
During the three decades, which have elapsed since Johann Printz landed near the mouth of the Schuylkill, the "Hidden River" has been associated with many of the great chapters of the nation's history. Along its course of one hundred and twenty-eight miles, from the Tuscarora Hills to the junction with the Delaware, it drew to its fertile banks an energetic agricultural population, provided in time an inviting geographic setting for a diversified catalogue of the nation's industries, and, along its lower reaches, furnished the locus for a great metropolis. The agrarian, commercial, industrial, and cultural forces of a creative age left scarcely a single mile untouched as the nation developed.

Mr. Nolan's interpretation of these forces results in a stimulating narrative. The contribution made by his forebears to the river's lasting character—including the building of three enduring bridges—and his own intimate association with the stream since birth give the book a unique mark of authority, reinforced by painstaking research.

The author chose to tell much of his story by directing the reader along the river's course, chapter by chapter, from its gathering waters in the anthracite belt of Schuylkill County to its entry into the Delaware beyond the wharves of Philadelphia. If this approach tends to do violence to the chronology of events, Mr. Nolan's method, nevertheless, permits our viewing the river as a "way of life." The eighteenth-century impact of its valley upon the western frontier was especially evident in the upper reaches, whence Daniel Boone departed for the hinterland of Virginia and Kentucky and where was located the ancestral home of the Lincoln family, which later, out of the western frontier, gave the nation one of its great Presidents. On the other hand, along the lower Schuylkill, where life ultimately changed as nineteenth-century industrialism defiled both earth and air along its course, the spirit of adventure became subordinated from the beginning to the social and commercial preoccupations of a growing city. As if to provide finally a broader perspective, the author shifts his narrative to four chapters on the fords and bridges, the eighteenth-century craft which plied the "river's bosom," and the Schuylkill Canal.

The three centuries of the river's history represent a cycle of beauty, pollution, and regeneration. In William Penn's day the stream "seemed destined for nothing more than a placid bucolic course, flowing past orchards
and wheatfields and bearing upon its bosom crude shallops carrying upcountry flour to the seaboard.” Later, the discovery of anthracite beneath the headwaters of the Schuylkill and its use as a source of power altered the river’s destiny. The ever blackening waters during subsequent decades, in sharp contrast to the unpolluted and fragrant stream of the early eighteenth century, came to symbolize the nation’s industrial progress. But the grime darkened the memories of earlier days.

Against this setting Mr. Nolan, with obvious satisfaction, moves to his final chapter, “River Regeneration.” His delight is at once shared by the reader, now that the State of Pennsylvania has undertaken a far-reaching project for the cleansing of the Schuylkill watershed. Concluding the story is the assurance that “a cleansed and sparkling stream will again flow through rural reaches” and that “the river water will be potable and palatable, and the rhododendron and wild azalea will again sprout from the blackened banks which they deserted five decades ago.”

Possibly some readers will regret that the author imposed upon himself rather strict geographic limits in defining the Schuylkill and its valley and that he did not apply his literary deftness to the wider area of hills and valleys extending beyond the banks of the river. Whatever higher criteria of his art he might thus have achieved, the story could hardly have been more interesting.

The Schuylkill, clearly and simply written, includes a supplementary reading list, select rather than comprehensive. The book contains a good index, and its attractive format is a deserving mark for a distinctive river over which have flown the flags of four nations.

Organization of American States
Washington, D. C.


The Quaker movement in seventeenth-century England represented an extreme break with the Catholic and Anglican faiths. While most of the reformers were convinced that certain of the ritualism and sacraments should be retained in the newly-founded churches, the Quakers abolished all of those outward forms. Not only did they break away from the sacramental forms which the older churches adhered to but they were different in other respects, as, for example, the wearing of plain garb, using the older forms of “thee” and “thou” in speaking and writing, absence of music in church service, silent waiting for the indwelling spirit to direct them in word and deed, and equality of women with men in being inspired by the inner light. They were spoken of as a peculiar people because of their differences. As a body they were not evangelical in the sense of seeking converts or saving souls but conducted meetings for encouraging a functional application of the teachings of the indwelling spirit.
Hannah Whitall Smith was the daughter of John M. Whitall, a wealthy Philadelphia Quaker glass manufacturer. She was a woman of considerable ability and of many concerns. Her letters reflect her early interest in becoming a minister and having people respect her. She states that while sitting in silent meeting she built air castles of what she would like to be when she grew to womanhood. These flights of youthful imagination took on a form of reality in her later life. In 1851 she married Robert Pearsall Smith and by that marriage had three children who lived to adulthood; Alys married Bertrand Russell, Mary became the wife of Bernard Berenson, and Robert remained a bachelor. Mrs. Berenson's daughter married Oliver Strachey, brother of Lord Lytton Strachey. Hannah W. Smith was the aunt of Elizabeth Carey Thomas, who for many years was dean and later president of Bryn Mawr College. Her family was one of unusual talents, and she kept in close touch with them through frequent letters and visits. Her letters reflect her interest in education, travel, religion, business affairs and literature. She was best known for her ministerial work, which was recognized in England and on the continent. While preaching in England she came to know intimately such distinguished people as William E. Gladstone, John Bright, George Curzon, and Lady Henry Somerset. She seems to have made connections with distinguished families in this country also. For example, the Vanderbilts offered their empty house in New York City during the fall of 1891 to Hannah W. Smith and her English friend, Lady Henry Somerset. She learned to know Frances Willard well enough to win her respect and be accorded the honor of writing her biography. Hannah W. Smith also wrote a number of pamphlets on religious subjects, some of which had a very wide circulation in Western Europe and America.

After an unfortunate accusation against her husband by an English spinster, she temporarily excluded herself from society. Her husband, who was also a minister, gave up his ministerial work. This withdrawal from public life was only temporary for Hannah W. Smith because she soon ventured again on her ministerial work. Her letters fail to mention her husband during the later years of his life. While they lived together, the understanding perhaps was not as compatible as it should have been.

The letters are a reflection of the freedom of thought which was characteristic of the members of the Quaker faith. Hannah Smith was far from representing the ideas of pacifism which Friends have consistently espoused during their history. She urged armed action for the liberation of Greece and took the position that England should acquire the Soudan and that the United States should take possession of the Philippines. Her imperialistic view and the "white man's burden" would hardly coincide with the views of the large body of Quakerism.

The letters are well written and give many interesting sidelights of life in England and America during the period from 1830 to 1911. Hannah Whitall Smith's letters are a reflection of the life and thought of the upper middle class in nineteenth-century America.

Langhorne, Pa.

Oliver S. Heckman

The first volume of this, the principal work of American history now in progress, covered a period of sixteen years. It took Jefferson from his earliest known letter ("it would be to my Advantage to go to the College . . .") down through Independence and the beginning of his reform of Virginia's government. The second volume covers two and a half years; the third a year and three months. From the high days of Independence we descend into dark, tedious stretches of the war. And at once, this great series makes a major point.

For we have remembered the peak moments in the lives of our revolutionary leaders, as if they leapt like mountain goats from Alp to Alp, from the Declaration in 1776 to the Constitution of 1878. But they themselves lived through a war, a war on their very doorsteps. War was their longest, headiest, tragic memory. In the midst of war, the real revolution was planned and accomplished. This was not independence, but reform, the making over of the shape of society.

In the years of these volumes, Jefferson is legislator and governor. He develops his grand design of the Revisal of Laws in amazing detail, preparing no less than one hundred twenty-six bills in his new modelling of Virginia. A son is born, and dies; a daughter lives; a solar eclipse is observed, he is elected governor, and is plagued by shocks, confusions, and alarums.

War was the background of the revolution, but Jefferson's genius was a special kind, which never permitted war to become more than background in his thinking. War was neither the cause nor the consequence of the reform he fostered. So patiently and fully have Mr. Boyd and his associates presented Jefferson's varied, extensive achievements that they have added a new dimension to our understanding of the revolution itself. The apparatus of the work is, indeed, as important as the materials themselves—a remark which will seem extravagant to no one who studies the arrangements, the notes, and the editorial comments on the documents.

The second half of volume II (pp. 305-665) is taken up with the Revisal of the Laws in Virginia, 1776-1786, a remarkable story here brought for the first time into a single, whole picture. These pages reveal the system by which, Jefferson hoped, "every fibre would be eradicated of antient or future aristocracy," and a government truly free established. The editorial introduction to this section on the Revisal (pp. 305-324) is one of the most original and important statements on the history of the Revolution that has been made in our time.

In volume III, Jefferson is civil governor of a state in arms. His papers are a kaleidoscope of all the manifold concerns of administration and the passions, strains, and pities of a war. Enlistments, appointments, inflation, victories and defeats, supply, clothing, medicines, money, money, money, and
a hunger after news distract the busy governor and all his correspondents. In this entire year, Jefferson has no time for thought, for fun or literary grace. He has time only for hope. Hope is strength, but "pickeroons" infesting the Chesapeake, expeditions to Detroit, posts on the Mississippi, militia in the home counties, a thousand details of fighting, and the job of eluding the enemy are what he writes of. Jefferson did not have his greatest moments as governor. But he was never unequal, never inadequate; he sustained himself, his office, and his cause. Finally he was ready to withdraw. "I wish a successor to be thought of," he wrote Richard Henry Lee, "who to sound whiggism can join perseverance in business, and an extensive knowledge of the various subjects he must superintend. Such a one may keep us above water even in our present moneyless situation."


JOHN H. POWELL


The present book contains a biographical sketch of Shippen by Mrs. Corner, centered about his diary as a medical student in London in 1759-1760. The diary is here printed for the first time, from the manuscript. An appendix contains a translation by Dr. George W. Corner of Shippen's doctoral thesis at Edinburgh, De Placentae cum utero nexu. As Mrs. Corner suggests, the thesis does not seem to have made any fresh contribution.

Mrs. Corner's work is an exercise in the delicate art of writing a book about a man of whom not enough is known to bear the author's weight for very long. No blame attaches to Mrs. Corner for this, aside perhaps from her choice of a subject—and even that does not necessarily follow. Within the limits set by the poverty of her materials she is skillful, industrious, and honest. Above all, she never tries to force her evidence. Her great reliance is of course the London diary, which requires very minute annotation to make sense; and her notes are all that could be asked. Unfortunately, they are collected together at the end of the diary, instead of being at the bottom of the appropriate pages. Like most scholarly authors, Mrs. Corner was probably at the mercy of her publishers and printers in this matter; and to put the notes at the proper place would have presented rather serious problems of make-up. But there is only one place for notes, and every publisher who puts them in the wrong place does a disservice not only to scholarship but to easy reading. The notes in the body of Mrs. Corner's text are properly placed.

What is the interest of the diary here edited and commented upon by Mrs. Corner and made the foundation of her book? The answer must be, practically none. A more arid collection of trivialities could hardly be imagined. Shippen studied and talked with the two Hunters—but tells us next to nothing about them. He went to see Garrick—and tells us almost nothing about it. He went to the Royal Society, he went to Court, he met Franklin and the proprietor of Pennsylvania—and made no entries of the
least interest. Mrs. Corner, who has the intelligence and vivacity in which Shippen seems to have been lacking as a diarist, does her best to cover over this embarrassing deficiency by embedding the crumbs of information in their context. Those accustomed to reading the lives of medieval queens or of Elizabethan poets will feel at home. For example, Mrs. Corner is constrained by her materials to build a chapter on Shippen's passing disparagement of the victory illuminations in London in 1759. Longer chapters, on "Anatomy with the Hunters" and "Garrick and Covent Garden," keep up somewhat better the pretense of belonging to a biography of Shippen.

Of one episode in Shippen's life a good deal is known: the bitter disputes over his conduct as Director-General of the military hospitals during part of the Revolution. This episode Mrs. Corner has skimmed, and patently so by comparison with the loving amplification of the earlier (and poorer) materials. Now one can understand a preference for dwelling on fresh sources at the expense of familiar. But there is an obligation resting on the biographer of a secondary figure, to write a balanced book, because the market for books on such a man is spoilt by the first comer, and other scholars (who have an eye to their prospects of publication) will tend to avoid the subject thereafter. If, therefore, the first biography is in any way truncated or unbalanced, there may never be another to supplement it.

Though Shippen can hardly be said to gain much in stature through Mrs. Corner's biography, he retains his only real distinctions: of having been a pioneer in American anatomical and obstetrical teaching, and of having been just in advance of John Morgan in making concrete proposals for the first American medical school (later that of the University of Pennsylvania). The most valuable part of the book, considered as a life of Shippen, is that which gives a somewhat sharper definition to these accomplishments and supplies some little view of Shippen as a practicing obstetrician. From beginning to end Mrs. Corner's book is very pleasant and entertaining nonetheless, and one could wish that she would now give us a full-scale panorama of medical education in eighteenth-century England. A word ought to be said of the excellent format of this book, with its attractive plates.

Brown University

DONALD FLEMING


Dr. Alden has given us another fine book in his biography of General Lee. His two previous works, John Stuart and the Southern Colonial Frontier, 1754-1775 and General Gage in America have already won him a reputation as a most able historian and biographer. His latest volume will surely add to his reputation; indeed, it is the reviewer's impression that the biography of Charles Lee is better written than the excellent book on John Stuart which won the American Historical Association's Beveridge Prize some years ago.

Until the appearance of Dr. Alden's latest book, the character, conduct, and motives of General Lee had been the subjects of considerable specula-
tion. Unfortunately, legends had been accepted as facts, and attacks upon
Lee by his enemies had been accepted as sober estimates of his character.
Dr. Alden is the first author to make a scholarly investigation of Lee's
career; he has given us a critical, yet sympathetic, account of the life of a
man who was able and energetic, but too headstrong and outspoken to stay
on good terms with many of the generals and officers whose good will and
support he needed.

Lee rendered important services in arousing the Americans to take a
stand against Parliamentary measures which seemed intolerable to them;
he helped to organize and train the newly-raised army; and he commanded
the forces which successfully defended Charleston, South Carolina, from
British attack in 1776. At Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1778, he extricated
an outnumbered American force from a dangerous situation, but he re-
ceived blame rather than credit for his retreat upon that occasion. Un-
fortunately for himself, he had antagonized many of his brother officers
and many members of Congress by his fits of temper and by his frequent
use of sharp and sarcastic criticism. Moreover, he had fallen under suspicion
because of his reluctance to accept as final the separation of America from
Great Britain; indeed, he had gone out of his way, during a time when he
was a prisoner of war, to try to bring about a reconciliation between the
newly independent nation and its mother country. Suspicions that he was a
traitor came to a head upon the battle field at Monmouth, when General
George Washington and a number of his aides accused Lee of having re-
treated without cause. Lee had a good case and could have explained his
conduct satisfactorily, but he lost his temper and lashed back quite savagely
at his accusers. His outburst of temper proved to be his undoing, and he was
court-martialed and relieved of his command.

The reviewer has only two suggestions which might in any way lead to
improvement of this book. First, the account of the engagement at Mon-
mouth reads like a game of military chess; something of the noise, fury,
and confusion of battle has been lost in Dr. Alden's account. Moreover, the
statement of casualties suffered by each side should have been included in
the narrative instead of being hidden in a footnote. These criticisms should
not detract from the over-all impression that Dr. Alden has written an
interesting and useful biography of an important leader in the American
Revolution.

Lehigh University

George W. Kyte

Albert Gallatin and the Oregon Problem. By Frederick Merk [Harvard His-
torical Monograph, Number XXIII] (Cambridge: Harvard University
Press, 1950. Pp. xi, 97. $2.50.)

Professor Frederick Merk, in this compact, concisely-written, and
scholarly monograph, portrays the rôle of Albert Gallatin in the Oregon
problem between the United States and England. Though the account deals
more specifically with Gallatin's negotiations in the years 1826 and 1827,
it also reveals his knowledge of the Oregon question gained from his previous
experience at the Court of St. James and suggests the extremely significant influence that Gallatin's views had on the United States' eventual policy on the Oregon question.

The author indicates clearly that the diplomatic situation between the United States and England was exceedingly precarious at that time because of clashing personalities and potentially clashing national interests of an imperial and commercial nature. George Canning, British Prime Minister, is represented as an aggressive, intransigent imperialist and nationalist who was angered by the proclaiming of the Monroe Doctrine, which made the United States, rather than England, protector of the Latin American states and which appeared to announce a noncolonization policy. John Quincy Adams, President of the United States and former Secretary of State, is portrayed as an adamant nationalist whose sturdiness in maintaining the 49th parallel as a dividing line for the disputed territory was supported by the members of the House of Representatives. Canning is revealed as anticipating that the increasing commerce of the United States, especially with the Orient, would create a clash between the two governments. Also, he professed to believe that the increasing merchant marine of the United States would eventually lead to an American navy that would rival that of England.

Albert Gallatin was assigned the task of negotiating a settlement of the Oregon question in 1826, as the convention for joint occupancy approached its termination. A difficult diplomatic situation was made more difficult by Gallatin's instructions not "to swerve an inch from the 49th parallel" as the boundary for the United States. Canning was apparently determined on the Columbia River as a boundary. Gallatin succeeded, in a series of conferences extending over a period of eighteen months, in resisting the British demands first, for the Columbia River as a boundary line and, second, for the inclusion of an interpretation in the previous agreement that would prevent the United States from military activity in the region. The author portrays Gallatin in his negotiations as an internationally-minded peacemaker, relying on logic and patience to prevent an open break. The compromise, an extension of the existing convention, permitted peace and peaceful occupation of the Oregon Territory by Americans for the next fifteen years.

The author has produced an excellent historical monograph (only a good map is missing). It is well written and adequately documented. That Gallatin was the key figure may be challenged by some historians; that his contribution was significant will be denied by none.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson


After serving for nine years as United States consul at La Guaira, Venezuela, John G. A. Williamson was elevated to chargé d'affaires at Caracas by the Jackson administration in 1835. He has the double distinc-
tion of being the first accredited diplomatic representative of this nation to
Venezuela and of concluding our first treaty—a treaty of friendship, com-
merce, and navigation—with that government in 1836. The diary of his
diplomatic mission, discovered in 1942 by Mrs. de Grummond among some
papers newly acquired by the Louisiana State University Department of
Archives and now edited and abridged by her, rescues him from obscurity.

Williamson received his appointment as chargé to Caracas after being
defeated as a Jacksonian candidate for Congress in a North Carolina district.
His ambition for the post had a threefold motivation: to lord over the
British consul, Sir Ker Porter, whom he would now outrank; to negotiate
a commercial treaty with the Venezuelan government; and to make money
while political fortune favored him so that he could, as he wrote, "keep body
and soul together for the rest of my life." He did all three, but the money
which he accumulated, partly in Venezuelan bonds—a highly questionable
investment for a United States diplomatic representative—was of little avail
to him, since he died at his post in 1840 at the early age of forty-seven.

Such descriptions of Williamson's few travels in Venezuela as are in-
cluded in this diary show him to have been an observing and sensitive person
as regards physical nature. But his comments on his associates in official
and social circles in Caracas were misanthropic and acidulous with gossip.
The only exception was his attitude toward General José Antonio Páez,
whom he highly respected as a plain, simple man and a devoted public
servant. He scorned and made no effort to understand the Venezuelan peo-
ple. His comments on them were naive and completely lacking in that warm
sympathy which distinguishes, for example, among modern works on
Venezuela, the charming essays of Dorothy Kamen-Kaye (Caracas Everyday
and Speaking of Venezuela). To Williamson, Caracas was provincial,
enervating, meretricious, irreligious according to his Scotch-Presbyterian
standards, and perennially dull.

Though a native of North Carolina, Williamson had many commercial
contacts with Pennsylvanians. His wife, Frances Bond Travis, whom he
married in 1832, belonged to a moderately wealthy Philadelphia family. In
Caracas he was outraged by the news of the attempt by William Lloyd
Garrison, "aided by two or three men women," to discuss the question of
abolition in Philadelphia. If he had been there, he wrote, he "religiously
would have united to have lynched Garrison, and expose his female quixotes
in any decent manner." These sentiments belied the sincerity of his exuberant
Jacksonian egalitarianism.

Mrs. de Grummond's editing of Williamson's diary shows the results of
careful research not only in this country but also in Venezuela. Her pristine
enthusiasm over the discovery of the diary and her admiration for its author's
"innate goodness" pervade the book and perhaps detract from its perspective.
It still contains many trivialities. It is appropriately illustrated and contains
an impeccable index.

Department of State
Washington, D. C. DONALD M. DOZER

Dr. Raistrick's story of a persecuted sect that rose to profound importance in the intellectual and economic life of England is not a thrilling one, but it is in spite of many involvements sometimes fascinating. Occasionally readers less familiar than the author with the interrelation of families by marriage will become wholly lost in the maze of relationships. They will, however, glimpse some of the hidden power of the Society of Friends. They will, in part at least, see how a small and despised group climbed patiently and often painfully to dominance in iron making, in trading and merchandising, in mining, in banking, in science, and in medicine and even to membership in the Royal Society. Binding themselves tightly together both by religion and by blood and drawing from one another all each had to offer, whether servant or master, the Friends survived and grew, though distraints and imprisonments were usual. Persecution of individuals was sometimes harrowing, but, since the power of the sect was the power of a unit and not merely of individuals, the wounds, borne by all, were soon healed.

The author traces carefully and with complex detail the progress of humble economic beginnings to great industrial enterprises. Simple faith, unswerving honesty, and unstinting labor—along with a willingness to make prosaic goods at small profit—built up an economic and financial structure that enriched the Quakers and eventually split them in twain, sapping their unity and their strength. Dr. Raistrick seems to explain more thoroughly how they met the religious and political opposition of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries than he does their failure to stem the economic opposition of modern business. The biographical theme that runs through the volume adds to its interest, though not always contributing to a clear understanding as to how particular Quaker businesses rose to importance.

Dr. Raistrick's story is in setting almost exclusively English, yet, being about Quakers, it is of significant concern to Pennsylvanians. While less familiar with the American scene and with American publications than with the English, the author devotes considerable space to Friends in America and to American correspondents of British Quakers. Included are brief sketches of Mason and Dixon, the Bartrams, James Logan, George Dillwyn, and others; short descriptions of Quaker botanical gardens in England with their New World plants and trees; and quick pictures of Benjamin Franklin as an electrical experimenter befriended by Peter Collinson and as diplomat before the Revolution. The book is soundly and, sometimes of necessity, ploddingly done. Numerous charts help to clarify the complicated business and family connections, and abstracts and summaries of various economic records reveal the upward climb of the Quakers in their material activities.

Temple University

JAMES A. BARNES


The title of this volume would lead the reader to believe that only a
book is much wider. It is an intensive study of the social, cultural, economic, political, and ideological causations of the great religious upheavals of the time and their far reaching effects upon American culture.

Religion in America, in the early 1800's, was a great driving force in the spread of culture to the West. With this expanding culture, new social concepts of moral conduct were formed, broken, remolded, and reformed again. The "Yankee" influence is well traced by Mr. Cross in his scholarly attempt to explain the groping of the people for the avenues of approach to morality and individualism. These highways of moral conduct were necessary to the successful fulfillment of the American concept of manifest destiny.

Mr. Cross repeatedly points out that whereas the evolving religious emotionalism of the "Burned-over district" carried many along in its continuing stream it left behind many who could no longer adjust to new influences. In the changing society of the nineteenth century, spiritual fervor was being replaced by materialistic fervor. Many of the new concepts of idealism developed in the early period of the religious revival were utilized in a practical manner. Nevertheless, the achievements of the later period fully compensated for the destruction made by the great fires of passion in the Burned-over district.

The Burned-over District is a well-written volume. It can easily be seen that the author has spent a great deal of time in arranging and rearranging the voluminous amount of source material at his disposal to convey in better fashion the ideas of this interesting work. Likewise commendable is the author's treatment of the many side issues of the times, an example of which is the short but penetrating study of phrenology and its contribution to the "science" of the 1840's. Mr. Cross has well demonstrated the advantages of intensive study in fields of limited scope. Even though the volume is profusely footnoted, it would have been well for it to have included an annotated bibliography.

(White Mills: Wayne County Historical Society, Pa., 1950. Pp. 43. $1.00.)

Gradually the history of many important industries of Pennsylvania is being written, and the history of our commonwealth will be the richer because of these contributions. The little volume, Christian Dorflinger—A Miracle in Glass is one of the latest to be noted. Christian Dorflinger, born March 16, 1828, in a small village in Alsace, became an apprenticed glass maker at the age of ten, and at the age of eighteen accompanied his widowed mother, brother, and sister to America. He first found employment in a glass factory at Camden, New Jersey. His technical genius was soon demonstrated when he fashioned a special glass chimney to supply the great demand for kerosene oil burning lamps. In 1853, he moved to Brooklyn, and opened up
a five-pot factory of his own. His business thrived, and he soon expanded his activities to include cut glass, engraved and plain table ware. In 1862, at age twenty-five, he purchased a site in Wayne County, Pa. Here he planned a large glass factory, surrounded by rows of houses for his workmen. A large hotel, the "St. Charles," built from native stone and elegantly furnished, became the center of the social life of the community.

Mr. Dorflinger's business grew, and by 1870 he was referred to as "the wealthiest glass manufacturer in the United States." In the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, the Dorflinger Centennial Set, "carried off the highest honors" and caused the Boston Journal of Commerce to commend it as "A commercial victory worth hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The set consisted of a large decanter, symbolic of the federal government, flanked by thirty-eight wine glasses, representing each of the thirty-eight states of the Union in 1876. The decanter comprised three panels, on one of which was engraved the Goddess of Liberty, on another the U. S. Coat of Arms, on the third, the crest of the City of Philadelphia, together with the name of its mayor. Each wine glass bore the coat of arms of an individual state and the name of its governor (1876). At the conclusion of the exposition, the set was presented to the city of Philadelphia, where it now reposes in the Memorial Museum of Fairmont Park.

The Dorflinger firm was commissioned to make table ware for eight presidents, from Lincoln to Wilson and sets for the Smithsonian Institution, the U. S. Navy, the Goulds, Vanderbilts, Henry Clay Pierce, the Prince of Wales, President Menocal of Cuba, and other world celebrities.

Good management, skilled craftsmen, excellent business acumen, long hours of hard work, and superior technical knowledge, consisting of the use of "feeding up" machines, hard wood polishes, and special brushes for polishing glass, explain the enviable reputation attained by Dorflinger glass.

As the result of Christian Dorflinger's death in 1915, the inability to import potash from Germany after the outbreak of World War I, and the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment, which cut down the demand for wine glasses and table ware, the firm's business declined, and in 1921 it closed down. Many Dorflinger employees journeyed to Corning, New York, where today they still give of their talent in producing some of the finest glassware in the country.

University of Pittsburgh

JOHN W. OLIVER


Few historians consider it expedient or convenient to travel over the ground where events about which they are writing took place. The architectural historian, on the other hand, is almost compelled to do this since buildings are his documents and his chief source of information. This exploration of buildings on the spot with camera, measuring stick, and note-
book has been a lifetime activity of Rexford Newcomb. He fulfills the functions of historian-reporter who writes as a skilled eye-witness of American architecture of the Old Northwest, more recently known as the Middle West.

Professor Newcomb has written previously of Spanish colonial architecture of the West Coast and of the Southwest. In this new work he writes in greater detail, and, we believe, with a more informed care, of that inland region where, the author tells us, his forebears settled and aided in the shaping of the “hinterland.” This volume, he says, is the result of some thirty years of observation and study of various aspects of architectural expression within the spacious confines of his family environment.

The method pursued by the author is to set forth a connected account of “The career of architectural art in the Old Northwest from the earliest days down through that formative period which came to a close with the War between the States.” Log buildings as dwellings and school houses became the typical architecture of the expanding frontier. Shelters of logs, fashioned almost entirely with the aid of axe, adze and augur, without benefit of nails, were readily raised with materials of the forest, salvaged from the cleared land. In less than a generation a start was made in the replacement of the log cabin by more permanent habitations. The early establishment of the power-driven sawmill favored the processing of logs and the “dressing up” of houses.

From the opening years of the nineteenth century, down to the Civil War, there was a continuous acceptance of classical culture in this region. Even before 1825 builders of the territory had already adopted the Greek temple as a source of design for houses and public buildings. Country villas and town houses appeared with temple-like fronts, their pediments supported by Doric and Ionic columns of wood. “To the Greeks and to them alone,” wrote Asher Benjamin in 1839, “let the student look for grandeur of composition, and, indeed, for all the laws of architecture.” The same Benjamin who made this pronouncement and Minard Lafever were popular authors of handbooks for builders and were responsible for the design of many of the churches, schools, and dwellings, done in a manner that was suited to a wood construction, and in the classical mode. Most of the county court houses built before 1870 boasted a Greek-columned portico. Even after the Civil War the architecture of the region continued to reveal its direct descent from the Greek revival of the 1840’s and 1850’s, although modified from decade to decade as construction methods changed.

Here and there buildings appeared that in time became recognized as distinguished specimens of American architecture. Professor Newcomb includes several of these as illustrations. Among the finest is the State capitol building at Springfield, Illinois (1837), one of the first state buildings to make use of the high central dome, encircled by columns in imitation of the National Capitol Building in Washington, D. C.

This same region of the Old Northwest became the place of first experimentation with the “balloon frame” construction of houses. Even more far-
reaching in its effects on American architecture was the first use (in Chicago in 1889) of steel and iron columns for framing multistory buildings.

The value of the book to the student is greatly enhanced by its many well-selected illustrations. These occur as line drawings in the text and in a half-tone supplement of almost a hundred pages. It would probably have been of advantage to the reader had the author added more informative titles than the name of the building alone. For example, in glancing at a photograph one would have been interested to know that a fair percentage of the selected buildings are not originals but reproductions. Plate I, Old St. Clair County Courthouse, Cahokia, Illinois, is one of several restored buildings concerning which no mention is made in the caption of the fact that they are not wholly original. Elsewhere in the volume we learn that this building, built before 1800, was dismantled in 1904 and re-erected as an exhibit upon the grounds of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. It was later purchased privately, transported to Chicago, and rebuilt on an island in Jackson Park. There it remained until 1937 when the Illinois State Department of Public Works authorized its return to its first site at Cahokia. It is needless to say that while the building as reconstructed may have recaptured something of its old-time appearance, it is no longer an authentic example of old architecture.

This book does not attempt, however, to defend or to criticize the practice of restoration. Its chief function is to give an account of a notable regional architecture. No writer for a decade has produced so valuable a discussion of our early building history.

College of William and Mary

A. LAWRENCE KOCHE
sylvania. His interpretation of the significance of Mysticism in religion and of the influence of the Kelpius' group on other somewhat similar religious communities that followed the tradition of the Mystical Way shows a broad and masterly grasp of his subject. He really prepares the reader for an understanding and appreciation of Kelpius' ideas of religion.

The Method of Prayer occupies a fitting place among Christian devotional classics. Though shorter than the writings of Augustine, A Kempis, or Brother Lawrence, it creates the same spirit of man's search for inner peace.

The never ceasing consciousness of the presence of God, the inward Prayer of Silence, says Kelpius, "is the same as with a person living in the Air, and drawing it in with his Breath without thinking that by it he lives and breathes; because he does not reflect upon it."

In the conflicts of late seventeenth-century Europe and the hardships of the American wilderness of the early eighteenth century, young Kelpius felt that the prime need of his age was prayer. Therefore he wrote this little spiritual classic, which was later printed by Henry Miller, Christopher Souer, and Benjamin Franklin. It is both timely and fortunate that this book is again brought to light in a scholarly and beautifully printed edition. It will prove of real interest and value not only to antiquarians but to all seekers after inward peace of mind everywhere.

Lancaster, Pa.

H. M. J. Klein


This account of "the churches, the community and the people" of a rural township is an example of what interest and diligent research can discover for the student of local history or of local genealogy.

The first part of the book gives "the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Sterling and its Centennial Celebration from its genesis to 1948." It traces its development from the early visit of Bishop Francis Asbury, July 8, 1793, in the section later to be known as Wayne County. This was the first time any Methodist preacher traversed that part of the country, and the visit resulted in the appointment, in November at the Baltimore Conference, of a presiding elder to the Wyoming territory. The growth of the church through the work of Circuit Preachers and Class Leaders to the establishment of the church in its own building, is full of human interest and incident, typical of all our early churches.

The preparation of this account of the church's history aroused the author's interest in the stories of the people and the community not included in the record. Sixteen months spent in collecting material, doing research, and talking to people resulted in the second section. Here is the history of the early settlers, the schools in the present township, the cemeteries in old Sterling Township, the farms, buildings, business interests, and other churches.

The author wanted genealogies to accompany this history, "because they make the work more valuable to posterity," especially to the searcher for
family history. Therefore this third section is made up of the genealogies "of the 'first families,' those that were a part of Sterling before 1850 and have descendants to perpetuate the name."

The book as a whole is based on research in local histories of the northeastern section of Pennsylvania, as well as newspapers, diaries, letters, family and church records, cemeteries, and especially the knowledge and recollections of the people of Sterling. The aim "perfect and complete data rather than a sketchy and vague work," while perhaps not wholly attained, has brought together many interesting incidents and facts. The record is limited in territory and the narrative simple and informal, yet it is a contribution that students of local history would do well to emulate in their own communities.

The Hoyt Library  
Kingston, Pa.

**College Life in the Old South.** By E. Merton Coulter. (Athens, Ga.: The University of Georgia Press, 1951. Second edition, revised. Pp. xiii, 320. $4.50.)

The Sesquicentennial Celebration of the University of Georgia is the occasion which has evoked the publication of a new edition of E. Merton Coulter's *College Life in the Old South*. The first edition, now out of print, was published in 1928. It is regrettable that a new title was not chosen when the second edition was printed, even though no re-writing of content was involved. The present title is misleading, for the book focalizes almost exclusively on the University of Georgia and is essentially a history of that institution.

The new edition of Professor Coulter's book at this time reflects the growing interest in the history of our institutions of higher learning. The development of the University of Georgia from charter date of 1785 through the 1870's is traced with what is frequently captivating detail and keen insight, despite the author's occasional tendency to resort to obvious and moralistic comments (e.g., first sentence, p. 33). Contention forms a central theme of the book; i.e., contention between university officials and an indifferent and often hostile legislature, between faculty and students, between the Southern and Northern ways of life. Contention highlights even the history of oratorical societies on the campus. Although the emphasis is on the University of Georgia and its student life, the book, nevertheless, implicitly conveys to the reader a sense of the broad cultural changes in the South in particular and in the United States in general during the period covered. Early dependence upon Northern educators and ideas, particularly those of Yale background, is seen giving way to a more indigenous leadership and ideology. The Westward Movement and the stirrings of industrialism are portrayed in their effects upon the University. The extension of slavery, culminating in the call to arms, is depicted as a blighting force upon the beginnings of hopeful cultural development in the South.

The author has succeeded in presenting a narrative lightened in places with a lively sense of humor. His descriptions of such educational stalwarts
as Presidents Josiah Meigs and Robert Finley are noteworthy. In his recounting of collegiate escapades, Professor Coulter penetrates to the core of student attitudes and activities. The chapter devoted to Athens, the college town, with its cultivated families, its charming architecture, and its recreational possibilities, is an example of good historical writing. It is disappointing that the work, which has more virtues than defects, does not go beyond the 1870's. It is to be hoped that Professor Coulter will add a second volume to the one under review and in the process bring the subject up to date.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

NORMAN H. DAWES


Picture history, at least as a modern art, is in its infancy; but this latest example, published in commemoration of Detroit's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, provides in many respects a model for a kind of historical exposition especially applicable to the field of local history. Four hundred pictures, with appropriate description and integrating narrative, delineate the growth of Detroit from a wilderness fort to a teeming industrial metropolis.

Special criteria of criticism prevail in assessing a pictorial history, and on most counts this work deserves a high score. Contemporary pictorial magazines have set exacting standards for layout and page design, and in this regard the Detroit work is superb. Dr. Quaife credits Professor G. Alden Smith of the Wayne University Art Department with this accomplishment; however, a real contribution has also been made by the R. R. Donnelley & Sons press, for, from cover to cover, this is a gem of book making.

With respect to picture interest and the balance between text and pictures, this work is likewise highly gratifying. Virtually every side of the developing urban community is represented—in maps, engravings, portraits, facsimiles, and photographs which, except for many static views of churches and schools, are full of action and interest. The clear and pertinent text never dominates the page, yet is effective in identifying the pictures and at the same time carrying the story forward. Dr. Quaife's scholarly authority is especially apparent in the treatment of the early period, despite someone's slip of mathematics with respect to the date of the founding of Fort Lernoult (p. 12).

The only major shortcoming of the volume springs from the decision to treat much of the material for the period following 1865 in topical rather than chronological fashion. The result is a less integrated picture of the evolving industrial community than in the case of the earlier period, which is developed to a greater extent along chronological lines. For example, the topical treatment of transportation divorces the pictures of rail and river traffic from sections where they would more effectively reveal the contribution of commerce to the city's economic base. Likewise the isolated treatment of the automobile prevents its identification with the industrial
foundations of the emerging metropolis. To be sure, the complexity of the modern period presents difficulties of organization, and the desired integration is less easily achieved in pictures than in words. The lack of it is a small fault in view of the many merits of a volume which should be commended for both format and content and which should have a wide appeal, not only to Detroiter but to students of the American city in general.

New York University

Bayrd Still

Susquehanna University Studies. Vol. IV, No. 3. Edited by Arthur Herman Wilson et al. (Selinsgrove, Pa.: Susquehanna University Press, May, 1951. 25 cents.)

"The Oratory of the Pennsylvania Germans at the Versammlinge," by Russell Wieder Gilbert, is the leading article in the largest number of the Susquehanna University Studies. The two other articles in this number are "Browning's Theory of the Purpose of Art," by Robert Tunis Howling, and "The Complete Narrative of Joseph Conrad," by Arthur Herman Wilson.


Here is a comprehensive guide to a large body of correspondence relating to an important aspect of the foreign relations of the United States. The subject dealt with is that of missions of special agents of the Department of State. "The name, the year of appointment, a brief statement of the mission, and a list of the correspondence to, from, and about each agent are given. No attempt has been made to list all correspondence on a given subject but only that which relates to the particular agent and to his mission" (pp. vii-viii). The compiler calls attention to the fact that additional correspondence relating to the missions of special agents may be found in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress and in other collections of manuscripts, and she lists works in which many of the documents she cites are printed.


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The cover illustration, a pen-and-ink sketch of Thaddeus Stevens by Guy Colt, is from a leaflet which is to be published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.
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