
Parkman imagined Pontiac to be the mastermind of a continental Indian uprising; and Provost William Smith called the Sachem of the Ottawas the “generalissimo of all the confederate forces now acting against us . . . the Methridates of the West.” A legend of the concert of the tribes grew into our literature, the myth of a great purposeful union of Indian nations from Michilimackinac to Mobile, from the Mississippi to the Susquehanna, inspired by the Prophet, fomented by the French, led by Pontiac.

Mr. Peckham’s first duty, in this extraordinary book, is to show that no such confederacy existed, that the culture of the Indians, their traditions, their manners of making war, prevented the concept of union from entering their thinking. Yet, curiously, in the year 1763, campaigns were actually waged simultaneously by many tribes over a vast area, all directed against the British. The Indians could scarcely have acted more effectively had they indeed been led by Mithridates. Clearly, British conquest of French Canada, the transfer of the forest forts, the pinchpenny policy of the English commanders, furnished to all the red nations throughout the Northwest the same occasion for revolt. Pontiac was neither commander nor genius of a continent in arms. He was only one of a host of Indian leaders whom the occasion called forth—although by his particular campaign he did in turn improve the opportunity for other nations remote from his influence to rise against distant forts.

Pontiac’s role in 1763 was to unite warriors of three villages and various tribes into a force for the siege of Detroit. “As for a general uprising of all the western tribes against all the British posts,” Peckham observes, “Pontiac may have thought of it, but his abilities were taxed in uniting his immediate neighbors and devising a surprise assault on one fort.”

Still, this was no mean role, and this was no mean leader. “Pontiac,” wrote George Croghan, “is a shrewd sensible Indian of a few words, and commands more respect amongst these nations than any Indian I ever saw could do amongst his own tribe.” British America had never confronted so formidable a foe in her conquest of the aborigine. Pontiac was brilliant in warfare, shrewd in diplomacy, often magnanimous; he cleverly dominated the French habitants whom he kept dependent upon him; and when he withdrew to the country of the Illinois, he went not like one defeated, but moved
like a chief among nations. He could not change the way his people made war—could not fuse the native individualism of the Indian into a European type of military force prepared to spend lives in storming a fort; but he could enforce his personal leadership upon restless, unruly tribes, persuading their chiefs and inspiring their braves. Pontiac is worth a biography.

Now to compose a biography of a man who could not himself write, and all of whose literate contemporaries were his enemies, presents appalling difficulties. Mr. Peckham's ingenious devices, as well as his extensive searching, command respect and admiration. The Scotch-Irish frontiersman has left a detestable phrase in American folklore—"the only good injun is a dead injun." I am surprised Peckham did not from sheer exasperation add to this, "one who could write."

The first third of this book is, in default of any material on Pontiac's youth, a clear, understandable account of the Ottawa nation and the history of Detroit. Pontiac scarcely emerges. But with Holy Week of 1763, when Captain Gladwin and a hundred or so whites begin to stand off Pontiac's three hundred Indians, Mr. Peckham, Pontiac, and the war itself all become spirited and exciting.

Peckham peoples the prairies and forests, the lakes and rivers with characters live and convincing. His pages sparkle with the romance of this horridly quaint war—with comely French maidens and Indian mistresses of white officers, with stratagems, ruses and treacheries, with French insurrection and British stubbornness, with white men boiled and eaten, Indians dying of smallpox spread among them by soldiers of the king. He shows Pontiac helpless to conduct a siege, his face saved only by the sudden victories of far-off tribes in lands Pontiac had never visited. His chronicle reaches from New York to Kaskaskia, embraces Bouquet at Bushy Run and the Paxton Boys at Philadelphia.

I wish he might just once have taken the perspective of this war from Westminster, to show the necessity behind the unfortunate policy of Amherst; though admittedly this policy from the perspective of Detroit, Oswego, or even Philadelphia was disastrous. Mr. Peckham's orientation is American, and this in the long run is the proper approach to the story. He has given us a reliable, authentic, readable account of the great uprising in the West which, with all its sudden political effects, had a large part in preparing the way for the collapse of the empire itself.

Parkman can never be rewritten. This is not the purpose of this volume. But Parkman can be qualified, and this Mr. Peckham has done, with an ability worthy of the great tradition which he must necessarily at times impeach.

Philadelphia  
J. H. Powell
In his preface to this most recent addition of his monumental work, Dr. Gipson states that his undertaking "is designed to make its appeal not so much to the readers of popular literature as to those who are seeking to understand and to evaluate facts in their historical setting." With this principle in mind he has arrayed in this volume, as in his preceding ones, a formidable mass of material and detail laid against a historical background which is in itself both broad in scope and detailed in its critical aspects.

The reader is aware that the materials so presented are not drawn from secondary accounts but are based on the author’s personal study and evaluation of source materials. This he has accomplished in an exhaustive manner and with freedom from traditional points of view on the subjects under discussion. His masterly ability as a writer of military history is apparent throughout the volume. So also is his ability to express himself in uncomplicated, straightforward terms, which lends a purity and clarity to his prose. His manner of narration does not preclude the dramatic.

Dr. Gipson sets the stage for his book with a sparkling biographical chapter on the facile William Pitt whose contributions to victory were all-important. Throughout the volume one is kept aware of the Great Commoner and his plans, both good and indifferent. After reviewing the situation of the colonies and dealing with the disappointments and disasters of the 1757 campaigns, the author includes a chapter on the contemporary European conflicts and is then prepared for what were indeed the victorious years.

The campaigns of 1758, 1759, and 1760 are unfolded in a comprehensive yet detailed fashion. At the conclusion of the book the British have at long last conquered Canada with the fall of Montreal. The pages on which these events are chronicled present a notable contribution. The original research, the use of sources unavailable to earlier writers on this broad topic, the critical perceptions brought into play have here produced an authoritative book of great value to the student of colonial times.

Year by year Dr. Gipson evaluates the exact contribution of each colony to the war effort. Connecticut, he finds, was the most zealous, possibly because she believed the struggle to be primarily for the rights and interests of the colonials themselves. By way of contrast, Maryland virtually refused time and again to participate in the conflict.

Dr. Gipson takes several cuts at the traditional American point of view that England’s tremendous national effort to protect her Empire was the outcome of a selfish, grasping policy. The theory that the wars in North America were essentially the renewal of the old European rivalry of England and France in a new setting is labeled a fiction.
Although the volume is well fortified with some twenty-eight early maps and plans, I believe the reader would have been assisted by a general map which located all points of interest, thereby showing their relationship one to the other. As a minor correction, the activities ascribed to the missionary Frederick Post (p. 330–331), were actually performed by George Croghan. The Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, III, 560–563, is in error in crediting the journal there published to Post.

Philadelphia

Nicholas B. Wainwright


The Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati has done a superb piece of work in its recent publication of the letters of Ebenezer David to Nicholas Brown, 1775–1778. Not only are the format, printing, and illustrations beautifully executed, but the editing is thorough and painstaking. It may well establish a criterion for other cultural organizations to meet.

The historical résumé supporting the letters is particularly good, for it gives to the layman a brief account of the chief events of the Revolution. Although there is nothing new, or perhaps historically significant, in any of the letters, the freshness of style and the obvious sincerity of the writer make them invaluable. They may not appear to add much to our military knowledge of the Revolution, but the student of the period will still glean considerable detail from them, as is generally the case in contemporary letters. One note provides a good example of such detail: “This is the only one of the letters which bears any indication of the time required for delivery. It was thirty-six days on the way from Peekskill to Providence.”

The letters pertaining to the defense of the Delaware (Letters XIV–XVIII) will, perhaps, be considered the most important, partly because they go into the greatest detail, but also because this small phase of the Revolutionary War has been almost completely ignored by historians. Actually, as far as Philadelphia and the fate of Howe’s army was concerned, it was of prime importance—as long as Fort Mifflin and Fort Mercer held out, British ships could not bring much-needed supplies to the army. The British partially overcame this virtual blockade by means of a shallow channel on the west side of the Delaware which was cleared of obstructions. Small boats carried supplies between Hog Island and Tinicum and the shore. However, this was a slow and hazardous undertaking, and it was not until the fall of Fort Mercer after a heroic defense, that the British army was adequately fed. Ebenezer David’s letters not only increase our understanding of the great defense of the Delaware, but point up its importance in the over-all picture of the Revolution.

Philadelphia

Frederic R. Kirkland
Lincoln and the Baltimore Plot, 1861: From Pinkerton Records and Related Papers. Edited by Norma B. Cuthbert. (San Marino, Calif.: The Huntington Library, 1949. xxiv, 162 p. Frontispiece, notes, bibliography, index. $3.00.)

Allan Pinkerton, on the basis of the reports of his operatives, was fully justified in his fears that an attempt upon Lincoln's life would be made on the President-elect's passage through Baltimore on February 23, 1861. Pinkerton did not uncover a bona fide plot, but he was convinced that secessionist sentiment in Baltimore would provide the setting in which a few reckless individuals could assassinate Lincoln. That Pinkerton's fears were well grounded was tragically proven on the 19th of April, when the passage of the Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers through Baltimore resulted in rioting and bloodshed.

In 1866 William Henry Herndon obtained permission to copy Pinkerton's Record Book on condition that he consider confidential all references to Ward H. Lamon, a "brainless egotistical fool." Herndon had the Record Book copied and returned it to the National Detective Agency's headquarters in Chicago, where it was destroyed later by the fire. The transcript of Pinkerton's record was mislaid among Herndon's other Lincoln material and sold to Lamon in 1869, when the latter acquired Herndon's transcripts of Lincoln material. The Lamon papers, in turn, were acquired by the Huntington Library in 1914.

The reality of the Baltimore plot has been the subject of much disagreement among historians, fostered, to a great extent, by the Lamon-Black treatment of the plot. Miss Cuthbert's research has revealed the personal element behind this treatment; this discovery is perhaps the most distinctive feature of her work. In Lamon's Life of Abraham Lincoln (1872), actually written by Chauncey F. Black, the Baltimore plot is summarily dismissed as a fabrication on the part of Pinkerton, whose reports were "neither edifying nor useful; they prove nothing but the baseness of the vocation which gave them existence." At the time these opinions were written, Pinkerton's records were in Lamon's possession. Pinkerton had no use for Lamon; after Lincoln's safe arrival in Washington, Lamon, the only member of Lincoln's party who accompanied him throughout the entire journey from Springfield to Washington, wanted to give the story to the press to make, in Pinkerton's words, a "splurge" for himself. Pinkerton felt it vital to his own future service to the government that his investigation of the plot be kept secret, and he threatened to take up the matter with Lincoln to compel Lamon to be silent. With his purchase of the Herndon transcripts Lamon's long-awaited opportunity for revenge was at hand.

Miss Cuthbert's publication of the Pinkerton records is a scholarly contribution to the literature of the Baltimore plot. She has skillfully correlated
relevant material on the plot in text and footnotes. She does not claim definitiveness for her study, but offers it as a good detective story, history more fascinating than fiction.

Mary Washington College  Henrietta L. Krone


This is an excellent book of original sources dealing with American constitutional history and political theory. The sources which the author has so wisely selected emphasize the origin of the political and constitutional philosophy of the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of 1787, as well as the evolution and growth of democratic ideas from the inception of the national government to and including the presidency of Harry Truman.

The readings in Chapters I, II, and III underline the power of ideas in determining the actions of men. They also stress the origin of the political and constitutional philosophy of the American Revolution which electrified not only the leaders of that period but the common man as well. The readings begin with the debates in the General Council at Putney in 1647 and end with the _Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights_ in 1947 and Mr. Justice William O. Douglas' _Freedom Train Address_ on May 20, 1948. The first three chapters include, among others, some of the writings and addresses of John Locke, James Harrington, Baron Charles-Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu, Nathaniel Ward, John Winthrop, Roger Williams, John Wise, Benjamin Franklin, James Otis, John Dickinson, James Wilson, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Seabury, John Adams and Thomas Paine.

The inadequacy of the Articles is vividly portrayed by selections from the writings of Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and other political leaders of the time. The campaign against the Articles, aided by the general feeling of despair and Shays' Rebellion, produced the desired effect in calling The Constitutional Convention of 1787 to amend the Articles. Instead of amending the Articles, however, a new constitution was written to form a more perfect union. The difficulties that faced the Fathers in the convention and the compromises offered and accepted are all included in the sources incorporated in this study. The author does not overlook materials pertaining to the fight within the Thirteen States to secure the ratification of the Constitution. In presenting this great struggle _The Federalist_ occupies a conspicuous role.

Chapter VIII, "The Establishment of National Power: Hamilton and Marshall," presents Hamilton's efforts to restore the national credit at home and abroad. It also presents the nationalizing influence of John Marshall
and the Supreme Court in such cases as Marbury v. Madison and McCulloch v. Maryland.

Chapter IX, "Establishing National Power: Jefferson and Taylor," gives the other side of the constitutional argument in letters, state papers, and addresses of Thomas Jefferson to Elbridge Gerry, Gideon Granger, Benjamin Rush, John Adams, John Taylor, Francis W. Gilmer, and in his first inaugural address. The next chapter deals with some of the new state constitutions drafted and ratified between 1820 and 1835 to show the extension of popular government within the United States. Chapter XI, "Jackson and Revolution" includes Jackson's First Annual Message to Congress, the veto of the bank bill, the Farewell Address of March 4, 1837, Van Buren's Special Message to Congress on September 4, 1837, and Roger B. Taney's opinion in the famous court case of Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge. Chapter XII, "Romantic Individualism," includes Emerson's Politics, Thoreau's Civil Disobedience, and Whitman's Democratic Vistas.


Space will permit the listing of the titles only of the remaining seven chapters: "Plutocracy or Social Democracy?"; "Liberal Vibrations"; "Does the Constitution Enthrone Economic-Judicial Power?"; "Cynicism, Normalcy, Optimism, Realism"; "Economic Crisis: the New Deal; Inevitable Conflict"; and "Free Government Vindicated."

This study should be widely used by the scholar, teacher, and the interested public. Professor Mason and the Oxford Press are to be congratulated on the excellence of their workmanship.

Lehigh University

George Dewey Harmon


John Greenleaf Whittier has a special interest for Pennsylvanians, and for Philadelphians in particular. He lived in this city for nearly two years, from March, 1838, to February, 1840, where he edited and wrote for one of the leading abolitionist periodicals, the Pennsylvania Freeman. During the years 1848 and 1849, he visited the city while courting Elizabeth Lloyd, the poet, who, although she did not marry him, had moved him profoundly. There are several other associations of the poet with the city (and state): he was
a delegate to the first meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Convention in December, 1833, he visited Harrisburg and toured central Pennsylvania in the summer of 1839, and he was present when Pennsylvania Hall, in Philadelphia, at the southwest corner of Sixth and Haines Street (as it was then called) below Race, was burned to the ground by a mob.

It is fitting that a new biography of Whittier should appear, and it is the first time that a biographer has availed himself of the excellent bibliography of the poet by Thomas Franklin Currier (1937). Some years ago a superficial life of the poet was published, but the author did hardly more than consult this work. John A. Pollard has been doing research on Whittier for about fifteen years; his dissertation for a doctoral degree at Yale in 1937 dealt with the early years of the poet's life (1807 to 1836). The biography under review is an outgrowth of that thesis, unfortunately bearing some of the earmarks of such a composition. Trivial facts are set forth without selection; there are no imaginative flights, no originality, no independence of point of view. There is evidence of industry and an uncovering of forgotten material, and, with few exceptions, no inaccuracies.

It was with a nostalgic feeling that this reviewer read Pollard's book, for in the preparation of his own biography of Whittier, Quaker Militant (1933), he traveled to the same cities and towns, entered the same libraries, consulted the same old newspapers and magazines, read in manuscript the same letters by the poet, as Pollard did. In fact, Pollard has uncovered very little that is new, often choosing, however, to reprint different extracts from the same article or letter that the present writer has reprinted. Although he has done independent and original research, Pollard has had no hesitation in giving this writer his due, at times with proper acknowledgment (and sometimes without it). His interpretation has often been different. He has treated Whittier within his own boundaries, seldom stepping aside to survey him in an adverse aspect. The numerous lengthy extracts tend to make the work an anthology. The material is so voluminous that it has swamped the author, and he has not been able to co-ordinate it successfully. Pollard wrote the early chapters in a chronological form, the later ones from a topical point of view. Consequently, in these latter chapters he repeats and retraces his story to matters connected with the poet's early life. The final result is a book which is not exciting reading and which merges more into a reference work.

Pollard is a conservative and cautious writer, shunning psychology and any probing into the poet's mind. He will not admit absolutely, for example, that Whittier was really in love with Mary Emerson Smith (whom by a slip he calls Mrs. Smith, although her married name became Mrs. Thomas), and he surmises that the love poems Whittier wrote at the time were mere literary exercises. Even Whittier's authorized biographer, Samuel T. Pickard, had conceded the reality of the poet's affection and the genuineness of feeling in the love poems. Not even some of the poet's burning love letters moved Pollard from his position. Nor does he see any love affair with
Lucy Hooper, although newly discovered material corroborating this was set forth by this reviewer in the New England Quarterly, June, 1934. Had he given due consideration to this article he would not have made Pickard’s mistake of saying that Whittier met Lucy Hooper in New York (Brooklyn) in the summer of 1837; they had already met as early as March, 1836, in New England.

Critically, this biography has little importance. Pollard almost forgets that Whittier was a poet and an imaginative writer as well as an antislavery agitator and politician. All that he has to say of Snow-Bound, beyond quoting a few lines from other critics and instancing a few revisions the poet himself made, is that its wide appeal betokens “a fit poetic subject treated by Whittier in a genuinely poetical way.” Of Whittier’s longest book, the delightful, scholarly, and self-revealing fictitious narrative called Leaves from Margaret Smith’s Journal, he has nothing to say except to quote twice the same platitudinous line from it.

Pollard, furthermore, shows no understanding of Whittier’s personality because he fears to probe. In trying to explain the poet’s bad health, nervousness, and insomnia, he accepts the exploded theory of Dr. George M. Gould, the oculist, that they were due to “hyperopic astigmatism.” Pollard adds that no convincing theories have appeared since Whittier’s death to explain the poet’s nervousness. That is what Pollard thinks of Freud and psychoanalysis! In fact, he raps this reviewer on the wrist for having dared to mention once or twice that great student of our unconscious activities. As a result, we have a rather faded portrait of the poet in the old guise of saint. His beard and clothes of Quaker cut are clear, but there is no attempt made by Pollard to find motivation for the poet’s life and work. The book is surface treatment. This writer is pleased to note that Pollard has followed him in accepting Milton and Burke as great influences.

A bad guess, in the reviewer’s opinion, is made in identifying an anonymous poem “Who Is My Neighbor?” as Whittier’s because it appeared in the Haverhill (Essex) Gazette in 1836 when he was editor. It is praised by Pollard, but it is a poor poem. It may be found in The Prose and Poetry of Europe and America (1845), edited by N. P. Willis and George P. Morris (p. 478), and reprinted in Werner’s Readings and Recitations (1892), Vol. 33, p. 68, also anonymously assigned. The poem had been going the rounds for over fifty years, and had Whittier written it, its authorship would probably have become known.

Philadelphia

Albert Mordell

Faint Clews and Indirections. Manuscripts of Walt Whitman and his family. Edited by Clarence Gohdes and Rollo G. Silver. (Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 1949. xii, 250 p. Appendix, index. $5.00.)

There seems to be a principle of inverse ratio operative in literary scholarship: It seems agreed that, the more important the author, the more we are
justified in publishing trivia about him. Whitman’s importance is the reason for this book.

There is almost nothing in the volume that, in itself, is worth printing. The manuscripts are from the collection presented to the Duke University Library in 1942 by Dr. and Mrs. Josiah C. Trent, of which a catalogue was compiled three years later by Ellen Frances Frey. Even before that they had been “available” to scholars, and scholars since Bucke and Perry had used them. There is some satisfaction, however, to the Whitman student and collector in being permitted to study sources for himself without making a trip to Durham or investing in microfilms or photostats. Ably edited, these papers may now be in every Whitman library, however small.

First we have some fragmentary early versions of passages from “Song of Myself,” supplying a transition stage of that poem between the notebook versions of 1847–1848 and the published poem of 1855. The term “slatternly” which the present editors apply to Whitman’s poetic method as here revealed is more accurate than fair. No precision of technique is evident, but the process is not careless. We are reminded once more that the poetic impulse in him was first buried in prosaic phrases and had to work its way through to poetic expression. Without himself knowing precisely how he was working, Whitman was aware this early and by instinct of the effects that he wished to achieve. The process, as reconstructed by modern scholarship, makes more sense than it probably would have to the poet himself, but it is almost painful to follow it in its cruder stages. C. J. Furness in 1928 took us into “Walt Whitman’s Workshop”; here we are offered once more some of the chips from his chisel.

The letters of brother George and his mother confirm the impression of humble worth that we have learned to associate with these two members of the immediate family, and to contrast with the worthlessness, or worse, of the others. George’s army letters show the closeness of the family bond through adversities and the loyalty of a thoroughly sound and simple person. They help us to appreciate the homespun from which the poet of Democracy was cut. But the other family letters are regrettable and probably should have remained in manuscript. Of what value to scholarship are documents which reveal that a sister-in-law took to the streets after the death of her worthless brother, or that a brother-in-law treated his hypochondriac wife badly? Even where such facts were not previously known—and most of them were—they have bearing on Leaves of Grass only in documenting the weakness and ugliness out of which great strength and beauty were born.

It is perhaps time to reconsider the assumption that everything, however trivial, by and about a major author is worthy of print. With improved methods of transportation for scholars and easier and cheaper methods for the reproduction of source material, might we not resort in such cases as this to a complete microfilm of the manuscripts, available on interlibrary loan to any accredited investigator?

University of Pennsylvania

Robert E. Spiller

The epigrammatic lines and couplets of Alexander Pope, like those of Shakespeare, have become, although generally unidentified, a part of our speech today; as a poet, Pope is little read outside the classroom. In his own time, however, and for a century thereafter, his works were much in vogue. The cultural affinity of the American colonies with England in the eighteenth century made it natural that Pope should be read in America, but the extent of his influence and popularity is surprising.

Miss Sibley, in a style which is fresh, nonpedantic, and wholly readable, has undertaken a study of this prestige of Pope’s in America. She admits that her work is not definitive, but the sources she has used in her study provide an acceptable basis for evaluation: booksellers, “public,” private, and college libraries, American editions, and references in contemporary newspapers, diaries, and letters. Many of the great figures in American political and cultural life were familiar with Pope’s works, and his poems are found and mentioned as well in the hamlets of the colonies.

Although the greater part of her story pertains to the eighteenth century, the emphasis on Pope as a poet and the American editions of his works figure more prominently after 1800. The Essay on Man was the most read and reprinted of all Pope’s poems; his translation of Homer and the Messiah were next in popularity in the American editions.

The appeal of Pope for the Americans of that century lay in his reputation (Essay on Man) as a moralist. His ethical concepts were in harmony with prevailing religious ideas; his rhetoric, with its attendant moral teaching, was used in schools and by orators; his poetry met the Puritan standards of combined moral and literary quality; it was not until the nineteenth century that his worth as a man was challenged. An appreciable amount of colonial poetry gained inspiration from Pope; much was written in outright imitation of it.

Miss Sibley has included appendices tabulating information on the American editions of Pope’s works, individual and collected, and on the sale of his works by American booksellers.

This paper-bound book should more properly, perhaps, fall within the limits of American literature; it is also very much a part of our cultural history, for, even from its limited and directed focus, it adds to our broader understanding of the “American mind.”

L. V. G.


This first pamphlet of the Indiana University Library Publications is another contribution to the body of source material on the American
Revolution. Bernhard Knollenberg has presented, with a brief historical background, a letter or draft of a letter to an unnamed correspondent by Jonathan Williams, Benjamin Franklin's great-nephew. This letter, dated January 21, 1775, in the Indiana University Library, recounts the debates in the House of Lords on January 20, 1775, prior to the rejection of a motion by William Pitt (Lord Chatham) for the withdrawal of British troops from Boston. Its "terseness and vivacity" make it superior to other, better-known reports. Franklin, because of his efforts in the American cause in London and because of the respect in which Chatham held him, had been requested by Chatham to attend the debates on this occasion. Franklin did attend, and gave his own reaction to them in a letter to his son William. Jonathan Williams' long account (twenty folio pages) provides not only the matter of the debates, but some insight into the prevailing mood of the Lords and the personality of the speakers.

The Minutes of The Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey from 1685 to 1705. With an Introductory Essay by George J. Miller. (Perth Amboy, N. J.: The Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, 1949. xvi, 280 p. Illustrations, index. $10.00.)

This attractive volume constitutes a valuable addition not only to the proprietary records of New Jersey, but as well to the general story of early colonial government in America. "The Journal of the Procedure..." of the Proprietors of East Jersey, in a modernized transcript, comprises the major portion of the book. George J. Miller, Registrar of the Board, has contributed an introductory essay which deals with the personnel of the early Board, the secretaries, registers, and receiver generals, the business coming before the Board, and the most important problem of land division. Chapters are also devoted to quitrents and to the principal cities of the Eastern Division. The publication of these minutes will provide a new perspective to the early history of New Jersey, particularly when it is realized that they have been made public for the first time in 264 years.


The need for an accessible account of the story and documents relating to Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg prompted the publication of this booklet. The story of the circumstances surrounding the event is supplemented by pertinent documents, including the various versions and drafts of the Gettysburg Address itself. Illustrations provide added interest. The presentation of the publication is more popular than scholarly.