

BOOK REVIEWS

Travelling With Thomas Story. By EMILY E. MOORE. (Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire: Letchworth Printers, Ltd., 1947, xxi, 320 p. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. 15 s. [\$3.00].)

The original folio edition of *A Journal of the Life of Thomas Story*, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1747, has been abridged and ably commented upon by Emily E. Moore in this new and richly illustrated volume. Convinced of Quakerism at the age of twenty-one, Story renounced the practice of law as a livelihood and made it his special business henceforth to carry the Quaker gospel to any distance that seemed right to him. During his active life of seventy-two years, he travelled extensively in England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Germany, and visited Friends in America and Barbados.

He was a preacher of marked intellectual capacity and personal charm, always ready to engage in theological controversy with numerous opponents who presented themselves. On this point our biographer says: "His exceptional gift of memory, his deep knowledge of, and logical handling of, the doctrines he held, call forth admiration." But it was his relation to William Penn and his association with the affairs of Pennsylvania during sixteen eventful years, 1698-1714, that particularly concern us here. He first met Penn in 1693, during the period of the Founder's supposed retirement near London, and his love and admiration for the older man endured until the latter's death in 1718. "At that time," says Story, "I contracted so near a friendship, in the life of Truth, and tendering love thereof in many tears, as never wore out till his dying day."

Story's visit to America was quite independent of Penn and embraced preaching "in the love of the gospel" from Carolina to Boston, with the exception of Connecticut, "for their laws and magistrates were very strict and severe against Friends, of whom there was not one in all that country." However, when Penn arrived on his second visit in 1699, Story records: "As we had parted in England in much tenderness, my satisfaction was also great to meet him so well and safe in his own Province." Soon made a member of the Governor's Council, he resorted to the practice of Conveyancing for support, but always felt free to engage in religious service in the sparsely settled colonies. In 1699, he attended Old Merion Meeting where the ministry was in Welsh which he did not understand, yet he felt as much refreshed as if it had been in his own tongue. Unfortunately, Thomas was an irregular journalist, for what he tells us of yellow fever, the vicissitudes of travel, his capture by a privateer during his Barbados voyage and his serious illness, is of great interest.

The significant period from 1705 to 1708 contains no entries, although he was married during that time (1706) to Ann Shippen, for whose hand James Logan also appears to have been a suitor. She lived only six years, and soon afterward Story returned to an active career of preaching in England and of beautifying his father's estate, named Justice Town, near Carlisle. After 1730, he refers to his "favourite amusement of planting and improving my land, at the same time visiting Meetings as they came of course." Essentially a Quaker country-gentleman, he was welcome wherever he went, either as guest or preacher.

There is much of interest here to any student of Penn's *entourage* in England or America. But the Quaker's attention is arrested by Story's views on war, on taxation for war purposes, on the use of oaths and the outward sacraments, and by his visits to William Penn during his last illness at Ruscombe. Like Ellwood and Logan, Story is one of the men whose lives long impinged upon that of Penn.

Haverford, Pa.

W. W. COMFORT

The Atlantic Frontier: Colonial American Civilization, 1607-1763. By LOUIS B. WRIGHT. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1947, xi, 354, xxii p. Illustrations, index. \$4.50.)

The Atlantic Frontier is a narrative history of the thirteen colonies which were later to become the United States. Two major factors prevent this account from being the complete synthesis of American colonial history which the preface would lead one to expect. In the first place, by omitting the West Indies from his narrative, Mr. Wright presents a picture of one part of the Atlantic frontier which cannot properly be understood by itself. And in the second place, the thoroughly sound conception of the colonies as England's frontier, indicated in the title and established in the first chapter, is soon forgotten. A logical, unifying theme is thus abandoned.

The account of social conditions seems to suffer less than the treatment of political and economic matters from the author's method of limiting and then dividing the area of study. Mr. Wright's own research has been in the field of cultural history, and his contributions in this field are naturally most original. Nevertheless, in spite of many concrete details, numerous anecdotes, apt quotations and charming illustrations from originals in the Huntington Library, the narrative lacks vital, human warmth, and leaves the reader strangely cold. Erroneous impressions are occasionally due to the choice of words. For example, "left-wing" seems a peculiarly inept attribute to apply to any group of Separatists. To ascribe to the common law a variety of liberal principles springing from various sources may be the result of loose writing or of something more fundamental.

The political and economic aspects of the picture seem more out of focus than the social as a result of minimizing the English administration of

colonial affairs. The author would have achieved better proportion, so this reviewer believes, if he had suppressed some of the details concerning abortive attempts at settlement and fruitless schemes of government, and had shown instead how the developing economic interests of the colonies tended either to compete with those of the mother country or to fit into the English plan of the "self-sufficing empire." Generalizations concerning economic conditions are frequently too simple, occasionally false. For instance, in stating that the trade of Virginia grew more important each year, the author glosses over the supremely important fact that the tobacco trade was subject to violent fluctuations. In general, Mr. Wright seems to underestimate the significance of the mercantilist view. Certainly the mercantilists supplied the then prevailing theory of empire, and mercantilism furnishes the principal, unifying thread in colonial history. One feels the lack of any such unifying force in Mr. Wright's narrative.

Criticisms aside, however, Mr. Wright's approach to the problem of writing colonial history, if consistently followed, would probably result in a more thoroughly rounded history than any we have had to date. The format of the book is delightful. The illustrations, the type, and the excellent quality of the paper make *The American Frontier* a work of art.

Wilson College

DORA MAE CLARK

The Campaign of Princeton, 1776-1777. By ALFRED HOYT BILL. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1948, xii, 148 p. Index. \$2.50.)

There is nothing new in *The Campaign of Princeton*. It is a little hard to understand why "Trenton" is omitted from the title, for there could have been no "Princeton" without the two Trenton engagements. Perhaps "campaign" covers both? It is a well-written story, based largely on Rupert Hughes and William L. Stryker. This is not strange, for no one can write on either engagement without reading Stryker's *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton* (Boston, 1898). Stryker, a native of New Jersey, had gone over every inch of the contested ground and had searched all the available records both here and in Germany, and is, consequently, considered the court of last appeal on this phase of the war. However, the book is hard to secure and is not too readable; in addition, it is full of details only interesting to the student. Mr. Bill's new treatment of this campaign serves a real purpose, therefore, in making this story both available and generally readable.

I have no criticism of Mr. Bill's book from a military point of view; in fact, it is very good. He presents a new aspect of this engagement in mentioning the importance of Commodore Seymour and the "Navy" in protecting the "Crossing," but, unfortunately, does not amplify his statement. This phase of the campaign might well be investigated further.

Mr. Bill makes a number of statements which I think are rather mis-

leading. It is, unfortunately, difficult to verify some of these statements because of the lack of notes; the bibliography, although impressive, is of little practical use in tracking down sources. I should like to mention here several of these statements which I question.

The statement regarding the loss of the stronghold of Fort Washington, "which he [Washington] had attempted to defend only because the Congress had ordered him to do so," may literally be true, but the Congress would never have ordered the defense if General Greene had not made a definite statement that he could maintain it. W. C. Ford, in his *Writings of George Washington*, quotes from a letter of Washington to Greene, November 8, 1776: "I am, therefore, inclined to think that it will not be prudent to hazard the men and stores at Mt. Washington; but as you are on the spot, leave it to you to give such orders as to evacuating as you may judge best." As far as I know, all historians censure Greene for this action and exonerate both Washington and the Congress.

In another instance, Mr. Bill writes that "John Jay and Benjamin Rush were among those who were impressed by Lee's pretensions." This implies that John Jay may have been involved in the Conway Cabal and was thus disloyal to Washington, an implication which I very much doubt. John Jay was one of Washington's greatest admirers, and certainly above any such chicanery. In fact, he is one of the very few Revolutionary heroes whose character has never been questioned. The statement that Jay was "impressed by Lee's pretensions" in itself does not mean much, particularly since most of the army in the beginning felt the same way, but when his name is connected with Reed and Rush, who were leaders in the Conway Cabal to supplant Washington by Gates, the allegation certainly becomes ambiguous.

The statement that "he [Washington] had an active and excellent secret service," might also be questioned. Honeyman, to be sure, did great work, but Washington was always complaining that he could not get accurate military information.

And I seriously resent, furthermore, the statement that "Cornwallis rose to respond to a toast, and good English sportsman that he was, lauded his vanquisher's generalship in the campaign" (Trenton-Princeton). I realize that Cornwallis and Lord Dorchester (Guy Carleton) were both good generals (certainly good in comparison to the other English generals), but Cornwallis did not prove to be that "good English sportsman" at Yorktown, when he became ill at the crucial moment and was unable to surrender his sword as admission of defeat, an action unbecoming to a defeated general and man of honor.

All of these criticisms are specific and minor ones, to be sure, but they are ones which should be made. They do not seriously affect the work as a whole; this attractive little book is well worth reading.

Philadelphia

FREDERIC R. KIRKLAND

Princeton 1746-1896. By THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1946, 424 p. Illustrations, index. \$3.75.)

The Lives of Eighteen from Princeton. Edited by WILLARD THORP. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1946, 356 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

Pictorial History of Princeton. Edited by WHEATON J. LANE. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1947, v, 200 p. Approximately 500 illustrations, index. \$6.00.)

Princeton Portraits. By DONALD DREW EGBERT with the assistance of DIANE MARTINDELL LEE. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1947, vii, 360 p. Text and index followed by 72 unnumbered pages of illustrations. \$15.00.)

The four books listed above have all issued recently from the Princeton University Press, and were published in connection with the University's bicentennial. All four are attractive examples of the printer's art and maintain a high standard of excellence throughout.

Dr. Wertenbaker's readable history of Princeton's first one hundred and fifty years combines scholarship with popular reading appeal to the prejudice of neither the one nor the other. His sympathetic and understanding treatment of the subject presents a well-rounded picture of the College during this period and constitutes a book every Princeton alumnus should own. Although perspective may be wanting to the writer of the present day, I cannot help but express the regret that one so thoroughly qualified as Princeton's bicentennial historian did not bring the story down to 1946.

The Lives of Eighteen from Princeton, skillfully edited by Princeton's inimitable Dr. Thorp, is designed to honor the sons of Nassau Hall by presenting brief biographies of some of the more famous among them. Included among the eighteen selected are presidents of the United States, missionaries, doctors, educators, soldiers, statesmen, jurists and authors. Many of these men, prominent in their own day, are fast sinking into obscurity. Struthers Burt furnishes a particularly pleasing account of one of these, George Mifflin Dallas, "The Other Vice-President from Princeton." In these days of awakened interest in F. Scott Fitzgerald, Arthur Mizener's sketch of "The Poet of Borrowed Time" will be found most acceptable.

No type of book is more popular than the picture book. Mr. Lane's *Pictorial History of Princeton* is a fine example of what may be done along this line. Although he modestly refers to himself as a compiler, not an author, his captions, incisive and humorous, furnish in themselves a brief history of Princeton and contribute greatly to the enjoyment of the pictures. The latter are constituted of necessity of reproductions of portraits, documents, and early prints to illustrate the first periods of the institution's development. A wide and pleasing display of subjects is unfolded with the arrival of the photographic age. This, too, is a book which should find its way to the shelves of Princeton's alumni.

Princeton Portraits, an imposing tome, is mainly composed of short biographical sketches of the men whose portraits in block follow the index at the very end of the volume. This is a valuable reference work both for its portrait reproductions and for its data on many little-known personalities. It does justice to Princeton's historically important collection. The casual reader may feel that the emphasis has been removed from the portraits themselves to the textual matter which makes up about eighty per cent of the book.

Ambler, Pa.

NICHOLAS B. WAINWRIGHT

Thomas Jefferson: American Humanist. By KARL LEHMANN. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1947, ix, 273 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

This volume is another proof that too many books are being written about Jefferson. The author is, obviously, a very learned man, who has distinguished himself in other fields. Here, he gives the impression of having suddenly discovered the great mind of Thomas Jefferson—and he is dazzled; dazzled that such a phenomenon should occur in a country with a very young culture, dazzled that this should have been revealed to him. He takes the reader on his voyage of discovery entirely oblivious that much of what he has to say is well known to Jefferson scholars. Thus the first four chapters have little new to add. Many pages are devoted to special pleading for things already familiar and accepted. Too many straw men are bowled over, and a given idea is worried far too often.

The chapter headings, furthermore, seem curiously alien to Jefferson's thought. This reviewer cannot get over the impression that the author is often twisting an idea or a quotation from Jefferson to fit his own thought or theories, and thus Jefferson's real meaning is obscured. He attempts to anchor concepts in Jefferson's subconscious for which there is no shred of evidence. Surely, if ever a man was an extrovert in regard to his own theories and beliefs, it was Jefferson in his rich and ebullient correspondence, as well as in the countless papers on which he jotted memoranda.

The author had diligently read the published works of Jefferson in search of confirmation of his views, and he is familiar with many secondary sources. He does not appear to have consulted the manuscripts. The notes, without benefit of numbers, or of line on page, which makes them cumbersome to consult, are appended as a concession to scholarship. As publishers have a well-known antipathy to notes, this may doubtless be laid to their door.

The writer wishes she had not undertaken to write this review. As a wise and eminent historian observed to her lately: "If you tell the truth, you hurt the feelings of the author and do no good. If you gloss it over, you are dishonest." The reviewer's plight is, indeed, a sad one.

Philadelphia

MARIE KIMBALL

New Letters of Abigail Adams 1788-1801. Edited with an Introduction by STEWART MITCHELL. (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947, xlii, 281 p. Illustrations, index. \$5.00.)

One could go on reading Adams letters, it seems, forever. If the Adamses are not the greatest of American families, they are beyond dispute the greatest letter-writing American family, not yielding to the Jameses, the Roosevelts, or any others that come to mind. And among Adamses, Abigail, wife of the first President Adams, yields little in the practice of this delightful art to any of the rest. The present collection is the third substantial body of her letters to be published (the earlier ones having been issued by her grandson in 1840 and 1875), but it merely whets the appetite for the fourth, fifth, and sixth courses that can and by good luck will in time be served up.

The present course consists of 141 letters, from a larger collection recently acquired by the American Antiquarian Society; they cover the years 1788 to 1801, and all of them are addressed to Mrs. Adams' sister, Mary Cranch, in Quincy. Written from all three capitals of the United States under the Constitution, the majority are dated from Philadelphia during Adams' presidency. Stewart Mitchell, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, has done for them everything needful in respect to commentary and annotation. Particular thanks to him must be expressed, by one who has sometimes foundered in a sea of lesser Adamses and Smiths, for the very full genealogical data and charts here supplied.

In a vivid sketch written after hearing of her death, William Bentley, the Salem diarist, says that when he first saw Abigail Adams she was "shelling her peas for a family dinner," but that he came to know her as one who "was possessed of the history of our country and of the great occurrences in it. She had a distinct view of our public men and measures and had her own opinions which she was free to disclose but not eager to defend in public circles." Both the domestic and the political Mrs. Adams stand revealed in full view by this long series of letters to perhaps her closest confidante.

Professional and lay readers alike will be charmed by the copious flow of details on the domestic and social life of the young republic. Births, deaths, marriages, illnesses, and the servant problem were naturally staple subjects—especially illnesses, for the Adams household was repeatedly "a mere Hospital," testifying to the bad heating of houses and the bad remedies resorted to, with or without a physician's advice. Blisters, bleeding, and "pukes" of various sorts were standard, but Mrs. Adams had a "high opinion" of applications of cabbage leaves for certain disorders. The report of the Adamses' arrival in December, 1790, at Bush Hill, the vice-presidential residence near Philadelphia, wrings the heart. It was a brick house and had stood empty and unheated for several years. The whole family, including the servants, promptly came down with pleurisies and

rheumatic complaints, while "the Gentlemen and Ladies solicitous to manifest their respect were visiting us every day from 12 to 3 o'clock in the mist of Rooms heaped up with Boxes, trunks, cases &c. Thanks to a kind Providence I have got through the worst, I hope, of my difficulties and am in tolerable Health tho much fallen away in flesh." Later there are incomparably circumstantial descriptions of feminine fashion during the Directory era. Though she could admire the graceful figures of Betsy Mason and the Bingham girls, the President's wife "wishd that more had been left to the imagination, and less to the Eye"; and she deplored faces rouged "a la mode de Paris, Red as a Brick hearth." Mingled with this elegance—and forming uniquely American tableaux—are the occasional deputations of Indians on ceremonial visits from the South or the then far West. "I had yesterday to visit me after the President's Levee, the Kings of 3 Indian Nations. One of them after sitting a little while rose and address me. He said he had been to visit his Father, and he thought his duty but in part fulfilld, until he had visited allso his Mother, and he prayed the great spirit to keep and preserve them." After shaking hands and taking some cake and wine, they "made their bow and withdrew, much more civil than the Beast of Vermont."

The Beast of Vermont (who was the Republican Congressman Matthew Lyon) brings us to politics, a subject on which Mrs. Adams had manifestly strong feelings. These feelings grew in intensity as the successive crises of the XYZ Affair, the French war scare, and the election of 1800 came on. Mr. Adams had, for his wife, only two faults: he did not take enough exercise, and sometimes he read her letters from Quincy without her permission. (She succeeded in correcting the second fault.) She supported him, for better or for worse, in everything: in his intrepid action in sending envoys to France in 1799—a measure that disrupted his party but averted a possible war—and, in his clumsy attempts, by the Alien and Sedition Acts, to suppress opposition propaganda and criticism. The Acts, to be sure, emanated from the party that was shortly to disown him rather than from Adams himself; but his wife's letters betray the bitterness of feeling that engendered them.

The final letters depict the conclusion of Adams' administration, a sad time for the Adamses but not unrelieved by diverting touches in these letters. As Abigail journeyed to the new Federal City (losing her way in the woods below Baltimore), she reflected on the "many horrid Rivers" she would have to recross to get home. Georgetown, the only place she could shop, was a quagmire after every rain; the roads in Washington remained to be made by "frequent passing"; and the President's House, "twice as large as our meeting House" (at Quincy), was habitable only "by fires in every part, thirteen of which we are obliged to keep daily, or sleep in wet & damp places." Abigail stayed only long enough to see what the result of the vote in the House on Jefferson and Burr would be. In the last letter here she discloses how deeply her twelve years' observation of the American experi-

ment in elective government had disillusioned her. We have now a choice, she says, between a godless philosopher and a libertine adventurer, and she cannot determine which would be the lesser evil for a nation probably doomed. The Quincy yardstick by which Mrs. Adams had measured men and institutions on two continents was an excellent instrument, but on this occasion it proved hopelessly inadequate for its purpose.

Princeton University

L. H. BUTTERFIELD

The Molding of American Banking, Men and Ideas. By FRITZ REDLICH. (History of American Business Leaders, Vol. II, Part I. Banking 1781-1840. New York: Hafner Publishing Company, Inc., 1947, viii, 334 p. Bibliography. \$5.00.)

Mr. Redlich's study of American banking from 1781 to 1840 is Part I of a two-part work, the exact scope of which is not described, but already he has made a real and important contribution to the early economic history of the United States. His chief interest is in "the personal element in economic development," which has required him to study not only the "creative entrepreneurs," but also the men in public life "who in one way or another through their actions have influenced economic development," and the "thinkers, the originators of ideas" who exercised "influence on the history of banking."

This concentration upon the personal element has great value in certain instances—for example, the discussion of Nicholas Biddle in relation to the development of central banking in the United States—but at other times it leads to the almost breathless statement of the obvious as if it were a great and epoch-making discovery, and again to what seems at best questionable hypotheses. One can hardly believe that a reported conversation of Andrew Jackson's in which he confused the South Sea Bubble with John Law's Mississippi scheme is proof that he was in any way or at any time familiar with William Douglass' *Summary of the British Settlement*, published in 1749, in which the same mistake was made.

Mention of this relatively minor fault in one aspect of Mr. Redlich's work should not be permitted to obscure the value of the study as a whole. His most important contribution is to be found in Chapter VI, entitled "Early American Central Banking," in which he brings a fresh point of view based upon exhaustive and intelligent research to the operations and practices of the first and second Banks of the United States. Other valuable material is to be found in the discussion of the New York safety fund system, the problem of country notes and the Suffolk bank system, and the development of free banking.

It is to be hoped that in the second part of the study Mr. Redlich will attempt a synthesis of the various aspects of American banking which he

has discussed separately in the present volume, and that he will hazard an explanation of the determined enmity to credit control of those who most vehemently attacked banks and bankers in this period. This paradox is one of the unexplained mysteries of American political and economic history and badly needs solution. The present volume sets the scene and describes the actors; we must wait for the sequel to have the play.

The University of the South

THOMAS P. GOVAN

From Slavery to Freedom. A History of American Negroes. By JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1947, xv, 622, xlv p. Illustrations, index. \$5.00.)

Professor Franklin of Howard University, a very able specialist in Negro history, attempts in 600 pages to present an over-all picture of the Negro in the Americas. Written in simple textbook style, the work is a most ambitious one, attempting to present not only a political and social history of the Negro people in the United States from the seventeenth century through the Second World War, but also offering chapters on their African background and their Latin-American and Canadian experiences.

Because Professor Franklin has attempted to cover so much, the reader can expect only the briefest mention of the most important facets of the story. Thus, the epic tale of the slave rebellions receives some three pages; the Negro's vital relationship to post-Civil War third party movements earns perhaps seven or eight scattered pages. At times there is not only tremendous condensation, but oversimplification, so that, for example, the truly revolutionary essence of the Abolitionist movement is missed, the Reconstruction Period is seriously mishandled and indeed distorted (forming the weakest section of the book), and evidences of national aspirations among the Negro people, which abound in their history, are ignored.

Missed, too, are: significance of Booker T. Washington, his program of acquiescence, the relationship between his Tuskegee machine and Northern financial overlordship of the South; the attempted dehumanization of the Negro people from about 1895 to 1910, and their resistance to this; the basically reactionary character of Garveyism (the so-called "back to Africa" movement); and the significance and the degree of the appeal of socialism for the Negro intellectual.

Notwithstanding these and other deficiencies, Franklin's *From Slavery to Freedom* offers a survey of American Negro history that is better integrated, more accurate, and richer in detail than any other single volume now available. For having accomplished this significant undertaking and for having got a major publisher to issue his work, Professor Franklin deserves the warm gratitude of all students in this field.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

HERBERT APTHEKER

Richard Hildreth. By DONALD E. EMERSON. (The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Series LXIV, Number 2. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1946, 181 p. Appendices, bibliographical note, index. \$2.00.)

This biography of one of America's outstanding historians of the nineteenth century was originally planned as part of a study of Richard Hildreth the historian, and must thus be considered in the nature of a biographical introduction to a full analysis of his works. However, it is more than just that; Mr. Emerson has produced a thorough, reliable, and carefully organized account of the career of a man who unquestionably ranks as one of the pioneers of modern American historiography. Inevitably, because of the apparent paucity of Hildreth correspondence, heavy reliance was placed upon material which, while furnishing a solid picture of Hildreth's achievements, only occasionally permits penetration of the subject's exterior. The available sources are used with commendable care and thoroughness; especially is this true of Hildreth's "Literary Memoranda" which has enabled Mr. Emerson to present a complete and correct chronology of the historian's writings. The scope, nature, and degree of success of the major phases of Hildreth's career, from school teacher to consul at Trieste, are clearly delineated. The drives which impelled him to his intense, feverish activity are not always so apparent.

It is clear from this work that Hildreth was a pioneer in significant ways; it is also clear that, whatever the reason may be, he was ahead of the New England time in which he lived. This is made evident with respect to his major achievement by the account of the reception given to the *History*. It is also shown by his activities in the cause of temperance, but especially by his strong antislavery writings, received with some enthusiasm only after almost two decades during which the public developed a receptiveness toward his ideas.

For the most part, Mr. Emerson has described and outlined the extent and nature of Hildreth's writings and has included as an appendix a full bibliography of those published. Of particular interest to American historians should be the first of the two appendices in which is examined the old question of whether Hildreth, in his *History*, was replying to Bancroft. The author suggests that he was not, and expresses with conviction his view that Hildreth's work was a product of his own thinking and experience. Indeed, Mr. Emerson indicates that perhaps the tables in this discussion need now to be turned a few degrees, pointing out that ". . . it is not too unfair to suggest that perhaps Bancroft wrote in answer to Hildreth just as much as the reverse was the case." Also of particular interest are analyses in several parts of the volume to show that despite his background and early experience and despite what he wrote in the *History*, Hildreth was a democrat and in many ways in tune with the most advanced thought of his time, and was thus essentially neither Federalist nor Whig.

American historians will hope that Mr. Emerson will soon follow up this biographical account with a full analysis of these and other subjects which the work of this leading figure in the history of American historical writing has produced.

Merion Station, Pa.

JOHN J. REED

Ruler of the Reading: The Life of Franklin B. Gowen, 1836-1889. By MARVIN W. SCHLEGEL. (Harrisburg: Archives Publishing Company of Pennsylvania, Inc., 1947, viii, 308 p. Appendices, index. \$4.00.)

One of the most vividly dramatic of the business and industrial personalities of post-Civil War America, who seized the substance of power upon the abdication of the politicians, was Franklin Benjamin Gowen. That he is not so well remembered as are the Rockefellers and Carnegies of his time is to be explained rather by the limitations imposed by the character of and the circumstances surrounding the coal industry and the transport system dependent upon it, than by any comparatively lesser qualities and abilities in the man.

Gowen's professional life was early identified with the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company which made him its Pottsville counsel in 1865 (when Gowen was 29), head of its legal department in the following year, acting president of the company in 1869, and president in his own right in 1870. As president he settled the anthracite strike of 1871 by the arbitrary methods characteristic of the era, and then turned to the acquisition of coal lands to insure the Reading's transportation monopoly. A disguised bill to establish the "Laurel Run Improvement Company," enacted by the state legislature, empowered the Reading to acquire such properties. By December of 1871, the newly created Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company owned 70,000 acres of coal lands, more than twice the holdings of any competing company. Meanwhile, Gowen sought to expand sales of coal by price reductions and a producer-to-consumer marketing system. Ruinous competition among producers ended when Gowen organized the first cartel to stabilize the industry.

Not least among Gowen's qualities were his silver-tongued persuasiveness and his abiding optimism which found for him the millions of investment dollars to make the Reading one of the great corporations of his time—and a colossal failure. The failure is to be explained in part by the chronic difficulties besetting the anthracite industry, in part by Gowen's faulty business judgment, and in part by the stature of the giants of industry and finance whom Gowen challenged to battle—the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Standard Oil Company, the Reading's English bankers and J. P. Morgan.

The discussion of these matters holds much of interest for the student of America's industrial development, but of chief significance is Dr. Schlegel's detailed and revealing account of Gowen's highly individualistic war upon

the Molly Maguires. It was the character of Gowen's attack and the nature of his charges which fixed the sinister legend of the "terror" in the anthracite region. "The Molly trials were a convincing demonstration that any crimes against the Reading would be punished with speedy and severe justice. Other mining corporations . . . adopted his methods until the term Coal and Iron police became a synonym for terror, a far more actual terror than any ever inspired by the Molly Maguires."

Dr. Schlegel evaluates Gowen's career, from his admission to the Schuylkill County bar to his death by suicide, in the context of the business philosophy and morality of his time. He succeeds, accordingly, in producing a portrait believable in its generally sympathetic treatment. That Gowen was in advance of his business contemporaries in the adoption of relatively enlightened labor policies and in his efforts to bring order and stability to an unruly industrial area is clearly demonstrated. Yet, nowhere does the author pretend that the Ruler of the Reading would have tamely submitted to similar policies on the part of government, for a constant awareness of the temper of the age which bred Gowen is not the least of the qualities of this excellent study.

State Teachers College, Oswego, N. Y.

KERMIT L. KUNTZ

It Happened in Pennsylvania. By ARTHUR D. GRAEFF. (Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company, 1947, iv, 183 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

It Happened in Pennsylvania is not a history in the commonly accepted sense of that word. It is rather a collection of partly fictionized stories, written, as the author tells us, for the purpose of sharing with others a part of "Pennsylvania's rich heritage." It would perhaps be entirely accurate to say that the author of these stories hopes that everyone who reads them will acquire a love of Pennsylvania history as deep as his own.

Inasmuch as the aim of the author is not that of the scientific historian, it would not be fair to judge his book by the Rankean formula: *wie es eigentlich gewesen*. That it was not his purpose to confine himself to the relation of things "exactly as they happened," he states with perfect frankness:

The stories included in this volume are based upon actual happenings; most of them are correct in detail in so far as the facts can be determined. In several instances fiction and fancy have been employed to add drama or to bridge the gaps in time sequence, but no major facts have been controverted, invented, anachronized, or obscured. The major elements of the stories are true in both chronology and location.

Upon his readers the author imposes the task of distinguishing fact from fiction—a task which can be adequately performed only by one who is pretty well versed in Pennsylvania history.

The thirty-one stories in this collection are so arranged that they fall logically into three groups. The first nine are intended to provide an histori-

cal setting for those which follow. They treat of happenings in Pennsylvania extending from the seventeenth to the twentieth century—from the first “romance,” through incidents of Indian captivity, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Johnstown flood, to the affair of the “orphaned cannon.” The next ten stories have to do with persons whose accomplishments vary from those of John and William Bartram to those of Johnny Appleseed and Jim Thorpe. Of the remaining twelve stories, nearly all deal with aspects of Pennsylvania’s economic and cultural history—the oil and coal industries, transportation, the Homestead strike, and “KDKA—Pittsburgh.”

For the purpose intended—that of arousing interest in Pennsylvania history rather than that of actually teaching it—this book should prove to be a fairly good one. Being written in a lively, popular style, and containing much dialogue, it should have a rather wide appeal. Junior high school students will find it well within their comprehension, and even persons of more mature reading habits will peruse it with considerable pleasure. This reviewer read it from beginning to end without losing interest.

Bucknell University

J. ORIN OLIPHANT

It's An Old Pennsylvania Custom. By EDWIN VALENTINE MITCHELL. (New York: The Vanguard Press, Inc., 1947, x, 262 p. \$3.00.)

There are two kinds of historical writing: one is conceived and executed with fine attention to accuracy of facts and validity of interpretation; the other is conceived and executed with less attention both to the facts and their interpretation. The former is designed to satisfy the demands of the specialist, or at least of the serious student; the other is designed to satisfy the nonspecialist, or the “general” reader. Both kinds can and should be attractively presented, but the latter, having for its primary purpose popular appeal, emphasizes style even at the expense of content.

It's An Old Pennsylvania Custom is clearly of the second kind. It is indeed a fine example. It was written by Mr. Mitchell in an interesting style, was excellently designed by Stefan Salter, and was well manufactured by H. Wolff. It presents a wealth of historical facts, both conventional and unusual, relating to Pennsylvania. At the same time, it arrives at interpretations of the facts, both in general and in particular, which clearly mark it as of the second kind of historical writing.

First of all, its title was not accurately chosen. The dictionary definition of a custom is “a form or course of action characteristically repeated under like circumstances; a usage or practice, whether common to many or to a particular place or class; habitual usage.” Under such an accepted definition it is hardly an old Pennsylvania custom “To Dwell in Caves,” “To Make ‘Kentucky’ Rifles,” “To Build Conestoga Wagons” or “To Found Utopias.”

Some Pennsylvania people did dwell in caves; some did make "Kentucky" rifles; some did build Conestoga wagons, and some did found Utopias. In all cases, however, these were exceptional activities, unusual ones, not *customary*. Further, it is hardly an old *Pennsylvania* custom "To Resort to Arms," "To Have a Tavern in the Town," "To be Fond of Music" or "To Look Backward." Again, many of the *peculiarities*, but not *customs*, which are legitimately attached to Pennsylvania here should properly be attached only to a fraction of the Pennsylvania people, namely, the Pennsylvania Germans. "To Enjoy Shoo-Fly Pie," "To Believe in Witchcraft," "To Wear Beards and Dress Plainly" or "To Observe Strange Customs of Courtship and Marriage" (with some attention given to the Quakers, it is true) apply only to the Pennsylvania Germans. Here the author falls into the two errors common to many who have only a superficial understanding of Pennsylvania as a whole: the beliefs that the truly characteristic Pennsylvania features are results of the German influence, and that a minor fraction of the German element, the "Plain People," have been and are the only Pennsylvania Germans. The obvious reason for this latter misconception is that the "Plain People," in their unusualness, have attracted attention out of proportion to their numbers. Of course, what is unusual is not necessarily customary.

The section of the book which seems to have no justification for inclusion is the last, "To Look Backward." To illustrate this "custom," a series of unrelated and generally inconsequential excerpts from Sherman Day's *Historical Collections* (1843) have been put in to the extent of forty pages, nearly one-sixth of the book.

As a generalization, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that it came very hard to find the facts to support the preconceived thesis.

Gettysburg College

ROBERT FORTENBAUGH

Chester County Clocks and Their Makers. By ARTHUR E. JAMES. (West Chester, Pa.: The Chester County Historical Society, 1947, 205 p. Illustrations, bibliography. \$4.50.)

A credit to the County! A tale that "lends us worth and gives us right to pride!" A record of human excellence is here unfolded. The worthies of Chester County during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries—the farmers, the millers, the merchants, the inn-keepers, the artisans, the ministers and physicians and lawyers—wanted timepieces in their homes that were reliable and beautiful. Among their neighbors were skilled craftsmen of imagination and taste who took delight in designing and building just such pieces. And through the years many of these masterpieces of long ago have been treasured and cherished. Today they tick away the seconds, strike the hours, and count the days—a few in their original homes, others far from the scenes where their pendulums took their first swings.

Through the pages of this book more than fifty recognized makers of grandfather clocks in Chester County during the eighteenth century, and until 1840, pass in review in alphabetical array. A few were transients whose "short and simple annals" are told in a paragraph or two. Fully half of the fifty were lifelong residents. Born and bred in the County they left their marks upon many phases of its life. These clockmakers were substantial citizens and their annals are those of the County itself. Clocks were among their many contributions.

Three clocks in towers keep watch and ward over Chester County. They and the men who created them, and those who preserve them, receive merited attention. Without these clocks the County would be a different place. They are the Town-Clock of Honeybrook, the Courthouse-Town-Clock of West Chester, and the Memorial Tower Clock of Goshenville. Who knows not these clocks knows not the County that they watch and guard.

To his undertaking the author of this book has brought a deep-rooted loyalty to the homeland of himself and his forebears, a goodly endowment of native intelligence, the education of a mature, scholarly scientist, and a patience and thoroughness that have dug deep into dry records and have undertaken long journeys to find missing items, to disentangle complicated stories, and to meet old grandfather clocks and their proud owners face to face. From a wealth of accumulated material he has written a story rich in detail of craftsmen who built their characters, skills and tastes into graceful, long-lasting, dependable clocks of grandfather design. The fine human qualities of old-time Chester County live in its clocks.

There is no story for the author to tell of significant improvements in the design of clocks. None of these originated in Chester County. Just before the County was founded the pendulum was first applied to clocks. Improvements in the design of the escapement followed. Then came various forms of pendulum compensated for changes in temperature. In the century from 1660 to 1760, the clock evolved through radical improvements from the timepiece of the Middle Ages into the mechanical clock of today. None of these developments originated in the American colonies.

Two clocks of scientific interest are mentioned. They were used by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon at Harlan's Farm in Newlin township during the 1760's. One was, and is, the property of the Royal Society of London. John Shelton of London made it. Today it is keeping almost faultless time in Burlington House, London, and is little changed from its original condition. Photographs of it may now be viewed in Philadelphia and in Chester County.

The other clock belonged to the Proprietors of Pennsylvania. It was made by "Mr. Jackson," who cleaned it at Harlan's for Mason and Dixon on December 16, 1766. "Mr. Jackson" was evidently a local man. Was he Isaac Jackson of New Garden, as Dr. James thinks likely? And is this clock still in existence? If so, where is it?

The reviewer has read and reread *Chester County Clocks and Their Makers*, and then has read it again. He shall continue to read it. For all who value the charm and culture of old Chester County it is required reading.

Wayne, Pa.

THOMAS D. COPE

Red Hannah: Delaware's Whipping Post. By ROBERT GRAHAM CALDWELL. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1947, xi, 144 p. Illustrations, index. \$3.00.)

Visitors and some of the new residents of Delaware are often curious about the provision in the state's penal system for a whipping post. Heretofore, information on this subject could be gleaned only from scarce and out-of-print newspaper or magazine articles of a usually strongly-biased nature or from narrations of lifelong citizens of the state who had heard the story of the "post" from their elders. While teaching sociology at the University of Delaware, Dr. Caldwell became interested in the whole penal system of the state. The present volume is a part of the long and comprehensive study he made over a period of several years.

With care the author has collected the facts and presented in an interesting manner the history of the whipping post in Delaware beginning with the colonial period, 1638-1776. The first five chapters of the book describe not only the origin and the development of the "post" as a penal instrument in Delaware, but they also relate the important aspects of the development of the penitentiary system in this state and in Pennsylvania. As the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware had been annexed to the Province of Pennsylvania in 1683 by the Act of Union, it would be expected that an identical penal system existed in both colonies until the time of statehood in 1776. Such was not the case, however, for the Quakers repudiated the earlier criminal code inherited from the previous Swedish, Dutch, and English settlers under the Duke of York by passing Penn's "Great Law" a few weeks after he arrived in America. This famous act substituted imprisonment for much of the previous corporal and all of the capital punishments except for murder. From this noble beginning the Quakers continued their penal reforms with the result that Philadelphia, by the time of the Revolution, became the great center of penal reform.

From this point on the author traces the development of the workhouse and county jail system in Delaware as opposed to the penitentiary system of Pennsylvania, notably in Philadelphia. Underlying the whole struggle for the reforms in the penal system is the emergence of the whipping post as the chief instrument of retribution for criminals. The historical treatment of the subject concludes with a spirited recounting of the efforts made by those opposed to the whipping post to have it discontinued. This long and bitter struggle continued as recently as 1945, when a bill for the abolition of the "post," introduced by the majority floor leader in the Delaware

House of Representatives, was never even reported out by the committee to which it was referred.

In the three remaining chapters of his book Dr. Caldwell forsakes the historical method. By employing statistics, charts, graphs, public and private utterances, as well as sociological tenets, he attempts to prove that the whipping post is "barbaric," outmoded, ineffective, and should be replaced by a system of scientific treatment of criminals. The chapters are followed by fourteen pages of appendices listing the crimes punishable by public whipping under the legal codes of 1829 to 1935, and 1945, and a comprehensive table itemizing whippings for the period 1900 to 1942 inclusive. The book is further enhanced with a complete bibliography on this subject and a carefully compiled index.

There is no doubt that with this book Dr. Caldwell has made a great contribution to penological literature of Delaware, and he has produced a volume which will long remain the standard work on the subject. No scholarly work existed on this cogent subject heretofore and debate was confined, as the author shows, to traditions, impressions, or the expressions of those with a personal bias. The statistical evaluation of Dr. Caldwell's extensive research in recent whippings will undoubtedly call for a re-evaluation of thinking on this subject. This reviewer believes that the publisher has done the book an injustice by overlaying the old illustration on the dust jacket with a sketch of a torso livid with lashes. The author carefully points out in the text that the whippings do not produce this effect. It is therefore surprising that he permitted such sensationalism to smear his scholarship. Furthermore, the author, to this reviewer's mind, did his cause a disservice by "preaching" in the last three chapters. He apparently did not gain, from his own book, an insight for properly projecting such a reform.

Dover, Del.

LEON DEVALINGER, JR.

American Memoir. By HENRY SEIDEL CANBY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1947, x, 433 p. \$5.00.)

This book could be called "Three Towns" (Wilmington, Del., New Haven, Conn., and New York, N. Y.); it could be called "Three Eras" (the nineties, the nineteen-hundreds, the twenties); or it could be called "Three Lives" (the small boy, the teacher, the editor). As source material for social and cultural history it would serve these three purposes almost equally well: the place, the times, and the typical life. But it is more than any of these. Because it is a study of a period of transition in American values and ways of life, it could be applied to any city—Philadelphia, for example, under the titles: "Life Behind the Brown Stone Front," "University Faculty Giants and Student Playboys," "Writers and Publishers." Its thesis and its question can be simply stated: America at the close of the

nineteenth century had reached a stage of social security and fixed values. By 1930, those values had been so thoroughly attacked that security seemed gone and values destroyed. Yet an underlying and continuous tradition was still there for those who sought it. The question: What values have survived and are they worthy?

Henry Canby is himself the complete product of nineteenth-century liberalism, and as such he has achieved a kind of immortality by honestly and critically reviewing his life. This is his best book and only he could have written it because few are endowed with his combination of enthusiastic participation and critical detachment. Even as a boy, he analysed and weighed as he threw himself into the life of his time and place. He accepted everything and everybody, but never completely on their own terms. This quality made him Yale's best teacher at a time when the college faculty was manned by professors, and it made him New York's best editor at a time when the city was full of movers and shakers. He could always see horizons while he was swimming. His memoir is therefore a memoir of an era. Only the records of Henry Adams and Lincoln Steffens can be compared with *American Memoir* as evaluations of the living history of the immediate American past.

The three parts of this book are really separate books written at wide intervals. "The Age of Confidence" appeared in 1934 (here slightly revised), "Alma Mater" was published in 1936 (here drastically revised and compressed), and "Brief Golden Age" (the longest of the three) was freshly written in 1946. The three together ask a more important question and come nearer to supplying a point of view for an answer than does any one of them, but each part has its special point, and perhaps its special weaknesses. The first is a study of complacency in which both sides of the equation are heightened until its thesis becomes almost doctrinaire and tends to overshadow the record. In the second, compression has obviated this fault, but college life has not the same universality as has that of a small city and the record is less typical of American life. In the third, the thesis is carried more easily and the literary life of a great city has greater freedom to reveal itself, but the horizon is now limited to one aspect of culture: the literary life. Because Henry Canby is telling his own story as well as that of his times, these limitations are inevitable. The book is finally autobiography rather than social history, but it is more revealing as history than is many an objective record from sources other than memory.

University of Pennsylvania

ROBERT E. SPILLER

Breaking New Ground. By GIFFORD PINCHOT. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1947, xvii, 522 p. Illustrations, index. \$5.00.)

One of the most picturesque Pennsylvanians in the long history of the Commonwealth was the author of this book. A young French officer in the

Napoleonic Wars fled to the great haven of America after the defeat of the Emperor and settled in Milford, Pennsylvania. His son became a New York merchant who married an heiress and retired early from business to spend his time in public affairs. His summers were lived in Milford and his winters in a mansion in the fashionable section of Washington. A grandson of the French officer was Gifford Pinchot.

Much of Gifford's boyhood was spent in France where his cosmopolitan father had been much impressed by certain contrasts between European and American ways. The French were particularly thrifty about timber, while Americans were fast destroying their great treasure of trees. So in discussing with his son, about to enter Yale, the choice of a life work, he suggested to the youth that he be a forester. This was an original idea as there were none in America at the time. The boy who loved camping and out-of-doors life was impressed and, so he tells us, American forestry was born.

Yale provided him with little forestry education, but no sooner had he graduated than he went abroad and was soon enrolled in the French School of Forestry. Training here was followed by further work in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. In the last days of 1890, he returned to the United States to sell the idea of scientific forestry to take the place of criminal waste. Since he had plenty of money and family support, he could devote himself wholeheartedly to a magnificent enthusiasm.

This book is in great part a detailed account of his magnificent enthusiasm. Here are the slow steps in the decade of the 1890's which finally brought him to the position of Forester of the United States. Then follow the glorious days of Theodore Roosevelt which in retrospect seemed so halcyon to Mr. Pinchot. The end is the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

This work is written by an enthusiast who makes his enthusiasm infectious. It is a very revealing document for it portrays in such clear light its volatile author. It will be an invaluable source book for students of forestry and conservation. It will likewise be inspiring to all who labor for the public welfare or like to think that others should. In politics, it is Pinchot's side of the story. Here are his motives and his methods as he interpreted them. Here is his glorification of his great supporter, Theodore Roosevelt, and here is much of what must be expected in his discussion of Taft and Ballinger. He tried hard to be fair to Taft and he admits some of his own trying methods. This book and the Pinchot MSS will be a significant if not unbiased contribution to the history of the Progressive Era.

Unfortunately for students of Pennsylvania history, the books which Pinchot hoped to write on his meteoric career in Pennsylvania politics will never be written. Because of Pinchot's preoccupation with forestry, countless very vivid pages of Pennsylvania history are forever lost.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS

The Presidents and the Press. By JAMES E. POLLARD. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1947, xiii, 866 p. Index. \$5.00.)

With the emphasis upon the freedom of the press which has occupied so large a part in the history of American democracy, the relation of the presidents to the press has at all times been interesting and increasingly significant. This relationship has been an evolving one, emerging in the twentieth century in that unique institution which we know as the White House press conference.

Dr. Pollard, out of a background of practical newspaper experience and his directorship of the Ohio State University School of Journalism, has given us a full-length account of this relationship. The purpose of his book is to describe the role which the successive presidents have played in its evolution. The presidents are treated *seratim*, their names furnishing the unnumbered chapter headings of the book. It has been a task of some ten-odd years for which much of the spadework was done by many Ohio State University students of journalism. The result is a long book heavily loaded with factual materials. A three-page introduction, however, projects the meaning of the whole.

The presidency of Franklin Roosevelt brought to fruition the White House press conference as an institution of government. Though not official it has become no less a part of our working constitution. It is unique in that its parallel is found nowhere else in this world. It is a product of the struggle of the press for news, the increased significance of the presidency in the American system, and the maturing democratic sense of the American people. Theodore Roosevelt paved the way for the White House conference by frequently seeing favorite correspondents. However, it was Woodrow Wilson, though he lacked confidence in newspaper publishers and placed but little more in reporters, who instituted the first formal and regular White House press conferences. Harding, newspaperman that he had been, gave a permanency to the press conference. All but abandoned by Hoover, it remained for Franklin Roosevelt to re-establish it and give to it the role it now has in our political system. Because of it, the White House has become the greatest sounding board in the land, if not in the world.

The book begins with Washington's use of newspapers for the advertising, in 1773 and 1774, of some of his lands for sale. In 1775, he advertised in the *Virginia Gazette* for two fugitive servants, offering a reward of \$20 each for their apprehension. From this point on little escaped the spadework of Dr. Pollard's students and too much of it seems to have gone into his book as raw material. Short paragraphs follow one another, often without connection. It is a case of the trees blotting out the forest. Much of the familiar political story that is here retold could probably have been omitted to advantage. Documentation of Dr. Pollard's book is ample and indicates major reliance upon the writings of the presidents and their biographers. Citations of the press itself are almost entirely absent. Of 357 footnotes for the first three presidents, only two cite newspapers. Of eight-four notes for

Hayes, eighty-two are references to Hayes' Diary and Letters and two to Eckenrode. Of 219 citations for the chapter on Wilson, only one is from a newspaper. Perhaps someday other students of journalism will pursue this story from the press itself.

If Dr. Pollard's book is too long and too lacking in interpretation, he has given us a valuable book and has clapped between its covers a storehouse of information for the study of American democratic institutions.

Rutgers University

IRVING STODDARD KULL

Heritage of Freedom. The History & Significance of the Basic Documents of American Liberty. By FRANK MONAGHAN. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1947, x, 150 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

No longer is America's "heritage of freedom" confined to scattered documents for the most part safely secured in library vaults, in archives, or in personal collections of Americana. The assemblage of these original documents, which mark the evolution of human freedom, particularly as it has worked out in America, is quickening the believing spirit of millions of Americans as the Freedom Train moves across the continent.

Frank Monaghan has made a real contribution to Americans themselves, as well as to their recorded history, in his volume, *Heritage of Freedom*. This official book of the Freedom Train not only serves as a catalogue of this collection of basic documents of American liberty, but offers a scholarly and highly readable analysis of the history and significance of each. Thirty-five of the one hundred thirty-two exhibits are reproduced, and the sepia ink, used throughout in the printing, serves to give an appearance of verisimilitude to these reproductions. Many are reproduced completely, even where the documents are several pages in length. Still other documents are given in text—notable among them, the Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges of 1701, "clearly one of the most important of all grants of colonial liberties" and "one of the most precious of all the Freedom Train exhibits."

This admirable and attractive volume should be in every American home. The story unfolded on its pages marks the crises in the history of man's striving for liberty, and represents the triumphs of a people put to the test. The documents it contains are not antiquarian; they are newly pertinent for each generation. Included among them are two letters of Thomas Jefferson, written from Paris in 1787, as our government was being born in the aftermath of war, letters whose ideas are for the present as well as the past. To James Madison he wrote: "And say, finally, whether peace is best preserved by giving energy to the government, or information to the people. This last is most certain, and the most legitimate engine of government. Educate and inform the whole mass of people." And to Edward Carrington he wrote: ". . . public opinion is in the place of law, and restrains morals as powerfully as laws ever did anywhere. . . . Cherish, therefore, the spirit

of our people, and keep alive their attention. Do not be too severe upon their errors, but reclaim them by enlightening them."

Frank Monaghan has heeded Jefferson's advice by compiling this volume, by supplying interpretations of the documents it contains, and not least, by suggesting supplementary reading for those who would pursue their interest further.

L. V. G.

The Bounds of Delaware. By DUDLEY HUNT. (Wilmington: The Star Publishing Company, 1947, x, 59 p. Illustrations, bibliography. \$2.50.)

The Bounds of Delaware offers to the general reader the first complete story of the boundary controversies with which the history of this state has been saddled. The Duke of York's grant of land to William Penn in 1682 added fuel to the fire of controversy over the possession of the Delaware's western banks. The struggle was turned to a definition of boundaries for the Baltimore and Penn land grants, and involved litigation continuing long beyond the Mason-Dixon Line settlement of 1763. The persistence and tenacity of William Penn and his family in maintaining the Penn claims, which would insure access to the sea, preserved the Three Lower Counties from being engulfed in the Maryland grant of the Calverts. With the Revolution, these counties became The Delaware State. As a state, the Delaware boundary problems involved New Jersey as well as the older contestants, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Some two hundred and fifty years after Penn received his grant of land along the Delaware River, the disputes over the bounds of Delaware were resolved in the courts of the United States.

Mr. Hunt has traced the intricate steps in the evolution of the boundary settlements with care and thoroughness. His imagination has created a vivid and delightful story from the scattered official and legal records of three centuries.

L. V. G.

Delaware. A History of the First State. Edited by H. CLAY REED. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1947, Volumes I and II, xvi, 1014 p. Illustrations, index; Volume III, 618 p. Illustrations, index.)

The first two volumes of this co-operative history of Delaware, compiled under the editorship of H. Clay Reed of the University of Delaware, emphasize the important position of this state in our nation's history, both past and present. The sections dealing with general history, government, economic development and social history were written by contributors prominent in their fields, most of them specializing in Delaware history. Volume III, compiled by the publishers, contains personal and family records.

Frontier Parsonage. The Letters of Olaus Fredrik Duus, Norwegian Pastor in Wisconsin, 1855-1858. Translated by the Verdandi Study Club of Minneapolis and edited by THEODORE C. BLEGEN. (Northfield, Minn., 1947, xii, 120 p. Index. \$2.50.)

Although the setting of these revealing letters is the northwest of the 1850's, their charm and awareness make them generally appealing to readers in American history; this four-year correspondence is another chapter in the American frontier story. The isolation and loneliness of pioneer life made the family unit of necessity the focus of that life, and much of the appeal of these letters lies in this intimate story. But there is little of contemporary interest and activity within and beyond the Wisconsin borders which escaped the notice or the pen of Olaus Fredrik Duus, this homesick and vigorous Norwegian minister, whose sensitivity made all things important. The physical book itself is a delightful example of the publisher's art.

Guide to the Swarthmore College Peace Collection. A Memorial to Jane Addams. (Swarthmore College Bulletin, Peace Collection Publication No. 1. Swarthmore, Pa.: Swarthmore College, 1947, 72 p.)

The Swarthmore College Peace Collection, which was begun with the acquisition of the papers and records of Jane Addams relating to her peace activities, is an effort to gather material bearing upon the peace movement and the activities of individuals in the struggle against war. The Collection contains foreign as well as American documents. This *Guide* is the first attempt to catalogue a collection of peace records as considerable as that housed at Swarthmore College.

A Survey of the Resources and Opportunities of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. By THE MIFFLIN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. (Harrisburg: Archives Publishing Commission of Pennsylvania, Inc., 1947, 195 p. Appendices, index. \$2.50.)

A discussion of the historical backgrounds of Mifflin County precedes the economic survey of the county, designed to establish "current economic trends affecting the region, the character of existing local economic assets and liabilities, and some of the possible adjustments that will permit more effective use of local human, physical and financial resources." The survey covers natural resources, industry, the labor force, public services and living conditions within the county.

A definitive bibliography of American autobiographies is being compiled jointly by Mr. Daniel C. Haskell of the New York Public Library and Mr. Louis Kaplan of the University of Wisconsin Library.