**BOOK REVIEWS**


Countless individuals have pondered on the meaning of the conglomeration of actions which make up history. Of this vast throng, relatively few have undertaken to reduce their thoughts to written formula. In the midst of busy lives even fewer could ever have done what Dr. Zucker has done. Despite the fact of another profession, he has not only read widely and thought long but he has written seventeen hundred pages detailing his views at length.

Dr. Zucker has two vigorous guides to his thought, one negative, the other positive. His negative drive is against pragmatic thinking, Dewey is his pet antagonist. His positive interest is the new physics of Einstein and his twentieth-century associates. He believes that history like matter is made up of fields of force which have definite and predictable relationships, and of lines of force which can be traced in the past and projected into the future so that the historian may prophesy.

In each historical period there are three component social aggregates, the state, the economy, and the ideological superstructure. The interplay of these aggregates and their relationships create a field of force. As Dr. Zucker states it, “the historical field therefore pertains to the social relations as they are being constantly modified in that state of continual flux which is characteristic of a particular period within the social continuum” (I, p. 641). History studying these fields of force from epoch to epoch can generalize the laws of social motion and can make scientifically accurate predictions.

He illustrates this by his huge second volume which is an extensive history of the United States. Before the American colonies were created there appeared four distinct epochs of civilization each rising round a type of private property: the Asiatic civilization based upon the agricultural commune; the Graeco-Roman founded on private ownership of land and the institution of slavery; Medievalism characterized by feudal principles of land tenure; and finally capitalism erected on the private ownership of capital.

In the capitalistic civilization various types of colonies were created but only one, the British, had a high potential. These colonists created the Continuing American Revolution, or according to Dr. Zucker, the genius
for constant saving adjustments of capitalism. This society illustrates the field theory in that it has had four periods in which the three social aggregates have exerted different degrees of influence on the resultant fields of force. These periods are the Colonial Period, the Period of Expansion, the Period of Industrialization and the Period of Nationalization (since 1929).

The laws of social motion, to Dr. Zucker, indicate the future development of nationalization in this country which will save it from the general fall of capitalism which he believes imminent. The peace about to be made will fail, for war is the perpetual state of modern capitalistic economy. We are going to prepare for a third world war, we shall have a post-war boom, crisis and unemployment. But because we have this power generated in the Continuing American Revolution we shall adjust ourselves by the nationalization of production and social control, to make capitalism, thus modified, still effective. Somehow in the midst of new wars and depressions we “shall transform these United States into a paradise on earth.”

All this is set forth in very great detail and is footnoted with references to a great mass of literature. The author sprinkles his pages with almost countless opinions, passing judgment after judgment on philosophies and historians, upon scientists and students of society, upon statesmen and politicians. It is a very personal work which will inevitably rouse much dissent and little concurrence. Oddly enough the author uses methods of thought and illustration which he condemns in others. Shorn of its forbidding scientific jargon, it points out trends well recognized by many students and publicists. It can scarcely be admitted that the theory is as scientific or as surely prophetic of the future as the advance notices of the book proclaim.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS


A Million Homes a Year. By DOROTHY ROSENMAN. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1945. 333 p. $3.50.)

It would be laboring the obvious to say that these two modest volumes deal with subjects that are today of major concern not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world. The first is by one of our ablest and most experienced writers on city planning. It contains the essence of his philosophy of urbanism, and also, in a measure, the stages in its development. All but two of the essays—“The Social Foundations of Post-War Building,” and “The Plan for London”—were published before, some as far back as 1922. The interesting study on Honolulu is a sort of appendix to the author’s Culture of the Cities (1938), and should be read against that background.
The keynote of Mr. Mumford’s social philosophy as it applies to cities is developed realistically in the essay on the new plan for London. Viewing the city as a vital organism, he regards considerations of problems of self-reproduction of the population as the fundamental factor in city planning for the future. In line with Spengler’s main theses, he points out that the decline of western civilization is realistically illustrated in the results of our craze for large cities—“Megalopolitanism” which has drained the rural areas of much of its potentially vital population to sterilize it in the cities. This biological factor, which his one-time master, Sir Patrick Geddes, first proclaimed in England, the author makes the first desideratum in the reconstruction of cities, “whether bombed as in Europe or unscathed but diseased as in America.” “The greatest nineteenth century achievement in mass-production, the mass-production of human beings, has come to an end,” he declares (p. 210). Come to an end, unless the “megalopolitan standards of life be changed” to make the city a favorable biological “environment helpful to reproduction.” “What price must be paid in the re-making of London for the privilege of being born? If the people of England are willing to pay the price, London and England will survive—London with a smaller population, England with a bigger one; whilst centers like New York, which continue to pyramid their mistakes, will descend with Gadarene swiftness into the abyss. But if the price seems too high, as it may very easily seem in purely financial terms, both London and England will dwindle; and the whole process of reconstructing London, even if physically achieved, will result in a magnificent—or perhaps not so magnificent—urban mummy, surrounded by a sumptuous tomb” (p. 216). Words pregnant with meaning if viewed in the light of current studies and discussions on population trends; the relations between the western powers and Russia; and the outcome of Canada’s graded bonus system, beginning at $5 a month, for every child up to the age of fifteen.

It would be unfair, however, to imply that income or even the standard of living is regarded by the author as the only factor to be considered in the reconstruction of cities. Mr. Mumford is remarkably cosmopolitan in his approach to the problem, and questions of emotional satisfaction and security, with opportunity for personal development, are given due weight by the side of economic and artistic factors.

*A Million Homes a Year* is a factual study against a graphically portrayed background of existing housing conditions—urban and rural—of how “to provide Houses at Lower Cost.” Historians may well ponder the questions how things have “gotten so,” and why a people that conquered the wilderness, opened up the resources of the continent, banded it with railroads and built up great cities, failed so dismally in building homes for millions of its men and women. “Many of the 37,325,470 dwelling units, with which the (1941) census credits us, were . . . unbelievable hangovers from the primitive. Fourteen million of them . . . were without flush toilets. Twelve million without private bathtubs. Almost eleven million
homes—nearly a third of all our private dwelling places—had no running water." Over against this picture the author doggedly stresses the fact that housing is inextricably woven into the entire mesh of life—of the individual, the family, the community and the nation.

Of the different remedies the author gives particular attention to the problem of reducing the cost of the various items of building and upkeep—materials, labor, services, land and taxes. Although the saving in any one category cannot be very great, in the aggregate it can be surprisingly large.

The book is constructively critical on a subject on which scientific planning and promotion will be not only sound socially, but financially profitable. It is well documented and carries a good working bibliography.

American Philosophical Society

WILLIAM E. LINGELEBACH

Foreign Influences in American Life, Essays and Critical Bibliographies. Edited by DAVID F. BOWERS. (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1944. x, 254 p. $3.00.)

The title of this collection of essays implies a treatise of large proportions upon a subject of immense complexity, an impression which the subtitle immediately and adequately dispels. The complexity is indicated, however, without being exposed, and a very informative piece of work, albeit unambitious and uneven, is the result. The book, edited by the first Director of the American Conference at Princeton University, was clearly intended as a secondary text for class use among upperclass undergraduates in American civilization courses. The editor admits in his foreword that it "makes no pretense of finality . . . its essays . . . seek merely to define the problem: to describe the basic forms of cultural impact and assimilation . . . in American life." There is no "program" to the book, and none is intended; the authors are not bound together by common convictions, nor do they separately stand out as trying to convince the reader of any particular set of attitudes.

With one or two exceptions, to be noted, the eight essays (which occupy the larger part of the book) add up to the impression that they were ordered specially for this volume, a situation which has its advantages, but whose disadvantage in this case turns out to be a conspicuous flavor of what happens when an author "has a job to do." One does not expect inspiration, of course, in an exhaustive or scholarly treatise; but in an orientating essay which undertakes to survey a large field, one has a right to expect the type of insight which follows when the author himself is inspired by his topic. The exceptions to this criticism, each brilliant enough to warrant separate publication, are Bowers' own "Hegel, Darwin, and the American Tradition," and more especially R. P. Blackmur's "The American Literary Expatriate." The former is the first truly concise account of Hegel's influence on America, and the best short account of the St. Louis school,
which this reviewer has seen. The material should be familiar to any philosophy major in an American university, but is apt to be news even to many an "intellectual" historian. It is good to see it at last recognized that nineteenth-century American philosophy was not entirely the handmaiden of theology, and, more important, that it strongly interplayed with science and art and religion in the shaping of contemporary ideas, however unconscious the infusion may have been.

Blackmur's brilliant article is the most dynamic, therefore the most entertaining, suggestive, and creative of all the chapters. While no more valuable to the student than any of the others from the standpoint of its factual contents, it presents new angles on old facts which the American social historian, in view of our radically changing world role, would do well to take more into account. Far broader than its title would indicate, it is really an essay in social psychology, in which the expatriate is not merely one who leaps the physical boundaries of his country; he may, like Melville, Ryder, Dickinson, or Adams, remain here "in inward dissent and dismay." Further, he may not be merely the nonadjustable lunatic so often connoted by the word "expatriate," but may subtly symbolize Everyman's discontent with his institutions. "Being at odds with his own time is what gives the artist his excuse for being," said André Gide. And now that the United States faces the prospect of being the world's cultural capital, it is the more desirable that these matters be understood.

Donald Drew Egbert writes a careful summary of the foreign influences on American art, and Oscar Handlin an analysis of the immigrant and American politics. Stow Persons, James G. Leyburn, and Frank D. Graham complete the roster of contributors. Bowers' introduction is a statement of the whole problem of cultural impact. And finally the elaborate classified bibliographies at the end of the book, though not exhaustive, alone make this volume an important addition to the growing literature of the history of ideas in America.

University of Pennsylvania

JOHN STOKES ADAMS, JR.

John Stuart and the Southern Colonial Frontier. By JOHN RICHARD ALDEN.

(Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1944. xiv, 385 p. Maps, notes, bibliography, and index. $4.00.)

The history of the southern frontier of the British colonies of North America, in comparison with its northern counterpart, has been relatively neglected. No Parkman has given its annals literary prestige nor has a Winsor adequately synthesized them. State historians, it is true, have labored well within limited regions but without producing an outstanding penman. Nor up to about 1900, did the field attract much attention from more humble workers who might gather, classify and interpret the growing mass of documents piled up in private and public repositories, at home and
abroad, to await the coming of the regional historian. Since the turn of the century, however, local, state and national organizations, aided by public funds or private endowments, have given a new impetus to the historical output. Plethoric volumes of printed documents and manuscripts now wait on patient research. The publication of monographs keeps pace with the expanding historical profession. No longer need our southern frontier remain terra incognita.

With the present volume the lengthening roll of locality writers receives a promising recruit. Mr. Alden’s book slips into place between Verner W. Crane’s *Southern Frontier* and Thomas P. Abernethy’s *Western Lands and the American Revolution*. The English colonies from Virginia to Georgia, during the closing years of British rule, form his chief locale; Indian chiefs and Indian traders, colonial governors, land speculators, and superintendents of Indian affairs, his chief personnel. Thus he presents much the same background as these two writers and such other pioneers as Alvord, Bolton, Carter, Lowery, Whitaker—to name only a few who have already won reputation in this field. Mr. Alden, like them, has drawn upon virtually all available archives. War conditions did not permit research abroad, but to a considerable degree the transcripts and photocopies of the Library of Congress and other American repositories filled in the resulting lacunae. A classified bibliography and copious footnotes to original sources and secondary works, show wide-spread research, but in neither do the names of Max Farrand or John C. Parish appear. Both did some slight pioneer work on Stuart. Bibliography and footnotes make some mention of Hamer, Pargellis, Corry, Miss Helen L. Shaw, and Meriwether, all of whom have done work which overlaps Mr. Alden’s field. The author points out numerous slips in previous writings, but seems to make few himself. He does, however, place the Pearl River too near Mobile (p. 211, n. 81) and has the Iberville River rather than Bayou Manchac making the junction with the Mississippi (p. 236), but so do many of the documents. He frequently differs from Abernethy, Alvord, and Carter, in fact and interpretation and devotes an entire section of his appendix to his differences with the first two concerning the Donelson Line (pp. 344-350), and seems to prove his point. Much new material has become available since those earlier authors wrote. Obviously his own narrative leaves few fragments for others to gather up. There is, however, no assurance that readers will not become weary in following his own well-packed chapters.

The author divides his book into two parts. The first after an introductory chapter, takes up the Indian policy of Governor James Glen of South Carolina. Before 1756 colonial executives as such had *ex officio* charge of Indian policy. After Glen came Edwin Atkin, an incompetent appointee as superintendent of Indian affairs in the South. His powers were ill defined, especially in his relations with military commanders and governors; nor, despite previous colonial experience, was he able to deal with the tangled issue of Indian trade. When official bickering and frontier resentment
brought on hostilities with the Cherokees—a late phase of the French and Indian War—he gradually gave up his activities. His demise in 1761 made way for John Stuart. The latter, like Atkin, a Carolina merchant, proved worthy to be associated with the far better known Indian superintendent of the northern colonies, “Johnson of the Mohawks.” To Stuart the author, after describing the evolution of the superintendent’s office, devotes the last two thirds of his book.

Indian relations in the southern British colonies during the eighteenth century form an involved topic. For two hundred years the Indians were drawn into disputes between Spanish Florida and English Virginia and the Carolinas. The relations between the Spaniards and the French after 1700 were less warlike but equally distrustful. The English and the French after that date also threatened each other across the southern Appalachians. The continual efforts of these three contestants to gain or neutralize Indian support could not fail to keep their prospective allies in turmoil.

A scarcely less important phase of the problem concerned Britain’s own relations with the Indians. There was never the camaraderie that the French generally maintained nor the concern for the Indian’s salvation that Spanish missionaries displayed. Frenchmen, too, were better individual traders than their English rivals, but their trade as a whole led to a poorer market. The Spaniards, aside from the padres, were inclined to keep away from the red men of the forest. The English and the Scots not merely penetrated Indian country as traders but as settlers, with or without permission, before or after specific treaty or grant. This disregard of native rights naturally provoked reprisals, during which traders, squatters, and legal settlers, appealed to the colonial authorities for protection. Colonial governors, such as Glen, Oglethorpe, Dinwiddie, generally blamed the people of neighboring colonies rather than their own neglect for the situation, but the resulting controversies neither satisfied complaints nor enlightened the home government.

Hostile forays among the Indian tribes helped embroil the ever troubled frontier. Outbreaks easily took place between neighboring groups, but the Cherokees, the most warlike of the southern Indians, frequently attacked the Delawares and Shawnees along the upper Ohio. A desire to attract traders of a particular nation often led one native group to exploit the hunting ground of another or force the other to join in an attack on European rivals. Thus hunting areas as well as absurd land grants helped disturb the frontier.

The immediate problem of colonial executive and Indian superintendent, the recurrent clashes between the frontier elements and the savages, was one that neither they nor their successors under the United States ever settled. This condition, difficult at any stage of colonial affairs, became clearly intolerable with the outbreak of the French and Indian War. Indian headmen, at best exercised less control over their towns than did white executives over frontier “crackers.” Nevertheless, with an aggregate
strength among the six southern tribes, estimated in 1750 as twelve thousand warriors, and gathered in communities fairly numerous and compact, they were not to be despised or flouted. They were all less warlike than the Iroquois but their friendship had to be cultivated, their trade developed and their cherished rights respected.

The Cherokees occupied the strategic headwaters of the Tennessee River. Their position tempted both French and English intrigues. The latter also sought to keep the Creeks neutral, or even gain them as allies against their European rivals. The Cherokees also objected to treaties made by the British with northern tribes—treaties that affected their own hunting grounds along the Ohio. British governors from Virginia to Georgia were anxious to make good national claims to the Mississippi. Such an advance must rest upon a series of forts within Indian territory. The various groups and above all the Cherokees were willing to tolerate forts as trading posts but not as preliminary steps in their own subjection, or from which the British might eject their French rivals. Hence the French and Indian War stimulated further difficulties on the strategic frontier.

The governors of Virginia and South Carolina each projected advances to the westward. Dinwiddie's attention was largely directed toward the upper Ohio, but he also sought help from the southern Indians. He felt that neither the incompetent Atkin nor his fellow executives gave him adequate support. Creek neutrality failed to keep the Cherokees at peace. They were chastized in the ensuing war but their power was not broken. To recover prestige among the Indians, therefore, the British government as one preliminary step in the imperial reorganization of 1763, chose John Stuart as superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern Department.

In addition to his career as merchant Stuart added some experience in frontier fighting, a host of influential friends and a pleasing personality to his other qualifications for the office. A prime requisite for the position was native talent plus common sense and he possessed both. He was tactful alike with Indian and white. Ready to assert the functions of his office, his common sense led him first to persuade his prospective associates that his proposals were practical and then ask from them a full measure of cooperation. For twelve years he maintained a policy of loyalty to the Crown and of devotion to the interests entrusted to him, that rivaled the career of Sir William Johnson in the Northern Department. His field included the frontiers of six provinces—for the Treaty of 1763 had added the two Floridas. He was forced to keep an eye on the Spaniards at New Orleans and Havana, in order to forestall any intrigues on their part among his Indian charges. He was obliged to watch the activities of traders and to check the encroachments of frontiersmen. This required him to negotiate frequent treaties and to see that their provisions were carried out. He must fix boundaries and cause them to be respected—measures that frequently brought colonial executives to his wilderness conferences. He had to persuade colonial assemblies, often at odds with the governor, to make neces-
sary appropriations. His position in the executive council did not make this task easier. He must flatter and cajole Indian headmen, either as individuals or when assembled in general congresses with diverse tribal groups. Moreover, he must convince the home government that all these activities were necessary and not too costly. This varied program the author treats fully and at times in prolix detail. It is safe to say that another will not soon be tempted to traverse the same field.

*Louisiana State University*  
Isaac J. Cox


The task of reviewing *The Completion of Independence* presents to the reviewer a peculiar and difficult problem. He remembers well when the late Dixon Ryan Fox began work on the present book, as long ago as the concluding years of the 1920's, and has followed, from a distance, the history of the manuscript to its publication. For more than a quarter of a century the reviewer was a personal friend and an admirer of President Fox and regretted that administrative work terminated his career as an historian. It was fitting that Dr. Krout, who had entered the historian's guild as a student of Professor Fox, should be asked to collaborate on a work that had been stalled by the press of duties in the president's office in Schenectady. The acceptance of the commission by Professor Krout was a manifestation of loyalty to an old teacher. Without disparaging in any way the contribution of the President of Union College the reviewer wishes to go on record as expressing the personal conviction (which he cannot document) that this book is primarily the work of the scholar whose name takes the lead on the title page. It is, in fact, evidence both of scholarship and of friendship.

The authors, following the established pattern of the American Life Series, deal with the entire area of American civilization as it manifested itself in a particular period, in this case from 1790 to 1830. They have used what has come to be called the anthropological approach to history. The book illustrates both similarities and differences between the task of the anthropologist, describing a culture, and that of the social historian who deals broadly with civilization. Each must somewhat arbitrarily break up culture into patterns: economic mores, those of religion, marriage and the family, education and many others. Both the anthropologist and the social historian must set forth the body of knowledge on which the culture rests and point out the dominant beliefs, opinions and attitudes of the people who carry the culture. The difference between the work of the anthropologist working in the field and that of the social historian is that the former, particularly when dealing with pre-literate cultures, is unable to trace cultural change through extended periods of time. For historical perspective
he is too often compelled to depend on legend or, at best, on material remains. The most striking achievement of the present volume is its presentation of civilization in motion. The book is no still picture of America. The essence of the volume is change: in the composition of the population with the coming of immigrants; in space with the northward and westward movement of the frontier; and in time with the progress of the country through four crowded and significant decades. And in addition the volume has the advantage of the perspective of the century and more that has elapsed since its closing date. These two facts suggest one great advantage of the historian over the field anthropologist in dealing with cultural phenomena.

The authors have handled the wealth of material they have accumulated skilfully. There is much that is familiar as well as much that is new in the book. But its chief contribution is to be found in the fact that here American civilization is presented as a living and integrated whole. The book does not tail off at the end, as some of its companion volumes do, with a series of chapters that are little more than discrete topical essays. The outline moves easily and with satisfying logic from one topic to another with the result that—at the end the reader feels that he has had the advantage of an overall view of America at the start of the nineteenth century. It is a view which emphasizes diversity within unity. Quite properly, moreover, the authors begin their work with an emphasis on the centripetal forces that made possible the deepening of nationalism in the period, and they end appropriately with a suggestion of the centrifugal forces that were ultimately to bring disaster. It is a good book and a very useful one.

The following criticism is not altogether relevant because the volume belongs in a series whose basic plan was established many years ago. The book conforms to that plan and should be judged in terms of it. However, it should be noted that this pattern emphasizes social description at the expense of social theory. In the opinion of the reviewer the present age demands that historians play the major role their subject matter makes possible in the development of social theory, and present their hypotheses and conclusions to the educated public in such a way that they will assist the present generation in the herculean task of attempting to control its destiny.

Yale University

R. H. Gabriel


This third volume of Michigan papers reflects the processes of political maturation in the peninsula, the growth and grievances of the area west of Lake Michigan. The impracticability of throwing so vast an area into a single territory appears in the protests of settlers and of judges, the latter
complete with itemized itineraries reaching 1463 miles, and with dispositions on the high cost of living. If the legislature sat in winter, westerners could not easily attend; if it sat later, the printed laws would not reach them before the following winter.

There is much suggestive material for studies of frontier politics here. In 1833 a Democrat rejoiced, "There is no nook or corner of the Union where the Democratic Party is organized more generally, or on a more permanent footing" (p. 604), but the Whigs showed unexpected strength in the elections of 1835, not to be discounted completely by James Schoolcraft's explanation, "We have a majority of Jacksonians here, when brought into the field from principle" (p. 920). Through the many appeals for roads and canals the ideas of Clay's American System appear: "Improvements, and increase of advantage here," petitioned residents of Detroit in 1831, "would enure to the benefit of the trade and manufacturers of our great Atlantic marts. . . " (p. 369). The Jacksonians also had to contend with Anti-Masonry, lamenting "the religious strictness with which the eyes of our demagogues are turned towards our political Mecca,. . . N York" (p. 42). The "seven sided, non-committal, and turn coat" (that is, un-Jacksonian) trend of Michigan politics (p. 576) may have been due in part to the intrigues of the American Fur Company and other interests, but neither intrigue nor the prudence necessary for favors in Congress explains western deviations from western radicalism. Jackson's removals and appointments seem reasonable, moderately made, and successful in comparison with those of following generations. New light is cast on the Michigan boundary dispute, which was highly embarrassing to Jackson's supporters in Michigan when the President chose to back Ohio.

Time moved rapidly in the West of the thirties, and those who had lived through the War of 1812 on the Michigan frontier were far outnumbered by the lead miners and farmers, but anti-British sentiment kept alive. Lumbermen resented the advantage which Canadians found in the American tariff (more votes for Clay?); fur men and Indian traders spoke darkly of the Hudson's Bay Company (though one may suspect that they welcomed its liquor sales as an excuse for similar practice).

Historians tracking down individuals great and obscure will find, as before, that Professor Carter has saved them much labor. It is especially felicitous that the Wisconsin biography series was announced as this volume appeared. There is hardly any pioneer of note not represented at least once, and for some—James D. Doty, Morgan L. Martin, the Grignons, for instance—there are respectable additions to the gatherings of Draper and Thwaites.

The volume is bulky, the largest in number of pages thus far, but documents that might have been published but are merely cited probably represent materials that are several times as bulky as those selected. Excluded materials include most of those relating directly to the Black Hawk War. The index, reaching 153 pages, is one of the most useful features of this as
other volumes; an enormous amount of discretion and research obviously has gone into identifying names. One would like to think that the vast sums being poured by the armed services into war histories may produce as good history as is being made available in this series.

Publication of the official papers of the territories has been in prospect since 1925, when Congress authorized the Department of State to have them "collected, edited, copied, and suitably arranged for publication." Work under this authority continued for only two years, 1926–1928. In 1929 Congress specifically authorized beginning publication; and Professor Clarence E. Carter of Miami University became editor in 1931. Largely through his labors, eleven monumental volumes of documents have appeared (1934–1945), covering the first six of the twenty-eight continental territories. Nearly all of the papers selected, from many different repositories in Washington and in the states, had hitherto been unpublished; most had not been used by historians. Universal recognition having been accorded to the skill of the editor in meeting these and other problems, much concern has been manifest among historians lest appropriations stop or become insufficient. Congress authorized further limited appropriations in 1937, but although the law referred to a staff of "five historical experts," the funds available for all purposes, including salaries, travel, and printing, have come to as little as $9,158 for a single year. In 1945 the editor had the assistance of only one part-time clerk. The act of July 31, 1945, authorized continuation to completion, and annual sums of not more than $30,000. Recent tentative estimates indicate that the completed series may comprise thirty-five to thirty-seven volumes.

The Ohio State University

EARL S. POMEROY

John Thomson, Presbyterian Constitutionalist, Minister of the Word of God, Educational Leader and Church Builder. By JOHN G. HERNDON.

(Privately printed, 1943.)

The Reverend John Thomson was an early Presbyterian pastor who served between the years 1717 and 1753 as a minister to the struggling churches of the American frontier in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Thomson entered the University of Glasgow in 1706, came to America in 1715, and served his first pastorate at Lewes, Delaware, and at Snowhill, Maryland, between 1717 and 1729. In 1717 he became moderator of the New Castle Presbytery. The influx of Irish Presbyterians to Lancaster County (Mt. Joy, Paxtang), led to the establishment of the Presbytery of Donegal in 1732. During the Reverend Mr. Thomson's pastorate at Chestnut Level, Lancaster, he struggled with the "disorderly" ministers who followed in the wake of the Great Awakening. During this period Thomson wrote in defence of orthodox traditions and against the amorphic religion of the frontier. He had a part in the establishment of the University of Delaware, and while pastor at Chestnut Level became inter-
ested in the work in Virginia. His next years were spent at Buffalo, Virginia, where he preached and wrote, seeking to show the underlying similarity between the church of England and his own. His final work was in North Carolina, where he was the "first missionary and gospel preacher."

Dr. Herndon has rendered a service in bringing to light this new and carefully marshalled work on this colonial pastor. His book is sound, factual, and erudite.

Bluebell, Montgomery County

JOHN JOSEPH STOUTD


Tom Paine's writings are good to read. They are considerably better than the books people have written about him. This little volume contains his best works, introduced by an interpretive essay perfect of its type. The book is so small it will fit into your pocket, which Howard Fast's novel and W. E. Woodward's biography will not, and of its accuracy, reliability, and taste there can be no question.

Assuming (correctly, I think) that the facts of Paine's life are easily enough available, Mr. Clark devotes his introduction to an account of the intellectual development of the Thetford staymaker into the world revolutionist. Four principal influences shaped Paine's religious and ethical views: Quakerism, Newtonian deism, Greek and Roman writings, and ancient oriental religions, with which he had some acquaintance. Freemasonry furnished him contemporary allies. His political philosophy stemmed from his religious and ethical system. It was an optimistic philosophy, based on the inherent altruism of man in nature, and the rights nature conferred upon individuals. Reason was its method—he was a child of the Enlightenment—and a written constitution was its proper measure. The purpose of government was to act positively for the general good.

Of course, he opposed mercantilism, and of course he favored commerce and manufacture. Paine was truly as much a forerunner of J. Q. Adams as of Jackson. He was both a practical and a theoretical humanitarian; he relied upon education to save the world. One good schoolmaster he reckoned was of more use than a hundred priests.

Mr. Clark handles all these issues, and those of literary style, with authority. Special students will find the introduction, tables and bibliography very helpful. The general reader, however, will probably go at once to the text where he will find that splendid sturdy courage, the core of Paine's being, glittering in an age when men faced a fearful responsibility: "These are the times that try men's souls . . . Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered, yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

The Free Library of Philadelphia

J. H. POWELL
Arthur St. Clair: Rugged Ruler of the Old Northwest. An Epic of the American Frontier. By Frazer E. Wilson. (Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, 1944. xiv, 253 p. $3.00.)

Around the Council Fire. By Frazer E. Wilson. (Greenville, Ohio: Privately printed. 78 p.)


The two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Anthony Wayne and the sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Greene Ville finds the Ohio-Indiana-Michigan area active in commemoration—to the confusion, let us hope, of Wayne's home state of Pennsylvania which, with the proud exception of the Lehigh Valley Historical Society, almost wholly ignores the important anniversaries. Chester County, Wayne's birthplace, did not feel the events of sufficient importance to warrant notice! As part of the Tri-State celebrations, the three publications listed here recount the story of how the Indian Northwest was won. Two of them are specific, concentrating on particular events; the third is more general in character.

Dr. Bald, now war historian of the University of Michigan, writes an excellent paper, based largely on documents at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, narrating the diplomacy of General Wayne in undermining British influence among the tribesmen. His definition of "Michigan" is somewhat broad in scope, covering, as it does, virtually all the influential people of the northern section of Ohio, as well as Michigan and Indiana, but his contribution is of the utmost importance. There is no other convenient paper which so summarizes the backgrounds of the treaty nor of the delicate wire-pullings which preceded the negotiations. A later publication, we are promised, will deal in equal detail with the arrival of General Wayne in Detroit and with the setting up of Wayne County.

Frazer Ells Wilson, a Greenville historian who has made careful study of the local happenings of his region, revises a series of articles originally published in the Greenville Daily Advocate in 1940 to provide an elaborate story of the treaty proceedings and of the colorful details attending that conference. The pamphlet has, however, a broader significance, in that it offers a complete story of exactly how an Indian council was conducted and of the ceremonies that were necessary if complete interracial understanding was to be effected. Historians will be deeply in his debt.

Mr. Wilson is, however, not so happy in his more ambitious work, the biography of Arthur St. Clair. Interested, as he is, primarily in the events of Greene Ville, Wilson rather tends to overlook periods in the life of St. Clair which, to Easterners at least, may seem at least as important. The story, for example, of St. Clair's tenure at Ticonderoga and of the events leading up to the surrender of that fortress, is glossed over, too much so for those of us interested in the Wayne aspects of that controversy. There is, moreover, almost nothing to explain the origins, the justice, or even the
conclusion of the St. Clair-Wayne feud, nor of the part played by St. Clair in the Pennsylvania Mutiny. That St. Clair ran for governor of Pennsylvania is mentioned, and also that he lost to Mifflin by the overwhelming ratio of fourteen to one, but the details of the campaign are omitted. So, similarly, is there slight attention paid to the contributions made by St. Clair, when a censor of Pennsylvania, or to his work in Congress. These are mentioned but not dilated upon.

In spite of the gaps in this all too thin volume Mr. Wilson's life of St. Clair remains a useful biography. The lack of a workable story of Arthur St. Clair's life has long hampered students of the period, and, while the present volume provides little philosophy and even less of the St. Clair personality—Winthrop Sargent is more glowingly described by the author than is the central figure of the book—Wilson's contribution at least gathers into convenient form the essential data of the Pennsylvania general's career. As such, it will be welcome, although it is far from being definitive.

Office of War Information, Washington, D. C.

HARRY EMERSON WILDES


An autobiography is hardly in character with the unadvertised career of George W. Norris. "I could not see," he wrote the last month of his life, "just why people would be interested in the struggling and somewhat discouraging life that I have lived." He then attributes the undertaking and the completion of the work to the prompting and the assistance of his friend, James E. Lawrence, editor of the Lincoln Star. "Without his assistance the book would never have been written."

The autobiography is the story of a great American and it has preserved much that otherwise would have missed the record. The story of Norris' youth and education was unknown to his admirers. His mother, who most influenced his character and explains much of his public career, was up to now an unknown figure. Most valuable of all, Norris has filled the volume with the personal considerations that enter into great national decisions and make them interesting and meaningful. Here through the flow of personal relationships the how and the why of history become a common ingredient that lives and has its being.

The book covers in an interesting personal way the great public events of this century. The Progressive movement, the overthrow of Cannonism, the struggle over power sites and the TVA, filibustering, the League of Nations, the Lame Duck amendment, a unicameral legislature for Nebraska, and many other issues, not to mention numerous public leaders of this past generation, pass across the screen. The presentation is from the Norris point of view, and for the most part he makes a clear-cut and good case for
his position. The part that falls short of logic and open-minded judgment is associated with the issues of the first World War and with the peace. Norris joined in the filibuster against armed ships. He condemned the use of filibuster to defeat the will of the majority, yet defended his own resort to its use. His opposition to the League dodges the issue of national responsibility and is completely inconsistent with his position in the second World War.

Norris’ great record is in domestic issues. No legislator of this country has so many great triumphs to his credit. His defeats, however, are more numerous than his triumphs, and victories came only after repeated defeats. It took fifteen years to get a favorable action on the Tennessee Valley Authority and ten years to submit the Lame Duck amendment to the states. The book has embodied very effectively the spirit of the author. The tolerance, moderation, rugged purpose and persistence that were so characteristic of the late Senator are very evident. It is a book of applied politics and statesmanship that in a democracy deserves a very wide audience. Fighting Liberal adds much to the story of constructive American politics.

University of Nebraska

J. L. Sellers


This is a very notable history of the French Revolution. It is not one of the most original. Professor Thompson has not broken new ground like De Tocqueville, Aulard, Mathiez, or Lefebvre; but he has made himself master of the best scholarship on the Revolution, as well as of an immense amount of source material, and he has presented it all, including what have been very controversial issues, in a spirit of conscientious detachment. This book almost gives the impression that it is history written, according to Ranke’s dictum, “as it really happened,” so judicious is the scholarship, so fine the detail, and so broad and gently sloping the vantage-ground from which events are viewed. The fundamental bias of the work, if bias is not too abrupt a term, is simply the liberal-democratic conviction that, in the long run, popular government is the best kind.

There is almost no phase of the Revolution which escapes attention here, whether it be economic history and policy, legal institutions, the religious controversy, the clubs, the role of the provincial cities, the destruction of feudal rights, the expression of public opinion, constitutional theory, public administration, diplomacy, or a dozen or so other topics. It is hard to single out one subject more than another as deserving of special comment. It might be observed, however, that more attention is given to constitutional history than is usual in general works of this character. Professor Thompson has an Englishman’s interest in the evolution and the machinery of parliamentary institutions and administrative agencies. But while he will occa-
sionally point out a parallel or a divergence between French and English development, he is fully conscious of the fact that French constitutional history has been *sui generis* and he is not the least disposed to be condescending. It might be added that he does not treat constitutional history as though it existed in a legal vacuum, but as an integral part of a very complex story.

Another feature of this volume which deserves special notice is the unusual amount of biographical interest it contains. It abounds in very cleverly drawn thumb-nail sketches of personalities. These, together with a wealth of authentic detail of all sorts, and a mastery of narrative writing, give the history almost the quality of a memoir, or of an extraordinarily good sociological novel. One might add, a long novel, for Professor Thomp-son takes five hundred and sixty pages to traverse five years, from the summoning of the Estates-General in 1789 to the *coup d'état* of 9 Thermidor in 1794.

Although there are, in the preface, a list of definitions of key French words, and, in an appendix, various aids such as a chronology of the Revolution and lists of ministers and presidents of the National Assembly, this is not a textbook. It is well organized, but facts are not schematized as they usually are in textbooks. There is for instance no summary listing of "causes" of the Revolution. The causes simply emerge in the course of the narrative. Nor is this history designed primarily for the use of scholars. There is no apparatus of footnotes. Professional scholars will no doubt appreciate so masterly a treatment of a great theme. Beyond that rather narrow audience, however, this is a book for those general readers, including students, who want, not a rapid and convenient summary, but rich and discursive substance.

*Washington, D. C.*

Frances Acomb

*The Historical Collections of the Insurance Company of North America.*


The Insurance Company of North America is one of our most venerable and respected institutions—a real ornament to Philadelphia, in fact; whose services to our city, our state, and our nation in the past have been just as important and just as vital as they are at present, and will continue to be in the future. It is very fitting, therefore, that the company is so keenly alive to its distinguished history that it has gathered its treasures into an extremely pleasant museum in its building at Sixteenth Street and the Parkway, and also that its historiographer, Mr. M. J. McCosker, has produced a worthy memorial of this collection in the form of the volume under discussion.

This volume is, in effect, a catalogue of the collection, rounded out with
a full descriptive text which in itself embodies the long and illustrious history of the company. It is a story well told and full of interest; the far-flung activities of the company assume a vital place in the annals of Philadelphia and constitute a genuine contribution to our native annals, while the richness of the collection itself, and the sumptuous way in which the book has been produced, make the volume one of the most delightful which the present reviewer has seen for a long while.

Marine insurance and fire insurance have always been the two pillars on which the company has been supported, and it is natural, therefore, that relics of these two phases of endeavor should form the bulk of the collection.

In the Marine section there is a splendid group of paintings, comprising ship pictures, sea-scapes, and naval actions; Thomas Birch's *The Warrior and The Hope* being particularly noteworthy. Marine prints also feature largely: these are in lovely impressions and many are of great variety. Nor should the choice collection of ship models be omitted from mention, for the company's group of these is a distinguished one.

Even more exhaustive in scope is the Fire section; here we have paintings, and prints of fires, and fire engines, fire buckets, models of old hand-pump engines, fireman's belts, hats, and horns, original fire-fighting apparatus, and especially the very large and highly important group of fire marks (numbering one hundred and seventeen items and illustrated in a folding colored plate three feet long).

In the third section of the catalogue—it would be derogatory to call it the miscellaneous section—there is a fine set of portraits of the presidents, including a noble Stuart of Joseph Ball, the third president; there is also an interesting group of the company's muniments; and lastly there is a small but noteworthy assemblage of prints and paintings of Philadelphia views.

The Insurance Company is indeed to be congratulated on this volume, for it is emphatically a volume which should be in the hands of everyone interested in the history, the arts, and the life of Early America.

*Devon, Pennsylvania*  
Boies Penrose