theme, one worthy of the best critical faculty and of the finest literary talent. In the past, Mr. Flexner has served both brilliantly and well in giving us interpretations of the sources of our culture, and naturally in the present undertaking we expect much. *First Flowers of Our Wilderness* is the first of a series of volumes planned to embrace the entire history of American painting. Soundly conceived "to show the relationships between life in America and the long tradition of American painting," the books present a highly competent survey of known facts and an interesting and intelligent interpretation of the artistic achievement of the colonial period. Mr. Flexner adopts an attitude toward Robert Feke different from that of Henry Wilder Foote, and demonstrates that John Singleton Copley was one of the most important figures in early American culture. Benjamin West he regards as reaching full stature in England rather than in Pennsylvania, and postpones that "American Raphael's" rôle as mentor of aspiring colonial daubers for treatment in the next volume. More than 160 admirably selected illustrations, including eight in color, supplement the text of what is, all things considered, the most useful popular introduction to American painting.

I must confess, however, that this long-awaited book has proved a great disappointment to me. Despite Mr. Flexner's great industry, it has been too hastily written and too hastily published. The author's knowledge of colonial society is meager, and in consequence his understanding of vital matters is often imperfect; thus he has been led to unsound artistic conclusions. No historian can accept his assertion that only in the South did one find "real ladies and gentlemen—who did not, like Northerners, have to fabricate spurious coats of arms . . .," nor the statement that the Hudson Valley society was both commercial and urban. An aristocratic theory of painting must dovetail with a sound theory of aristocracy as it actually developed in practice in the colonies.

Very little is known about Southern painting, but Mr. Flexner has made no effort to do the research necessary to buttress his generalizations. In Williamsburg, alone, there are fourteen paintings attributed to John Wollaston which are well worth a visit; at many a tidewater plantation are countless more by Wollaston and Bridges; and within recent years a number of seventeenth-century paintings have been placed in the Virginia Museum of Art at Richmond. Similarly, South Carolina portraits at Charleston

should have been studied carefully. Mr. Flexner seems to have confined his study of Southern painting to the Frick Art Reference Library of New York, which, however admirable it is, cannot take the place of the genuine articles.

Such a dignified theme calls for dignified treatment. When he actually gets into his subject, the author writes clearly and entertainingly, but only too frequently his flippant style belittles his subject. For example: Feke's "kinship was not with sophisticated practitioners who were able to produce a wide variety of blooms because they bought their seeds neatly packaged from the hay and feed stores of tradition" (p. 144). Careless proofreading is responsible for the author's saying that there was an *East* Indian rather than a *West* Indian influence on colonial art (p. 289).

A final word about the illustrations. Mr. Flexner must have been heart-sick when he first opened his book and saw the cheap, untruthful, colored plates Houghton Mifflin Company supplied for this ten-dollar volume. Recently I stood in the building of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and compared the two magnificent Mifflin portraits by Copley with the plates in *First Flowers of Our Wilderness*—any resemblance between the lovely tones of the originals and the garish hues of the plates is almost coincidental. Truth in illustrations, especially in art books, is as important as truth in text. In this case the illustrations are historical documents which have been altered. With the ever-increasing use of pictures in education, publishers must be made to deliver an honest graphic product. If, as they say when taxed with delinquency, good workmanship is no longer to be had, then they should omit the pictures.

Institute of Early American History and Culture CARL BRIDENBAUGH

George Horace Lorimer and The Saturday Evening Post. By John Tebbel.
(Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1948. Pp. xxi, 335.
\$4.00.)

For millions of Americans over a period of two generations the *Saturday Evening Post* was the norm of literary taste, the standard of material success, and a political oracle. And George Horace Lorimer was the *Saturday Evening Post*. As much as with the *Tribune* of Greeley's day, the personality of the editor was identified with this magazine. The present work covers the story of the *Post* in the years from 1899 to 1936, from the day when Cyrus Curtis bought the magazine for \$1,000 and after a ten-minute interview hired Lorimer as literary editor, to the close of 1936, when the "Boss" retired. In some twenty pages Mr. Tebbel disposes of the early history of the magazine, making the usual dubious claim to its paternity by Franklin, and summarizes the early life of Lorimer. Then the story becomes topical as various phases of this epoch of the *Post* are treated.

What was the secret of the phenomenal success of the *Saturday Evening Post*—its circulation, its pre-eminence as an advertising medium, its respectability, its leadership in the literary market, and its political influence? The portrait of Lorimer gives the clue. Though he was the friend and associate

of writers, artists, and men of genius, he appears the very prototype of the successful business man. He wrote easily and well himself—his *Letters of a Self-Made Merchant to his Son* was a best seller: it won for him many friends, and it influenced many people. It was a piece of “success” literature, and the gist of its thought appeared over and over again in the *Post*. His standards for *Post* fiction contained norms of respectability, and so this magazine maintained a tone of conventional morality throughout the jazz era. But good writing and compelling human interest were also insisted upon. *Post* writers knew what *Post* readers wanted; and Lorimer knew what was *Post* material. The critic, Benjamin Stolberg, wrote of the *Post's* developing “the technique of the short story as good composition and second-rate literature”; but the roll of its writers is a roster of the great and the near-great. When F. Scott Fitzgerald questioned whether the magazines appreciated a literary genius in his own time, and cited Frank Norris as an example, Lorimer could point out that he had bought and serialized both *The Pit* and *The Octopus*.

An equally successful technique was developed for *Post* non-fiction. This included interviews, travel literature, war correspondence, and business-like economics—all carefully balanced. Writers were commissioned to supply desirable articles, and advances were made to insure coverage of foreign affairs; Lorimer always had a stable full of reliable contributors. Their names—such as Isaac Marcossou, Samuel G. Blythe, and Garet Garrett—became well known to *Post* readers.

The conservative politics of the *Post* also struck the norm of its mass of readers. Defender of power and wealth, it ordinarily harbored no muck-rakers, but it could crusade with Albert J. Beveridge, who was Lorimer's close friend, and for a while it was “Progressive.” It supported Wilson in 1916 because “he kept us out of war,” but it deserted him when he advocated the League of Nations. It favored immigration restriction and the Coolidge view of war debts, and it worried about the “pinks” and the Bolsheviks. It became “virtually a Hoover propaganda organ,” though Lorimer dissented from the Hoover moratorium on the war debts. Lorimer loyally supported Hoover in 1932 and thereafter consistently fought the New Deal. His death came in 1937, within a year after his retirement.

As a revelation of the “Boss” to many who knew him only as an editor, and as an estimate of a great periodical, its policies and contributors, in a way that will satisfy its former readers, this is a satisfactory performance. It is a journalistic survey of an epoch in journalism.

Albright College

MILTON W. HAMILTON

General Gage in America. By John Richard Alden. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1948. Pp. xi, 313. \$4.00.)

Professor Alden has added fresh lustre to his scholarly reputation by writing a splendid biography of General Thomas Gage. Such a biography has long been needed, not only because the general played an important rôle in American history, but because his part in the events which preceded the

outbreak of war in 1775 has been rather generally misunderstood or misrepresented. Justice may not always triumph, but, in the long outstanding case of General Gage, the reviewer feels that a fair and an impartial hearing has at last been given. After examining and weighing the available evidence very carefully, Professor Alden has dismissed some of the charges formerly brought against the general. It would appear that—judged by the standards of his own time or by those of the present—the general was an honorable man, a brave soldier, a conscientious administrator, and a loyal servant of his country.

The research upon which the author has based his conclusions has been conducted with painstaking thoroughness. He has examined, in a most exhaustive manner, the correspondence and memoranda in the Gage Papers in the William L. Clements Library, and he has searched among the Shelburne Papers, the Amherst Papers, and other manuscript collections for additional materials bearing upon his study. The reviewer takes pleasure in being in position to state publicly his keen appreciation of Professor Alden's exceptional mastery of his source materials.

A thorough knowledge of sources is no guarantee that a would-be author will write a good book. Many a fine researcher has an almost fatal "dry-as-dust" literary touch, but Professor Alden is one of the fortunate few who is at once a fine researcher and an able writer. His book has considerable merit and is likely to achieve a wide circulation among the general reading public, as well as among scholars, if it receives proper advertising support from the Louisiana State University Press. The author has written entertainingly, and with touches of humor, and he has given his readers the benefit of mature analysis and sympathetic insight into the personality and motives of General Gage.

The general played a creditable, but not distinguished, part in the expulsion of the French from North America. He married an attractive American woman, reared a large family, and still found time to carry out conscientiously his various duties as governor of Montreal, and, from 1763 to 1775, as commander-in-chief of the British Army in North America. In the crisis which resulted in the outbreak of hostilities in 1775, he served in the dual rôles of commander-in-chief of the army and governor of Massachusetts. In a sense, he failed rather miserably in the crisis at Boston, partly, perhaps, because he was neither a brilliant man nor an audacious one. His failure, however, was due largely to circumstances for which he was not responsible; his superiors had ordered him to carry out strong coercive measures against the Massachusetts minutemen, but they had neglected to send him sufficient troops to perform the tasks which they had assigned to him.

The reviewer has only words of praise for Professor Alden's book, with one exception: he would have been better pleased if the bibliography had been more nearly complete. A full-length bibliography can be a most useful tool to the scholarly reader of any serious historical work.

Lehigh University

GEORGE W. KYTE

Montgomery County's Greatest Lady: Lucretia Mott. By Homer T. Rosenberger. [Historical Society of Montgomery County, *Bulletin*, VI, 91-171.] (Norristown, Pa.: The Society, April, 1948.)

Under this title Dr. Rosenberger has published an eighty-page extension of a paper read before the Historical Society of Montgomery County on February 22, 1947. His chief sources are the biographies of Hallowell and of Hare amplified by documents in the Library of Congress and in the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, plus numerous contemporary newspaper comments.

There can be no doubt that this feather-weight little lady (1793-1880), sprung from Nantucket Quakerism, became for nearly a quarter of a century (1857-1880) the "greatest lady" of Montgomery County. A contemporary obituary in the *Philadelphia Record* called her "Philadelphia's most distinguished woman," and Hare called her "the greatest woman in America." This is a large claim, but it is not easy to set up a serious competitor.

Lucretia Coffin Mott was associated prominently with anti-slavery, woman's rights, temperance, economic justice, and international peace. In addition, she was an indefatigable traveling Quaker minister, the mother of six children, and a homekeeper of marked efficiency. Of great intellectual capacity, a public speaker with persuasive charm, she was able to combine an ideal home life with a half-century of influence on the greatest public problems of her day. After a century she would be pleased by the progress made in the reforms which were so dear to her.

After removing from Philadelphia in 1857, Lucretia Mott and her husband James Mott resided for the rest of their lives at *Roadside* on Old York Road just beyond the City Line. The building is now destroyed and the property is incorporated in Latham Park on the northwest side of the famous highway. The present reviewer in earlier years spent many hours in this lovely old house with its meadows and orchards while the property was occupied by his uncle, the late Edward M. Wistar. He is glad to recommend this brief account of a great woman to anyone who is not familiar with her life and work.

Haverford College

W. W. COMFORT

American Medical Research, Past and Present. By Richard H. Shryock. (New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 1947. Pp. xvi, 350. \$2.50.)

Here is a book that only Professor R. H. Shryock could write. Equipped by years of research and writing in medical history, he brings to this work the same skill and thoroughness that have characterized his other books on the medical sciences. He places the history of medical sciences in the larger framework of general history. And that is most important. The interrelations of our social, economic, and scientific developments can be understood only when they are approached historically. Professor Shryock has a sympathetic understanding of the rôle of science in our nation's history.

Chronologically, this study covers the period from the mid-eighteenth century to the present—with most emphasis upon the last fifty years. The

first period, that of the Formative Influence (1750-1820), was dominated by British influence. "It can hardly be said (during this period) that the Americans accomplished anything in medical research until late in the eighteenth century" (p. 10). The physicians of that early period had nothing new to report. They could not embark upon original studies until the current developments in Europe crossed the Atlantic. The three eighteenth-century Americans who accomplished most in genuine scientific research—Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Thompson in physics, and William C. Wells in biology and medicine—lived and worked abroad for years.

The second period, 1820-1860, was dominated by French influence. Little real research was undertaken before 1860. Lack of public and private support for pure science was the chief reason for this backwardness. There were no cities that had research centers. "American medical science on the eve of the Civil War was still colonial in nature" (p. 35).

The third period, 1860-1895, was marked by the donation of small funds for research. Men of science began to turn to men of wealth—a period of "angelic conjunction between wealth and science that ushered in the heroic age of American medicine after 1875" (p. 59). Young American physicians began studying in Germany. A few American universities established hospitals during this period—notably, Johns Hopkins, 1876. In 1886 the Association for American Physicians was founded. Several states began to license physicians and for this purpose set up examining boards.

The fourth period, 1895-1940, witnessed a marked acceleration in research. In 1893 Miss Mary Garrett gave much of her fortune to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and a few years later the Rev. Frederick T. Gates (pastor for John D. Rockefeller) persuaded his wealthy friend to establish a foundation for medical research. Others followed in rapid order.

One of the most significant chapters in the book is the one on "Public Relations." Scientific research had to be popularized. Schools, newspapers, magazines, the radio, and the movies—all joined forces to sell this idea to the public. A widely read magazine, *Science Service*, was established. Science clubs sprang up by the thousands. There were those who felt that science was racing ahead too rapidly, and before the outbreak of World War II there was talk of calling a halt to scientific research. Then came the war, with all its devastation, ending with the wiping out of two Japanese cities by science's latest and most deadly weapon, the atomic bomb. This caused scientists and statesmen alike to rush plans for a world organization that would insure peace. In such a program medical science will be well up front.

The University of Pittsburgh

JOHN W. OLIVER

The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society. Volume XI, 1946. Articles by Arthur D. Graeff, Henry J. Kauffman, and Lester W. J. Seifert. (Fogelsville, Pa.: The Society [c. 1948]. Pp. viii, 178. \$5.00.)

The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society has been making a strong effort in its recent publications to show the influence of Pennsylvania Germans outside of our state. Accordingly, its eleventh yearbook continues in Dr. Graeff's paper, "The Pennsylvania Germans in Ontario, Canada," based

on studies made during his visits with "our cousins," a trend started last year with an article on the Middle West. In his twofold approach, historical and sociological, Dr. Graeff does not attempt to write a "definitive account," but rather a "brief survey" which may guide others in more detailed treatments of the subject. He introduces the reader to the possible reasons for the migrations to Waterloo County and elsewhere, to the life, language, and folklore of these people, and to some interesting personalities. His description of Thomas Reesor, a Moses, is a literary gem. It should be said, however, that the addition of a summary, more careful organization, and better proofreading would have improved the study. The deletion of certain parts, such as the one dealing with Dr. Graeff's pet theory about the persistence of the dialect (p. 37 f.), would likewise have enhanced the value of his paper.

"Coppersmithing in Pennsylvania," by Henry J. Kauffman, with its generous illustrations by Zoe E. Kauffman, is "a Treatise on the Art of the Eighteenth Century Coppersmith, together with a description of his Products and his Establishments," as the subtitle indicates. Professor Kauffman gives valuable information on the training and equipment in the trade and on the making and marking of copper vessels. Perhaps lack of knowledge by the general public makes irrelevant the reviewer's criticism of too great generality. The title page has *T.* for *E.* as the middle initial of Mrs. Kauffman.

In "Lexical Differences between Four Pennsylvania Regions," Dr. Lester W. J. Seifert presents a comparative study of vocabulary usage, hardly homogeneous, in the Lehigh, Lancaster, Berks, and Upper Susquehanna Valley areas. The first two he calls core centers, Berks a transitional zone, and Susquehanna probably a later colonial area.

Susquehanna University

RUSSELL W. GILBERT

The Nickel Plate Road: The History of a Great Railroad. By Taylor Hampton. (Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1947. Pp. 366. \$3.75.)

This is the story of the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company from its origin in the minds of the members of the Seeney Syndicate, composed of a group of New York capitalists allied with a number of Middle Westerners (whose interests were largely politics and railroad promotion), through the present, post-Robert Young era. Mrs. Hampton's account of the formation of the original companies, together with interesting and valuable biographical sketches of the members of the syndicate, is very detailed but does not tell the real reason for the promotion of a railway along the south shore of Lake Erie, paralleled to the Vanderbilt lines from Buffalo to Chicago. There seems little purpose in such a detailed analysis unless the author is seeking to disprove the oft-repeated, and generally accepted, notion that the road was primarily a speculative venture to "hold up" William H. Vanderbilt; but after stating that "the promoters were so closemouthed that not a printed word has been uncovered in all the accounts to indicate that it was a Machiavellian scheme," Mrs. Hampton goes on to say that "all [appearances] lead us to conclude that the road was built to

sell" (p. 150). In the light of this acceptance it would have been more profitable, it would seem, to devote more attention to the rivalries of railroad and financial interests of the period and less to the detailed story of the promotion and laying out of the road. Her chapter on the rivalry between Norwalk and Bellevue, Ohio, each seeking to have the "nickel-plated road" pass through it, is one of the best in the book, for here Mrs. Hampton has used newspaper sources extensively, and the story may fairly be said to be typical of the inter-town struggles to secure railroad connections, which were characteristic of much of the railroad promotion in the older settled areas of the country.

Mrs. Hampton examines, at some length, the origin of the nickname by which the road has been known from its inception, but the account could well have been considerably condensed in a history of this length. The story of the Nickel Plate's control by the Vanderbilt interests for forty years (beginning three days after its opening and lasting until 1916, when the Van Swearingens of Cleveland bought it) is briefly but well told. Her account of the period of Van Swearingen control is very largely the recounting of the development of the Toledo, St. Louis and Western (The Clover Leaf) and of the Lake Erie and Western, which were merged with the Nickel Plate to give the road its present outlines. These accounts—detailed, often dull, and not accompanied by maps—leave the reader, if he is unfamiliar with the details of Ohio and Indiana geography, somewhat bewildered. Too little attention is paid in the story of the Van Swearingen period to the activities of such important railroading figures as J. J. Bernet and W. J. Hanrahan, who took the Nickel Plate from its sublimated position under the Vanderbilt interests and made it a first-class railroad. The latter part of the story, from the breaking up of the Van Swearingen "empire" through the activities of the Ball family and Robert Young to independence, is but briefly covered.

On the whole, *The Nickel Plate Road* is less than an adequate account of this railroad. It would appear from the bibliography that newspapers were extensively used in its compilation, but they were not used skillfully and well. Quotations are too long, and some of them were poorly selected. Too little attention appears to have been paid to other bibliographical sources, especially to the corporate records of the company, to which Mrs. Hampton apparently had access. Too much attention is devoted to the details of promoting and financing the many lesser projects which were incorporated into the system and too little attention to the telling of the story of the railroad as a dynamic influence in a living society. For the student of railroading, also, too little attention is paid to the technical problems of railroad operation. The book serves as a repository of many anecdotes about people, towns, and institutions along the right of way, but many of these anecdotes have little or no connection with the main story. This is nowhere better illustrated than in the account, on pages 262 and 263, of the beginnings of the Muncie gas works. Although she has brought together much useful and interesting information about the Nickel Plate, Mrs. Hampton has not written the definitive history of that railroad.

Northwestern University

HOWARD F. BENNETT

A National Policy For The Oil Industry. By Eugene V. Rostow. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1948. Pp. xvi, 173. \$2.50.)

This is an important book on an important subject. It was quickly utilized by Federal agencies as an authoritative analysis and as a pronouncement. No one, it is presumed, will fail to approve the study of the oil industry (really the petroleum industry) as an interdepartmental project of research in national policy by members of departments of economics and political science and by members of a law school, though it may be suggested that the co-operation of critical historians might have added something.

Somewhat arbitrarily and artificially the study is divided into five parts rather than treated as a whole. The Preface and Part I embody an introduction to the subject. The remaining parts deal with the controls of crude-oil production and of the product markets, with oil abroad, and with restoring competition. In these five parts the author tries to set forth the pattern of the oil industry, the law controlling the industry, the geology of petroleum, and the business practices within the industry, with emphasis on prices and competition, and with the suggestion of fuller governmental regulation.

The volume, though based on Congressional hearings, specialized monographs, recent general works, and many important law cases, falls short of authoritativeness in two and probably more respects. The inside technological and financial aspects of the oil industry have not been mastered by the author and his co-workers. Probably the subject in this respect is vastly too big for complete research. As a result, positive errors of statistical fact are easily detected by one more in touch with the inside affairs of the petroleum industry. The legal and administrative representatives of the petroleum companies not only can point out manifold shortcomings of fact and statement, but have pointed out such shortcomings before United States agencies.

To the historical critic, a major defect of this study is that it is not objective but modernistically subjective in its frames of reference. Research starts, as a rule, with hypothesis, but hypotheses are merely intellectual machinery and not objective and cosmic verities. They may be changed and rejected. Frames of reference or assumptions are something different, something more like axioms or theorems. This volume is featured by assumptions in regard to social welfare, democracy, equality, etc., with the resulting appearance of the facts being fitted to the assumptions. The meaning of words is not guarded, as, for example, "monopoly" when (p. 67) there are twenty major companies and when (pp. 76, 83) there is "monopolistic competition."

In general, this work should be read for stimulation of interest and not for acceptance as an authoritative study.

The University of Pittsburgh

ALFRED P. JAMES

The Great Rehearsal. By Carl Van Doren. (New York: The Viking Press, 1948. Pp. xii, 336. \$3.75.)

World War II, like World War I, has produced many books to "prove" that, because Americans solved their "problems" in the Convention of 1787, the world can solve its problems today by some form of international organization based on a similar pattern. Most of these books are valueless as

either history or example, and the present book is no exception. Reasoning by analogy has validity only if the historic past one appeals to actually existed. Men who treat of the Confederation Period as one of chaos from which patriots rescued the new nation simply miss the point. There was upheaval, it is true, but many postwar problems were well under way to solution before the Constitution of 1787 was adopted. Such was the opinion of many of the men who wrote the Constitution, including Washington himself. Despite such contemporary evidence, and much research since then that has supported it, Van Doren accepts almost without qualification the arguments the Federalists used in public to get the Constitution adopted. The history of the Confederation period is far more complex than he has in any way indicated. Furthermore, the movement for a constitutional convention had a long history behind it. Conventions had been proposed ever since 1780 by the men who did not like the kind of government provided for by the Articles of Confederation and the revolutionary constitutions of the states. A vast mass of political argument had gone on in private letters and in the newspapers in which the problems of the time were discussed at length and with complete frankness. All this is entirely relevant to any discussion of the Convention of 1787; in fact, neither the Convention, the arguments in it, nor the final result can be understood without such background. Yet all this is omitted from this book. The "Great Rehearsal" took place before the spring of 1787.

The issue, as most contemporaries agreed, was basically one of "democratic" versus "republican" government. They said so over and over again. Yet Van Doren ignores this almost completely. He discusses Randolph's opening speech in the convention, but omits entirely the thing that Randolph himself said was the chief danger of the times, namely, democracy. Men did not use the terms "democratic" and "republican" interchangeably as Van Doren says they did. To prove this assertion, one has only to read the Federalist Paper in which Madison points out that the Constitution should be adopted because of the obvious advantages of a republic over a democracy.

Put in another way, the issue was between a "federal" and a "national" government. Randolph said so in his opening speech and so did Gouverneur Morris when he defined the difference between the two kinds of government. The practical men in the Convention wanted to escape the fact of state sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation. Some wanted to wipe out the states; others wanted to retain them as administrative districts; and still others wanted to retain the federal form of government but to add specific powers to it. The result was a compromise which has confused the interpretation of the Constitution of 1787 ever since. One need but mention the constitutional interpretations of the Civil War and the New Deal periods as examples.

On these and on many other points little clear understanding of the problems of the period is shown. The book therefore has neither value as history nor relevance as a guide to world organization in the twentieth century.

University of Wisconsin

MERRILL JENSEN

Registration in Pennsylvania Elections, 1926-1946. By H. F. Alderfer and Fannette H. Luhrs. [A Publication of the Institute of Local Government.] (State College, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Municipal Publications Service, 1948. Pp. 68. \$1.00.)

This is another of the valuable publications of the Institute of Local Government at The Pennsylvania State College. Chapter I digests the registration laws of the state; chapter II discusses registration figures in Pennsylvania from 1926 through 1946; chapter III gives registration statistics by counties for the same period; and chapter IV shows the deviation between party registration and party voting. In addition there are numerous graphs and tables. Most of the information came from *The Pennsylvania Manual*.

Herein there is space for only two impressions which emerge from reading the booklet. (1) As a general rule, fewer persons registered and voted in gubernatorial than in presidential elections. It would thus appear that the closer government is to the voter the less interest he takes in it. Does this paradox mean that recent attempts to revive the vitality of local government are futile? (2) The statistics show clearly that Republicans elected Earle in 1934 and carried the state for Roosevelt in 1936, 1940, and 1944. In every one of these elections, there were many more registered Republicans than registered Democrats. Does this fact indicate that many people registered Republican for "social" or other purposes—like holding their jobs—and then voted as they honestly believed? Are there more "disloyal" Republicans than "disloyal" Democrats? Or what does it mean?

The reviewer has nothing except praise for this useful contribution, although, if another edition is brought out, several misleading or erroneous statements should be cleared up. For instance, those who live in Snyder and Union Counties would not agree that they belong either "in the northern tier or the southeastern regions of the State" (pp. 30-31). Again, Earle is not Pennsylvania's only Democratic governor (p. 35).

Susquehanna University

WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.

Grass Roots History. By Theodore C. Blegen. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1947. Pp. x, 266. \$3.00.)

From the grass roots, Dean Blegen has compounded a vital type of history. He has captured so much of the essential in recording the microcosm that small Minnesota communities expand into the universe, and the Scandinavian pioneer into Everyman.

In this large-scale modern age in which the historian must measure by the millions and billions, the single unit with its freight of human significance is too often lost. Large figures are so removed from everyday reality that they have little meaning. Americans of good will read of the massacre of tens and hundreds of thousands of Indians almost without comprehension until the slaughter of one Gandhi brings to them with shocked horror a comprehension of the whole.

In the same way, Dean Blegen, by turning his glass upon an uncelebrated Norwegian woman—Gro Svendsen—makes real the struggle of all frontier

immigrants to sink roots into prairie soil. "Life here is altogether different from life in our mountain valley," Gro wrote. "One must readjust oneself and learn everything all over again, even to the preparation of food. We are told that the women in America have much leisure time, but I haven't yet met any woman who thought so."

These delightful essays touch upon many facets. Dean Blegen has gathered letters and diaries, ballads and newspaper advertisements, to portray a pioneer people. Here is the Minnesota not only of the immigrant, but of the native Yankee, the saturnine physician, and the aspiring politician. On every page the human bits bring the story alive. One reads with delight of the western sweep of the octogenarian relict of Alexander Hamilton: "A carpet had been spread, an armchair [was] ready to receive her. The troops were under arms, we passed between two double rows of soldiers, and a very fine band was playing." Charles Francis Adams recorded his keen observations on a campaign tour with Seward on behalf of Abraham Lincoln, and modestly concluded: "So I feel as if I had passed the ordeal of extempore speaking, in the West."

Dean Blegen has recorded the development of hospitals from the first crude rooms at Fort Shelling to the Mayo Clinic, and of libraries from the stores of books of the first missionaries to the benefactions of Andrew Carnegie. From advertisements he has reconstructed much of the everyday life of a century ago—the age of tallow candles, gridirons, sleigh bells, shawls, daguerreotypes, and patent medicines.

In large measure the materials from which this book has been constructed have their counterpart in every state and in every local historical library in America. In their proper use are the answers to the questions, "What is the value of local history, and what is the task of the local historian?"

America has affected an "inverted provincialism," says Dean Blegen, an urbane and cosmopolitan air which has scorned the actualities of the common life. In its place should be a regionalism which is "a creative concern with the development of the region to its maximum for the cultural strength of the nation." The chronicle of this regionalism is grass-roots history. "It grapples, as history should grapple, with the need of understanding the small, everyday elements, the basic elements, in large movements." Through understanding the region, "starting with the community and homeland, we have the basis for knowing the universal."

The Pennsylvania State College

FRANK FREIDEL

Mining Camps: A Study in American Frontier Government. By Charles Howard Shinn. Introduction by Joseph Henry Jackson. Second edition. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948. Pp. xxvi, 291 [vii]. \$4.00.)

Shinn's *Mining Camps*, first published in 1885, has long been recognized as a standard source of information on California of the gold-rush period. The author, who was convinced that mining developments in the West should not be presented "merely as a brilliant episode full of impetus and splendor" but as one of great institutional importance, developed this thesis

in a series of papers prepared during his student days at Johns Hopkins University. These papers became the chapters of this, his first, book. The introductory investigations trace the evolution of medieval mining practices, with emphasis upon the Germanic heritage, and the evolution of customs in Cornwall, both of which appear to Shinn as the institutional heritage of the American miner. The Spanish-American period in California is likewise evaluated on the basis of development of institutions—the mission, the *presidio*, and the *pueblo*—and of the adaptations thereof made necessary by the arrival of Americans of Anglo-Saxon background.

The constantly recurring theme of the remaining chapters is the unusual ability of the American people to establish a system of law and self-government. Illustrative material includes the adoption of and the adherence to rules for mining parties headed toward the diggings, the development of mining-district regulations, the creation of early mining courts to dispense justice, and the ultimate evolution of a system of mining law. The documentary evidence collected and cited in these essays is of exceptional value, and later investigators have been indebted to Shinn for its preservation. The extension of California mining laws to other western camps and the impact of this legal code upon the land system, the expansion of agriculture, and the general pattern of western development comprise the closing and summary chapters of the study.

Readers of this book can clearly sense Shinn's thorough understanding of the individualism and independence characteristic of the frontier and at the same time perceive his great admiration for the ability of the miners, as one group of frontiersmen, to formulate and abide by rules for mutual aid and for the benefit of the community. The author, having developed a clear and readable style during an earlier career in journalism, is an excellent story-teller. His narratives of men and events are judiciously interspersed among the more factual and technical chapters and paragraphs. His well known concept of the Anglo-Saxons as a superior race, more capable than others of adopting democratic institutions, was perhaps the result of the time and the place of his academic training.

No editorial changes in the original Shinn text appear to have been made in this second edition, published as a part of Alfred Knopf's series on Western Americana. This volume, however, has been enriched by an introduction in which Joseph Henry Jackson, writing in a somewhat exaggerated style, restates the Shinn thesis as an established fact. His unbounded admiration for Shinn is revealed in a brief biographical sketch which forms a part of this introduction.

Students and teachers of western history are indeed gratified that the editors and publishers of the Western Americana series have made this study more readily available. There is no doubt concerning "its original contribution to our knowledge of ourselves and our method of self-government."

University of Chicago

W. TURRENTINE JACKSON

CONTRIBUTORS

DONALD H. KENT is Associate State Historian of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

EVELYN PAGE is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her article is the result of research begun at Bryn Mawr, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees.

WILLIAM A. SULLIVAN is doing research on Labor in Pennsylvania at Columbia University, where he is a graduate student. He is the recipient of a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the continuance of this research.

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