BOOK REVIEWS


American colonists reshaped the European culture that they brought with them. They originated ideas and practices suited to the new environment. And the resulting colonial cultures had their effects on those of the mother countries. With a quantity of evidence resulting from many years of research, Professor Kraus has written a judicious description of many of these cultural borrowings, reshapings, and repercussions. He has explored new material, both American and foreign, and added his findings to those of previous scholars in chapters on social, scientific, religious, artistic, educational and intellectual relations between western Europe and America. A great many well-chosen quotations give the pages life and authority.

While the study leads to no new conclusions of major importance, it greatly and justifiably emphasizes the effect of British-North American civilization on Europe. American influence reached a peak between the American and French Revolutions, when the "American experiment" became the hope and ideal of European radicals. As a basis for these trans-Atlantic interactions Professor Kraus contributes a fresh account of many aspects of British-colonial culture. He gives support to Henry Adams' belief that the last generation of the aristocratic colonial elite had a deeper interest in art, letters, and religion than their more democratic descendants of the young republic. Lacking some of the self-satisfaction of later nationalists, colonial leaders like Benjamin Franklin worked as missionaries to American taste and learning.

It seems unlikely that critics will quarrel with what Professor Kraus has written. Few would be qualified to do so. But even the general reader may think that the analysis falls short of the promise of the title. Both "Atlantic" and "civilization" are large inclusive terms, and no attempt is made to define them precisely. The concluding statement of the book, that the "true meaning of the Atlantic civilization" is "that North America has long been the biggest fact in Europe," suggests no scheme of analysis. Surely there were some major differences between the northern and southern areas of the civilization, but Spanish-American culture is referred to only incidentally. How did the Atlantic civilization differ from that of the rest of Europe? Was Hanover, for example, a part of the Atlantic region?

Even within the Anglo-American sphere the lack of an elaborated concept of what the author is discussing causes difficulties. In point of numbers,
merchants, sea captains, supercargoes and sailors were the chief eastward carriers of the common cultural elements, yet neither their activities nor correspondence has any substantial place in Professor Kraus’ description. Government administrators and military and naval officers are also slighted.

One hesitates to criticize too severely these variations between title and content which are common to all historical work. The source materials inevitably put their own stamp on the finished product. But even were the title more closely fitted to the material, the reader might ask the author for more guidance in concepts and interpretations.

University of Pennsylvania

THOMAS C. COCHRAN

The American Mind. An Interpretation of American Thought and Character since the 1880’s. By HENRY STEELE COMMAGER. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1950. ix, 476 p. Frontispiece, bibliography, index. $5.00.)

Henry Commager has lent his able and eloquent pen to many worthwhile causes. This latest book, written in his usual brilliant style, presents his evaluation of the mind of our nation from 1890 to the present.

The interpretation rests upon the assumption that there is such a thing as “a distinctively American way of thought, character, and conduct.” The author, on the basis of a group of essays on significant individuals and topics, attempts to generalize about that elusive thing, the American mind. He frankly admits the subjectivity of his treatment. Indeed, he agrees that he has ignored or slighted many aspects which should properly be considered a part of the mind of the nation. If these limitations be true, then it would seem that the author has unnecessarily handicapped himself in his search for the national mind. This book leads the reviewer to question whether any such thing as the American mind exists. And if such a mind does exist, whether it can be explained in such a way as to be meaningful. However, admitting for the moment that the main premise and the selective methods of the book are valid, the test of the volume must rest upon the competence with which the author has handled the individuals and topics he has selected.

The handling of two figures of the past seems to the reviewer to be unnecessarily subjective and even contradictory. For instance, in his treatment of William Jennings Bryan the author makes claims that will hardly bear scrutiny. It is doubtful if Bryan had “a firm grasp on political and economic realities,” or that he was the “most astute politician of his day.” It is even more difficult to believe that Bryan was the first major political figure “to understand that the problems of politics were primarily economic” (p. 347). Indeed, the author contradicts this flattering evaluation a few pages later when he comments that Franklin D. Roosevelt had none of the “intellectual flabbiness” of Bryan (p. 354).
Similar subjectivity and contradiction are revealed in the author's evaluation of the historian Charles A. Beard. He comments that Beard was largely responsible for the "widespread acceptance of economic determinism by younger scholars" (p. 303). He points out that Beard made history less splendid by exposing fallacies and puncturing pretensions, implying that Beard was responsible for much of the cynicism of many of the followers of history. It is unfortunate that the author commends Bryan for his astuteness because of his understanding that political problems are mainly economic, and by implication condemns Beard for a similar understanding of the forces that make up history. Mr. Commager concludes with the point that the real objection to Beard's historism is that it was "sterile and, in a literal sense, inconsequential" (p. 309). Yet Beard's ideas on the meaning of history and his historical writings quite obviously were of consequence if Beard was responsible for a widespread acceptance of economic determinism among younger scholars. Surely an attitude of iconoclasm and cynicism among historians and many of their followers is consequential. Finally, the best test of this evaluation of Beard's historism is Beard's own work after his explicit formulation of a philosophy of history. Can one say that *America in Midpassage*, *The American Spirit*, *American Foreign Policy in the Making* and *President Roosevelt and the Coming of the War* are products of a sterile historism? Nor can the reviewer accept, as does the author, S. E. Morison's essay on Beard's later writings as "astute criticism."

This reviewer does not claim that these two interpretations are typical of others in the book. But such treatments force the reader to be skeptical of other particular analyses. If the particular interpretations are subject to skepticism, then what can be said of the generalizations about the American mind which rest upon such analyses?

*University of Wisconsin*  
JOHN N. STALKER

*The American Historical Novel*. By ERNEST E. LEISY. (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1950. x, 282 p. Appendix, index. $3.75.)

Professor Leisy introduces his book, *The American Historical Novel*, with a preface entitled "History Vivified," and therein one may find his apologia for this particular brand of fiction, as well as a very general discussion of our historical novel from its early stirrings to the present day. After this preface, which comprises but twenty pages, Professor Leisy's volume becomes a compendium of titles, dates, facts, résumés and brief comments on hundreds of novels—a monument indeed to the author's indefatigable research, and an excellent handbook to the student in search of a bibliography in this field. In the main body of his book Professor Leisy divides the novels into five specific historical periods: Colonial America; The American Revolution and its Aftermath; The Westward
Movement; The Civil War and Reconstruction; and National Expansion. Besides this classification, he remarks in the preface that there are three more literary ones: "the historical novel proper, a work like Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, which admirably integrates character and setting. Then there is the period novel, a novel more concerned with detailed background than in presenting the whole of life, as, for example, Walter Edmonds's *Drums Along the Mohawk*. Last in importance is the romance of adventure, written by Cooper and Simms in an earlier period, and illustrated at its best by Churchill's *Richard Carvel* and Johnston's *To Have and To Hold.*" The discussions in the book are not limited to the "historical novel proper," but to the novels in the other two groups as well. In his preface, the author is surprised that so little attention has been paid to the historical novel, and near the end of the book he lists a dozen or so ill-assorted authors, "Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, John Pendleton Kennedy, William Gilmore Simms, Stephen Crane, S. Weir Mitchell, Winston Churchill, Mary Johnston, James Boyd, Kenneth Roberts, Walter Edmonds, Le Grand Cannon, Burke Boyce, Willa Cather, Hervey Allen," who have failed to receive sufficient critical attention. To this reviewer it seems that Cooper, Hawthorne, Crane and Cather have received more than a "passing mention"; perhaps the rest do not deserve it, for they were busily writing what the late Carl Van Doren so aptly called the "rococo romance."

Professor Leisy, although he has decried the lack of discriminating critical attention devoted to the historical novel, fails to compensate for this dearth in his own book. Instead of detailed analysis, he has substituted, for the most part, a brief résumé of the action of many of the novels, followed by a few short lines of general comment which he calls evaluation; for example:

"The story [*Israel Potter*] has possibilities, as shown in Israel’s meeting with the King and in the interlude with Franklin, but Melville seems not to have been in the mood to develop them"; "The book [*Conceived in Liberty*] written in a tense, emotional style, inclines toward the use of modern ideological sentiments"; "Kenneth Roberts’s passion for justice, as much as his vivid narrative talent, serves to make *Oliver Wiswell* a memorable historical novel"; and finally, "The story [*Gone With the Wind*] for all its length and over-embellishment, moves swiftly, with all sails set in the best tradition of historical fiction. *Gone With the Wind* offers no profound reading of life, but the balance between the historical and the psychological forces is nicely kept. It is above all an entertaining story."

Professor Leisy’s book, therefore, is not the critical analysis the very lack of which he so deplores, but a compilation of plots, a competent guide to the number and type of historical novels printed in America from 1821 to 1947. There is also an impressive appendix containing some six hundred and forty-odd titles of additional historical novels, all dated, all classified according to the five historical periods.
Few will deny that the historical novel is popular and that it is popular for the reasons stated by the author: “that it satisfies many tastes,” “attracts us to the past, to history,” and “satisfies a desire for national homogeneity.” On the other hand, few will agree that historical fiction, especially of the second and third types, is not escape fiction; few will agree with Hervey Allen’s statement, quoted by Professor Leisy in apparent acquiescence, that “by presenting it [the real past] dramatically, the novelist may give the reader a more vivid, adequate, and significant comprehension of past epochs than does the historian.” That statement seems to me a dangerous generalization, for immediately comes the question: what American novelists do this and in what novels? Can any fiction present a past more terrifyingly real than Carlyle’s History of the French Revolution, or can any “realistic” tale of scalping and sortie match Francis Parkman’s The Conspiracy of Pontiac for “significant comprehension”? Even if this matter were resolved and the few titans of American historical fiction were agreed upon, there would remain some hardy souls to whom history would always be history, to whom Parkman and John Fiske would always be more pertinent than the glittering pages of the American historical novel.

*Wilson College*  
John N. Yarnall


“It has been somewhat cynically suggested that organizations exist for the painless extinction of the ideas which gave them birth,” writes Herbert G. Wood in introducing this first-rate study of the beginnings of the Quaker movement as a religious society now approaching its tercentenary. From simple stirrings in the middle of the revolutionary seventeenth century, Quakerism evolved into an organization that has kept some of the enthusiastic fervor that helped it overcome persecution and survive as a unique body in the family of religions.

Non-Friends do not realize that Friends from the start have always conducted their business meetings in an original fashion. Based on pure democracy, the Quakers in their assemblies seek to reach “the sense of the meeting” without taking votes and with the Clerk acting as the servant of the Meeting rather than as chairman or president. Lloyd traces the growth of this practice wherein individual freedom is woven into group authority.

Not having any hierarchy, it was essential at the start of Quakerism to send questions to local groups asking about persecutions, sufferings, convincements, situations of necessitous circumstances, and the condition of the spiritual life. That system worked and grew into the Queries which persist today as a method of keeping Friends and Meetings striving to live
up to their principles and their faith. Without this device individual Friends would be going off at all tangents in their profession of Quakerism.

Arnold Lloyd has read widely in the Minutes and records of Friends all over England. He has portrayed the development of church government, the care for the poor, their relations with the Church of England, their affording equality to women by establishing Women's Meetings long in advance of the emergence of women from male subservience, their tremendous activity as publishers of tracts and writers of journals, and their concern for education and the welfare of youth.

No similar account has yet been written of the growth of Quakerism in America where the movement paralleled chronologically the historical growth in the mother country. Isaac Sharpless has shown that Quakerism and politics did not mix in the colonial era in Pennsylvania, and the Quakers withdrew from government after a seventy-five-year period of control. During that same period social advances were made by the Friends which have borne fruit down to the present day.

Here is the story of a Christian society which, though small in numbers, carried the Protestant Reformation to its logical conclusions and survived. The integrity of its members, the testimonies of its society, the services of its agencies for education, relief, rehabilitation and reconciliation indicate that back in the seventeenth century keys to living were discovered that still remain an open-sesame to the abundant life we seek in the twentieth century. It all may seem to be "too simple a presentation of the gospel, but its very simplicity was part of its attraction and power in the seventeenth century."

Overbrook, Pa.

RICHMOND P. MILLER

Andrew Bradford, Colonial Journalist. By ANNA JANNEY DEARMOND.
(Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1949. ix, 272 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. $3.00.)

The author has written a useful though not an important volume. As a biography the work has no large significance, since less is known relatively concerning Andrew Bradford than about his illustrious father, with whom Andrew maintained a close association even after he came to Philadelphia. Like his father, Andrew became the official printer of the Friends, but unlike him, he maintained amicable relations with them for many years. He published the American Mercury from 1719 until his death in 1742, with some competition during his later years from Franklin's Gazette, but with relatively few controversies. He prospered through his paper, his shop, his real-estate investments, and through his connection with the Durham Iron Works and other commercial activities. His fame must rest, however, upon the Mercury, to which the author devotes the major portion of her study.

The Mercury was a representative colonial newspaper, and the author's painstaking analysis of its contents exhibits clearly the nature and status of
eighteenth-century American journalism. Timeliness was both the key and the obstacle of the newspaper. In quality the Mercury compared favorably with its contemporaries. It exhibited, however, little innovation either in format, material, or practice. Its accent was upon news—as up to date as possible. Plagiarism was anything but a vice; indeed, a large portion of every issue was lifted, with or without acknowledgment. Foreign news, principally of English origin, saturated the paper, and personalities were as newsworthy as events. Intercolonial news also was in demand, especially that contained in the more readily accessible New York and Boston papers, though some pieces originated in Maryland and Virginia. Again, this type of news presented variety calculated to appeal to the widest reader interest. Philadelphia and Pennsylvania news constituted a third segment, though hardly a dominant one.

Bradford was conservative, generally pro-proprietary, yet he had several tiffs with the authorities; a controversy with Alexander Hamilton, Speaker of the Assembly and of Peter Zenger fame; and some altercation with his rival, Benjamin Franklin, over their abortive ventures, although even their relations were remarkably amicable. Since the Mercury, like its contemporaries, was put together largely by the use of paste and scissors, it differed little from the rest. The editorial page as such did not exist; the publisher occasionally commented apologetically upon the news, particularly when news was scarce, as was frequently the case. The winter was usually a bad season since there was little shipping and the land post, too, was apt to be delayed. Indeed, the premium on timeliness was so great that the paper went to press at the last possible moment.

The author has rendered a faithful account of the Mercury, together with what biographical material she was able to assemble. She makes much of the Bradford-Hamilton controversy, perhaps too much, since personalities rather than issues seemed to be involved. There is an authoritative chapter on the American Magazine, which scooped Franklin's General Magazine, owing to the defection of John Webbe, whose idea it was. Franklin, himself, is frequently alluded to, but not always to his favor. The author’s pages are crowded and too extensively documented, but the research is commendably meticulous.

College of William and Mary

John E. Pomfret


Through years of undeviating interest in the colonial scene, Carl Bridenbaugh is slowly bringing together the background and incident for a representation of rural and urban American life in which variety and movement are dominant characteristics. The Colonial Craftsman, successor to his
Cities in the Wilderness and Rebels and Gentlemen, is a lavishly documented collection of the six lectures Mr. Bridenbaugh delivered at New York University on the Anson G. Phelps Lectureship on Early American History. The volume has been handsomely printed by the New York University Press, and in lieu of satisfactory contemporary American pictures has been interestingly illustrated by seventeen plates of craftsmen at work, reproduced in collotype from the Diderot Encyclopédie of Paris, 1762–1777.

Mr. Bridenbaugh's approach to his craftsmen is social rather than antiquarian. He is interested in their achievement as part of the common life of the American community, rather than in the tools and methods by which the achievement was effected. His scope is so broad, indeed, in the number of trades and crafts considered, that a technical discussion would have been impossible in a series of lectures. That is something which still needs doing for most of the crafts, because full understanding of men as social and political beings is advanced by knowledge of the tools and materials they employ and of where and how they procure them.

In the Bridenbaugh lectures the broad subject is given division through the separate consideration of the rural craftsman, north and south; the urban craftsman (chiefly of Charleston, Philadelphia, New York, the Connecticut towns, Boston, and Newport); the craftsman at work; and the craftsman as a citizen. The author makes sharp and definite the reasons for the failure of manufacturing under the plantation economy of the South in comparison with its high success under the urban economy of the North. Occasionally one feels in reading that the generalization thus set up is too inflexibly employed, but as a generalization it is illuminating.

Because of the broad scope and relatively brief presentation of this study of the American craftsman, it is inevitable that there should be found in it certain inequalities of treatment both of the trades and the places considered. Naturally each reader will weigh it to some extent in the balances of his own special interests. To this reviewer, for example, it seems that printing, engraving, and the book arts in general are not adequately represented in view of their wide dissemination among the colonial cities and towns and their importance in the life of the local communities and of the community at large. But for any inadequacies of treatment that may be singled out there is compensation in the form of multiplied instances of activity in the exercise of a great number of crafts in many places. The Moravian communities in North Carolina and the large enterprise of Isaac Zane in the Shenandoah Valley are representative of rural organizations which cared for themselves and built up a surplus for outside sale. The varied production and the ingenious inventiveness of the Connecticut craftsmen are made a matter of emphasis, as are the native developments in style of the Philadelphia and Newport cabinetmakers. Particularly informing and pleasing are Mr. Bridenbaugh's accounts of such local adaptations to purpose as the Conestoga wagon and the Pennsylvania rifle. But the value of the book is found not so much in the accounts of these manu-
factures of special and romantic interest, as in its broad general consideration of the activities of shoemakers, hatmakers, carpenters, tailors, button-makers, and all the minor craftsmen who worked for the well-being and comfort of their communities.

The tapestry of an important aspect of colonial American life which Mr. Bridenbaugh has created for us is crowded with vigorous, animated figures. It is the record of an expanding economy and of expanding political, personal, and class ambitions. The picture is an exciting one, high in color to the sensitive observer, a very different thing from the still, flat monochrome which all too often presents itself to one who looks back through the mists of the years.

The John Carter Brown Library

Lawrence C. Wroth


This book, as the subtitle suggests, began as a catalogue of the early scientific instruments in the collections of Harvard University. In addition, Dr. Cohen has written an introductory section about science teaching at Harvard during the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. This historical part, which takes up about half the book, supplies the background necessary for appreciation of the instruments.

Harvard College offered courses in the physical and biological sciences from its beginning. Dr. Cohen describes the development of these courses through the years. He proves that, contrary to popular opinion, most Puritans in New England were not opposed to science, but followed their English coreligionists in encouraging learning that was "in touch with life." He also proves that science was an important subject at Harvard, as shown both by the large number of instruments used and by the rapid acceptance of new discoveries made in Europe. In fact, these new advances were presented to the students more promptly than was the case in some European universities.

The latter half of the book is taken up with several appendices. The first of these gives a list of the Hollis Philosophical Apparatus, which was nearly all lost in the Fire of 1764. Pictures are included of similar instruments. In the second appendix, the post-fire collection is described as it existed in 1779. A third appendix describes and illustrates other interesting apparatus. The final appendix is a catalogue of the chemical laboratory in 1821. The beautiful plates of this book make it well worth the purchase price.

The text of the book is somewhat uneven in composition. The physical separation of the reading matter from the introduction of each new topic
makes it very choppy and gives it the appearance of having been composed in haste, with sharp distinctions between ideas taking the place of connecting sentences. The material presented is extremely interesting and valuable, much of it based on manuscript sources not readily available. The footnotes, unfortunately, are hidden away at the end of the book, making them hard to find and inconvenient to use.

This book is written in an interesting style and it contains new historical material, but it leaves one with the impression that a little more time for digestion of details would have made it possible to emphasize the novel conclusions in such a way as to make them more forceful.

_Rochester, N. Y._

_Phyllis Allen Richmond_

_John Adams and the American Revolution._ By _Catherine Drinker Bowen._

(Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1950. xx, 699 p. Frontispiece, bibliographical note, index. $5.00.)

No other practitioner of the new art of writing fiction-flavored history can equal Mrs. Bowen. Indeed, few historical novels can hold the reader to his chair the way this work does, in spite of the fact that the author sometimes, for a dozen pages at a time, devotes herself to history with never a mention of her hero. The book does not have the dragging feet of a historical work, but proceeds with a sprightly step that often leaves the reader wondering whether some of the author’s statements are based on Adams’ contemporary diary, on his descriptions written a half century after success had sanctified the Revolution, or are fiction. The percentage of fiction is much higher than the ordinary reader would suspect.

It is not Mrs. Bowen’s purpose, she says, to add to the sum of the scholar’s knowledge of Adams and the Revolution: rather, she proposes to bring them to the reading public. This she does well. Through this book hundreds of thousands of people will for the first time catch the true flavor of the eve of the Revolution in Massachusetts, and will for the first time discuss Adams through the incense of the worshipers of Jefferson. Her picture of Adams is a reasonable one, painted with warts and all, and so serves the better to redress the balance of public opinion.

The historical novelist sketches charcoal outlines of the period with which he deals, but Mrs. Bowen tries to provide photographic detail of the background of her subject, with the result that her book contains literally hundreds of small and unimportant errors such as incorrect dates, misspelled proper names, geographical slips, and anachronisms. A few of the errors may mislead, as when she says (pp. 16, 80) that “nearly every preacher in New England” opposed inoculation (quite the reverse was true), and when she greatly exaggerates the number of slave advertisements in the Boston papers and (p. 207) the importance of slavery in the New England economy.
More serious is the fact that Mrs. Bowen fails, as John Adams did before her, to comprehend the causes of the Revolution. Adams recognized the problem of colonial unity when many other radical politicians saw only their own colonies, but he did not share Thomas Hutchinson's comprehension of the Empire as a whole. Many of his arguments about British policy are, in view of the purposes of imperial policy, simply irrelevant. The new British colonial policy, which was adopted to deal with the issues brought to a head by the victories of 1760, was an honest effort to deal with the greatest problem in political science which any nation had ever faced, and was not, as Mrs. Bowen assumes, a betrayal of the ideal of a British Commonwealth by stupid London politicians. The absence from her bibliography of such standard works on British colonial policy as those of G. L. Beer explains her bias.

Mrs. Bowen does not solve the fundamental problem which the young John Adams presents: how could such a distillation of American Protestantism as he so dull his sense of duty to logic that he would give his support to a popular movement which, in order to achieve its political ends, resorted to violence and terror and snuffed out all criticism with the efficiency of Hitler and Stalin? She explains his attitude by saying (in regard to Independence): “This matter was not to be settled by logic and reason. The division was deeper—a matter of emotional bias. . . .” True, but that does not explain why Adams followed his emotions rather than his logic. It does not explain why “Honest John” in the course of political controversy, made statements which he must have known were not true. It does not explain his raising the cry of “slavery” to whip up public emotions against the revenue laws. It is no answer to point to modern labor leaders and their similar cry against the “slave labor law”; we expect more of an Adams. Until we do better understand the young John Adams, we cannot dismiss the scornful charge of the Loyalists that he became a rebel because of his sense of social inferiority and his wounded vanity.

It is sincerely to be hoped that Mrs. Bowen writes a supplementary volume carrying this biography through the presidential years, for which there is a wealth of material which will give her talents full play. It would be a joy to see her get her pen into some of the figures of that era.

American Antiquarian Society

Clifford K. Shipton


Although no lovers of dynasties, Americans have a peculiarly kindly feeling for distinguished families, especially if they represent a tradition of public service. The Adamses, the Du Ponts, the Roosevelts, the Lees have had their chroniclers. Pennsylvania, perhaps because she has had no landed aristocracy, as Albert Gallatin remarked, since the time of the Penns has
had few great families. The Muhlenbergs are an exception, and in Dr. Wallace's gracious tribute they are given proper historical treatment.

The patriarchal Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, father of the Lutheran Church in America, has not failed of some recognition. Two published volumes of his Journals (1942, 1945)—to be followed by a third volume—provided much material for the early chapters of this book. But other distinguished members have long wanted an adequate treatment. The sons of Henry Melchior were John Peter Gabriel, Revolutionary general; Henry Ernest, preacher, college president, and scientist; and Frederick, the legislator and first Speaker of the House of Representatives. Daughters likewise played their parts—Peggy, the wife of a distinguished theologian, J. C. Kuntze; Polly, the wife of Francis Swaine, man of affairs; Betsy, wife of Pastor Emanuel Schultze and mother of John Andrew Schultze, Governor of Pennsylvania; and Sally, wife of Matthias Richards, saddler and member of Congress. All of these people were interesting and their doings and writings provide entertaining reading. Henry Melchior and John Peter were outstanding figures in the history of their country; the others were on the periphery of national affairs and their activities are interesting marginalia.

Dr. Wallace has been well advised in making this the story of the family—not of individual members—in which the interrelations of father and children, of brothers and sisters, and the strong parental influence are always apparent. Dominated by the religious force of his mission from Halle and by the violent controversies in settling the "Confusions" of colonial congregations, Henry Melchior was the "Lords Sheep dog." No gentle missionary for souls, he was a militant churchman. Passions raged and titanic physical exertion attended his labors in the wilderness of America. His sons were destined for the ministry and were all so enrolled; but, with the same vigor and independence as their father, they sought other fields. Their correspondence and Henry Melchior's Journals outline the conflicts which these careers stirred in the family circle. And the girls and their spouses were also drawn into these arguments. The Revolution, Independence, and service for America, all seem to have been tested on the patriarch's stern rule of filial Christianity. To him government was always inferior to the church, the priestly calling was better for anyone than that of war or politics. His distinguished sons still had to apologize for their worldly interests.

Our author must needs set right his subjects' places in history. Henry Ernest was well known in his day as the "American Linnaeus" for his work in descriptive botany. Frederick's career in Congress was not without distinction, and General Peter has been denied his due as a Revolutionary general. As the pastor who threw off his robes and declared there was a time to pray and a time to fight, he has become a figure of folklore—whose story has been much embroidered in the retelling. But, we are told, he was denied his proper glory as the commander of the assault at Yorktown. Adulatory biographers of Alexander Hamilton threw General Peter in the shade as
they acclaimed the heroism of the leader of the assault. There seems no doubt of General Peter's distinguished role as a soldier in this and other engagements; but it seems hardly appropriate to berate Hamilton as "glory thirsty" ("For Alexander Hamilton Yorktown was a good publicity stunt," p. 241), when the historical injustice was due to others. Certainly, the immortality of Hamilton did not rest on Yorktown.

Family history is bound to be filled with unimportant details—of illness, finances, quarrels and other minutiae, bulking large in contemporary thought. But these must support and bring out the fullness of the portrait. Herein this book succeeds, for intimate details are well chosen to elucidate and not befog the picture. It is not all light and darkness; there are shadows, faults, and failures. The author is not uncritical, and his appraisal, while friendly, is judicious. The work is illuminating for church history, and for the story of America and Pennsylvania; and it is especially noteworthy for that warmth of feeling which makes good history good reading.

University of the State of New York  
Milton W. Hamilton


Students of Pennsylvania history will welcome this study of state political activity in the 1790's. As the Constitution of 1790 brought an end to the Revolutionary years, it also introduced a new era. Thomas Mifflin, all things to all men, sat in the governor's chair through the decade while the legislature followed in the wake of Federalist principles. But the Republicans, inheritors of the Anti-Constitutionalist traditions of the earlier age, kept up their opposition, capitalized on their opponents' mistakes, elected Thomas McKean governor in 1799, and completed their victory by capturing the legislative branch of government.

The author investigates the details of this story and presents the results so as to emphasize two general facts which he finds present through the whole period. The first general fact is that state politics was no more than a tail to the national political kite. The significant issues which aroused the people were national in their origin and implication: the Genêt episode with its upsurge of Pro-Gallic sympathy, the growth of the Democratic Societies, the Whiskey Rebellion, the attempted development of Presque Isle, the Alien and Sedition Acts, and Fries' Rebellion. Herein lies the significance of the subtitle of the book, for it was the local response to these issues which constituted the fabric of state political activity during the decade. Each issue the author explains clearly and succinctly, with one eye on the national aspects and the other on the response of the electorate.

The second general fact is the evolution of amorphous factions into political parties during the decade. In addition to the struggle over the
issues mentioned above, Republicans and Federalists also battled over procedures in nominating candidates for office and in choosing state senators and presidential electors. By the middle of the decade the former factions seemed to achieve a semblance of party organization and cohesiveness, which the press now openly recognized by applying distinctive labels to the two groups.

This volume represents a happy combination of detailed research and clear presentation. While the subject is admittedly political in scope, one might wish for more interrelation of economic, racial, and religious factors with the main political story. Maps also would emphasize more graphically the vote on crucial issues. But it is perhaps ungrateful to ask for these things when one considers what the author has achieved. For his facts he used not only the printed sources, but also generously tapped the pertinent manuscript collections. He presents his findings in admirable fashion: he keeps the details well under control; he organizes his chapters skillfully; and in turn he marshals his chapters logically into three chronological periods, each emphasizing an important turn in the story. He introduces commendable summaries and biographical sketches which help the reader to find his way through the tangled issues of the decade. The clear, incisive style of writing should make this book appeal to a wider audience than is common with monographs of this nature. May we have studies of other decades of Pennsylvania's political history as illuminating and readable as this one.

Drew University

ROBERT L. BRUNHOUSE


The career of Charles Brockden Brown, America's first professional novelist, is of particular interest to Pennsylvanians. Philadelphia born and bred, Brown studied law in that city, used its environs as the scene for a number of his novels, joined his brothers in a brief mercantile venture, edited his last periodical in Joseph Dennie's shadow, and finally died of consumption in the city of his birth. In this biography, Harry R. Warfel has given us the most satisfactory study to date of this much neglected literary figure.

Warfel, who is best known for his definitive biography of Noah Webster, has written a careful, concise account of Brown's life, including at appropriate intervals descriptions of the political, intellectual, and literary scene of the 1790's out of which Brown emerged. He has woven into his story critical comments on each of Brown's novels and has made heavy use of the author's letters and notebooks scattered through libraries in this vicinity, the most important collection of which is in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Warfel is at his best in examining Brown's style and in measuring his literary influence. His summaries of *Ormond*, *Arthur Mervyn*, and *Edgar Huntly*, Brown's major works, leave little to be desired. He indicates the novelist's indebtedness to the European Gothic school of writing and duly emphasizes his concern for establishing a truly national native literature. Warfel also draws in clear lines the close relationship that existed between William Dunlap, Elihu Hubbard Smith, and Brown, re-evaluating the influence each had upon the others. He manages to convey through his pages something of the tragedy and loneliness of the struggling, prolific, unrecognized novelist.

The work falls short, however, in assaying the significance of *Alcuin*, Brown's plea for the social, economic, and political equality of women and his contribution to the Federalist-Republican debate in the closing years of the eighteenth century. Warfel devotes a scant five pages to this work. Similarly, he gives insufficient attention to Mary Wollstonecraft's influence on Brown's early radical ideas. He passes too rapidly over Brown's editorship of the *Monthly Magazine and American Review* and the *Literary Magazine and American Register* and does not consider his contributions to the development of the American periodical. Furthermore, while Warfel devotes considerable attention to the Friendly Club in his biography, he fails to indicate fully how Brown's associations with this society influenced his shift from a radical to a rabid anti-Jeffersonian.

Minor omissions mar what is otherwise a delightful little volume. Warfel does not give an adequate picture of Brown's wife and children. He omits tracing the Philadelphian's brief career as a merchant, opening a store of his own after the partnership with his brothers was ended. His attention to the novelist's last published work, *The American Register or General Repository of History, Politics and Science*, is all too scant. Finally, the scholar will deplore the absence of footnotes and the incomplete bibliography.

In general, however, Warfel has done much to restore Charles Brockden Brown to his position as one of the foremost literary pioneers of the early nationalist period. That he has not had more attention from our literary historians is an unfortunate oversight. The English critic John Neal best described Brown's tragedy when he wrote: "He was the Godwin of America. Had he lived here—or anywhere but in America—he would have been one of the most capital story tellers, in a serious way, that ever lived."

*Columbia University*

CHARLES C. COLE, JR.


In the late nineteenth century, several historical works were published concerned with the communitarian phase of American socialism, the most
important being that by John Humphrey Noyes. For the most part these were factual accounts with little or no interpretation, and in many cases the facts were distorted or inaccurate. Since then until recently no significant work on the subject has appeared, and, as a result, Arthur Eugene Bestor's *Backwoods Utopias* can be recognized as a genuine contribution to American cultural history. It is a scholarly work, which automatically corrects errors previously committed and which presents a mass of new material. It is a historian's book for historians.

Mr. Bestor deals with the earliest religious communities in the seventeenth century through the Owenite settlements in the nineteenth, and he places his emphasis on this latter phase. To this he brings fresh material as well as new interpretations. Perhaps most valuable is his careful account of the development and changes in Robert Owen's doctrine, which, for instance, clarifies the academic problem of Owen's view on common property and also partially explains the difficulties Owen experienced once he came to America and tried to put his ideas into practice. Mr. Bestor further suggests that this failure to formulate doctrine was instrumental in the weakening of the New Harmony project.

But *Backwoods Utopias* does more than present a detailed account of Owen's life, of his visits to the United States, and of the history of New Harmony; it also attempts to solve some general historical problems in connection with the subject as a whole. For example, it has long been recognized that in the nineteenth century American educators were particularly receptive to communitarian socialism, whether it was that of Owen or Fourier. Mr. Bestor explains the reason for this through a precise analysis of the impact of the Pestalozzi School on American thinking and of the resulting theories which he believes to have been of such character that their supporters naturally considered community living as the best means for their implementation.

Moreover, Mr. Bestor attacks the important problem of why the systems of Owen and Fourier were adopted by Americans more wholeheartedly than by the citizens of any other country. He offers the explanation that this was true because of the early religious communities which, through their very existence, had established a communitarian tradition. Communitarian experiments had been widely discussed, and, as a result, Americans of the nineteenth century were accustomed to the concept. In support of this thesis, Mr. Bestor presents an impressive list of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century pamphlet literature concerned with the communities. And he suggests that this outburst of literary interest was caused by the communities, when in the late eighteenth century they discarded their predominantly religious character and became increasingly concerned with economic and social matters. However, he offers little evidence to support this suggestion. Since the thesis is interesting as well as important, it would seem preferable if the author had divided his emphasis more evenly between the early groups and the Owenites, if he had analysed more
thoroughly the theological background of the earlier associations, and had traced more carefully the changes in their character. Such treatment would have given additional weight to his thesis. Nevertheless, the fact remains that Mr. Bestor has presented an important historical theory, and it is believed his work will not only attract the attention of all scholars interested in American cultural history, but will inspire many to work in this particular field.

_Vassar College_

JOANNE L. NEEL

_John C. Calhoun: American Portrait._ By MARGARET L. COIT. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1950. ix, 593 p. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. $5.00.)


Miss Coit's biography shows imaginative insight into the personality of a remarkably reserved and complicated historical figure. Indeed, she has written the best account of Calhoun's private life that we have. Particularly discerning is her portrayal of Calhoun's relations to women—his strange attitude toward his mother-in-law, his tribulations in regard to his wife, and his beautiful companionship with his daughter, Anna Maria. The discussion of Calhoun's public career is less satisfactory than the warm, sympathetic picture of his domestic life. The most important contribution of this study toward understanding the political behavior of Calhoun is its vigorous denial of a dichotomy in his career, which historians have frequently divided into a nationalist phase and a sectionalist phase. Yet Miss Coit weakens her case by showing Calhoun's regrets in later life for some of the nationalistic acts of his earlier life.

Mr. Wiltse's study is a continuation of a previous work which describes Calhoun as a nationalist. In this second volume he essays to explain the Carolina statesman as a Nullifier. But the real interest in this volume lies in the coldly dramatic portrayal of the petty intrigues which blasted Calhoun's ambition to become President. The author has demonstrated more clearly than previous scholars how powerful was the influence of Van Buren over Jackson. He carefully traces the developing plot by which Van Buren and the President isolated Calhoun. He makes a contribution in showing that "the revelation" of Calhoun's "treachery" to Jackson in the 1818 episode was a sham. The author also has ably described internal political conditions in South Carolina during and after the nullification crisis. Mr. Wiltse's study is concerned primarily with the political aspects of Calhoun's life and it has the virtue of being based on a critical study of sources. He is biased somewhat against Jackson and the enemies of Calhoun.
Nevertheless, this close student of Calhoun has uncovered a crafty, highly prejudiced, and autocratic side of Jackson which hero worshippers have ignored.

Both authors, I believe, have taken too serious a view of the influence of constitutional dialectics on men's decisions. The great forensic debates of Calhoun, Webster, Clay and Benton seem to have the artificiality of sword play in a Dumas novel. The quiet wire-pulling Van Buren prevailed over the logical lucubrations and oratory of Calhoun. Mr. Wiltse has presented the Carolina statesman as a mighty champion opposed to totalitarian government, a defender of State rights and minority rights; Miss Coit has presented him as the thinker who recognizes federalism as the kingpin of a correct government. Neither has clearly perceived that Calhoun's greatest weakness was that he fought for the master class rather than for the underprivileged white and black men of his section. Calhoun's cherished minority was the minority of the black belt. He built up a hegemony in South Carolina, a machine that purged all dissenters just as ruthlessly as Jackson's executive machine crushed all opposition.

Mr. Wiltse writes with the apparent objectivity and the unornamented style of the scholar; Miss Coit writes at times artistically, but occasionally her style becomes overlush and highly colored. In view of the prevalent stereotype of Calhoun as "the cast iron man," the detached brain, it is understandable that she strives hard to humanize him. In Miss Coit's luminous mirror Calhoun appears as a finer intellect and a nobler character than any statesman of the period.

University of Kentucky

Clement Eaton

Captain Sam Grant. By Lloyd Lewis. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1950. viii, 512 p. Frontispiece, notes, bibliography, index. $6.00.)

Once, when urged by his enemies to remove Grant from command, Lincoln said, "I can't spare this man, he fights;" in the death of Lloyd Lewis and the loss of the volumes which were to follow Captain Sam Grant, we might paraphrase the remark to say, "We can't spare this man, he writes." As the reader finishes this book with Grant's famous "speech" on taking his first regimental command in the Civil War—"Men go to your quarters"—his admiration of the loving skill and artistry of Lewis in creating a living Grant is mingled with the tragedy that the work could not have proceeded to a triumphant conclusion.

Shiloh—Vicksburg—Wilderness, all lay ahead and Lewis would have made them not descriptions of battles, but victories of the spirit and dogged courage of Grant the man. Although never in his book is the word "psychoanalysis" used or intimated, the dual personality that was Grant's is brought to light and shown in all its extraordinary contrast. On the one hand was a man too bashful and timid to make a speech, so filled with an
inferiority complex that he doubted his capacity to command a regiment, so sensitive to suffering that he preferred to lie under a tree in a pouring rain at Shiloh rather than to stay in a building in which the wounded lay; a man who hated war and all its trappings, who hoped Congress would abolish West Point so that he would not have to graduate, and who on arriving at Washington to take command of all the armies of the United States would come so unheralded and unknown that a room clerk sent him to a back room on the fifth floor before he saw in the register, “U. S. Grant and Son, Galena, Ill.”

This was the same man who could order thousands of men to their deaths without a qualm, provided he could win a battle and shorten the war, who never knew when he was beaten and would fight on when all seemed lost, who never would turn back when he had set his hand to a military project, and heartened his army and his country with such phrases as: “I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all Summer”; “I propose to move immediately upon your works”; “Unconditional Surrender”; and the like.

It is not necessary to read the bibliography at the end of this book to sense the intensive research that made this work possible. Lloyd Lewis toiled for years in getting a true Civil War background not only of Grant but of other leaders of the “irrepressible conflict.” His *Sherman, Fighting Prophet* of some years ago was an indication of his biographical ability and insight.

Were Grant’s life to be reduced to a statistical chart the curves would be astounding to behold. First came the slow climb to the end of the Mexican War, with a good military reputation, marriage, and life in the army in time of peace. Next there was the depression curve when everything seemed gone, with drinking, poverty, failure in every job he held, dependence, the vain effort to support his wife and family, and middle age coming on with no foreseeable future. Then a meteoric rise to promotion after promotion, general of all the armies, victor at Appomattox, President of the United States; this to be followed by financial ruin for a man discredited by his countrymen, dying of cancer with the knowledge that his family would be penniless, and finally, with sublime courage, writing his *Memoirs* while death looked over his shoulder.

Here was an epic waiting the master hand of a literary artist, and until Lewis undertook the task, no one had been capable of its proper portrayal. Lives of Grant have been written by the score, but none of them, including Grant’s own *Memoirs*, have given such a picture of struggle, defeat, and triumph as does this book which will take its place with Freeman’s *Robert E. Lee* and Henderson’s *Stonewall Jackson* as source books of American military biography.

*Paoli, Pa.*

*Kent Packard*
The Confederate States of America, 1861-1865. By E. Merton Coulter.

A book from the pen of Dr. Coulter on any phase of southern history is certain to be interesting, informative, authoritative and stimulating. The volume under consideration is no exception; in fact, from many points of view, it is perhaps one of Dr. Coulter's most important productions. Its inclusion in the History of the South Series, of which the author is one of the coeditors, will gain for it deserving attention from the general reader as well as the student.

In this single-volume account of The Confederate States of America, Dr. Coulter has placed his emphasis on the social, economic, and cultural phases of the short-lived Southern Confederacy, subordinating its military history to less than one hundred pages in all, or one sixth of the text. This has made it possible to bring together in one book accounts of various activities usually only considered briefly, if at all, and more frequently scattered through a variety of monographs and articles in obscure periodicals and little-read books. No subject of importance is omitted, although the extent and variety of materials used in the writing of the book, as indicated by the footnotes and the bibliography, are prodigious. The fine arts and the press; money, bonds, and taxes; women, hospitals, and relief; prices, profits, and taxes; literary activities, education, and religion, as well as other important activities of the Confederate people and government, are each considered briefly and informatively.

Newspapers are relied on to furnish the contemporary "feel" and "reaction" to events and government personalities; letters, diaries, and memoirs are used to support the newspapers—all presented against an interpretative background of critical studies in monograph or book form. Much of this constitutes a distinct and valuable contribution to the history of the period.

The subordination of military history to the various phases of civilian activity tends to present "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out. Little or no attempt is made to relate military success or failure to the stream of life behind the lines. Thus civil life and military life tend to move along in parallel but unrelated columns, neither seeming to have any important relation to the other, whereas the independence of the one depended upon the success of the other.

Dr. Coulter's account has little of the usual "moonlight and roses" romanticism, but rather is a factual presentation of life and events during the four-year conflict. The high hopes and enthusiasm of the first months soon gave way to stark realism and to discord within the South, both among its people and its leaders. Morale came to depend upon military successes and, when these were lacking, internal discord increased, enlistments fell
off, desertions increased, speculation and swindling became widespread and the inherent weaknesses of the Confederacy made it impossible for the armies in the field to continue the unequal contest.

Dr. Coulter is of the opinion that the Confederacy collapsed because "the people did not will hard enough and long enough to win." It is doubtful, however, if the South could have won in any case. The economic and military cards were stacked against it. In any rebellion or revolution, final success is, almost without exception, a product of military victory. As the South weakened the North grew stronger both in economic and military power and in the quality and ability of its military leadership. Southern internal morale and the will to win were both of them affected by this growing superiority of the North, which in time became obvious to the most rabid "fire-eater."

In spite of the subordination of the military history of the Confederacy to an irreducible minimum, a compression that is open to serious question, Dr. Coulter yet finds space for a valuable appraisal of Jefferson Davis who "though not the ideal leader . . . [yet] showed fewer weaknesses than any other" who might have been chosen. The author, on the other hand, accepts the common appraisal of such men as Bragg and Hood without attempting to understand them.

Dr. Coulter has written an important book, one that helps to a clearer understanding of the Southern Confederacy and the reasons for its failure. No student of the period can afford to neglect it. The forty-page "Critical Essay on Authorities" is in itself a significant contribution. The book is well illustrated; there is a good railroad map and a good index.

Locust Valley, N. Y. Thomas Robson Hay


When Francis Patrick Kenrick came to Philadelphia in 1830 as Coadjutor Bishop, he assumed the responsibilities of a diocese small in numbers, vast in area, and torn with "trusteeism." At first glance, Kenrick seemed scarcely fitted for the task. Irish-born and Roman-educated, he had from the first showed a preference and a real talent for the scholarly life. So strong in fact was his leaning toward theology that, despite the duties of administering a growing and often turbulent diocese, he managed in his twenty-one years at Philadelphia to turn out several works, including two large treatises on dogmatic and moral theology long standard in American Catholic seminaries. He has been chiefly remembered for these, yet Father Nolan shows conclusively that he achieved even more as a working bishop.
The trustees of a few Philadelphia Catholic churches, seeking to establish a form of church rule insupportable under Catholic polity, had precipitated a conflict in the twenties that the bunglings of two bishops had only aggravated. Handicapped by his doting and fretful predecessor, Bishop Conwell, who retained his title but not his powers, Kenrick moved cautiously. A quiet, kindly man, patient to a fault, if that is possible in bishops, he gradually regained control of his diocese. His patience was no mask for weakness, as the trustees learned, and his dispassionate insistence that title to the churches be in his name enabled him to settle the troubles with a minimum of bitterness. In recording Kenrick's triumph, Father Nolan has also written the best and fairest discussion of "trusteeism" with which this reviewer is acquainted.

The author's treatment of the Philadelphia nativist riots of 1844 is of interest to all American historians. While he does not differ vitally from it, he corrects certain details of the standard account in Billington's *The Protestant Crusade* (e.g., the seminary was not burned; the county of Philadelphia eventually paid for St. Michael's Church, destroyed by the mob; the defenders of St. Philip's Church had the governor's permission to arm themselves). Nolan disagrees with Billington as to who touched off the riots, not so significant a difference as it seems, since both place the blame largely on the nativists and agree that the underlying causes were less religious than economic and racial. Nolan astutely contrasts Kenrick's dignified nonresistance and total lack of bitterness with the free-swinging Bishop of New York's public threat to defend his churches. No New York churches were burned, but Kenrick's stand probably did more to discredit the nativists than John Hughes' bluster.

Father Nolan has written a work that is readable, except for an occasional surfeit of detail, and thoroughly documented. Unmarred by misplaced filial piety or distortion of character to fit some episcopal stereotype, it is a permanent contribution to church history.

*State University of Iowa*  
JAMES EDMUND ROOHAN

**Pillars of Maryland.** By FRANCIS SIMS MCGRATH. (Richmond: The Dietz Press, Inc., 1950. xx, 580 p. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. $5.00.)

**Queen Anne's County, Maryland: Its early history and development. A Series of Sketches based upon Original Research.** By FREDERIC EOMORY. (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1950. xii, 629 p. Illustrations, appendices, index. $5.00.)

"The idea that all children are born equal in body and mind and change only because of environment is harbored by a number of well-meaning people, but obviously, the laws of heredity apply in the nursery as well as
in the paddock, even though environment may influence a child more than a horse.” With this stud-farm point of view, Mr. McGrath has set out to show that there was practically no one in the colonial history of Maryland who was not in some way related to him. To do this he goes back to the days of Wycliffe, sketches the events of both the Continental and English Reformations, and follows the outline of English history to Charles I. From the granting of the Maryland charter until after the American Revolution that colony is the center of the account, but Virginia and Philadelphia are also found to be important in establishing the best blood of a good pedigree.

A few quotations will suffice to show more of the point of view of the author. “Experience shows that might makes right in the laws of men as it does in the laws of nature” (p. 47). In writing about the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary claims he says: “The losses to Pennsylvania and Delaware were due largely to the wily behavior of Penn and his influence at court, but the lack of shrewdness and skill of the third and fifth Lords Baltimore contributed to the unholy result. . . . all of which suggests that justice did not prevail in colonial boundary disputes and that the strong man took what he could even though he was a Quaker.” Again, “. . . but it all happened so long ago that one year makes little difference” (p. 66). This flamboyant attitude to dates likewise appears with regard to the difficulties of Thomas Gerard and the Protestants in St. Mary’s, for all this occurred in 1642, not 1650.

Despite the point of view, Pillars of Maryland is an interesting book and one cannot escape the fact that the ruling class in colonial Maryland was a very close-knit social group in which the political quarrels of the day were apt to be family animosities carried on to the public rostrum. Anyone interested in the minutiae of colonial Maryland will find a fund of intimate detail which will enlighten and enliven his study of the period. The illustrations, largely photographs of contemporary paintings, enhance the value of the book.

Queen Anne’s County presents a different side of the picture. While Pillars of Maryland has to do primarily with a group of people within the colony, Queen Anne’s County has to do primarily with a small section of the Eastern Shore. The work is a series of sketches concerning that county—sketches of the topography, the Indian tribes, the first settlers, the roads, the schools, the churches, and such like—which appeared in the Observer, a weekly paper published in Centerville, Maryland. First published in 1886–1887, it is now published in book form to fill the gap in Maryland county histories (only three counties remain with no historical book about them).

If one is interested in a general account of Queen Anne’s County this work will supply the need, but it is not to be compared to Torrence’s Old Somerset. The general reader may welcome the lack of documentation, but the serious student of Maryland history will find little in the work which he does not already know, for it is based in large measure on Scharf’s
History of Maryland; the ecclesiastical sections are largely selections from the manuscripts of Dr. Ethan Allen. A great deal has been published concerning the men and events of Queen Anne's County since this work first appeared in the Observer, and it is to be regretted that the editors did not see fit to bring the material up to date on the basis of these researches.

Rehoboth Beach, Del. Nelson W. Rightmyer


This volume of seven essays on the early history of Dickinson College provides further evidence of the significance of the "frontier" college in the cultural life of an expanding nation, and, as well, that all learning and academic endeavor were not confined to institutions along the Atlantic seaboard. Humble and crude as its beginnings were, with problems seemingly insurmountable, Dickinson College captured the interest of men of influence, and, in turn, influenced men who were later to make their mark in many fields. These essays are devoted largely to a few of these individuals—men like Benjamin Rush, Charles Nisbet, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Roger B. Taney and James Buchanan. Two papers discuss the original College library and the College as a frontier experiment in higher education.

The book is an attractive one and constitutes a well-written addition to the cultural history of the early years of the nation. It is a fine tribute to Boyd Lee Spahr who has devoted so much of his interest to Dickinson College, particularly through his efforts in collecting and presenting to the College the materials of its history.

L. V. G.


Agriculture has played an integral part in the history of Pennsylvania, and during the period covered by this volume, the colony and state were foremost in the production of food. The scope of Mr. Fletcher's work is broad, covering all aspects of agriculture and those who practiced it—land and soil; the farmer and his equipment, his home and life; labor; transportation; crops, horticulture, and animal husbandry; financial considerations. Because of the range and integration of topics covered in this book, it becomes a social and economic history, as well as an agricultural history.
Ohio Newspapers . . . A Living Record. By Robert C. Wheeler. (Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio History Press, 1950. 257 p. Illustrations. $6.50.)

This collection of facsimile newspapers from the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and other institutions, is presented in a folio volume in offset reproduction. In order to make clear the origins of the Ohio press, the ideals and eccentricities of pioneer newsmen and the typographical style and newspaper make-up of early newspapers in the eastern colonies are included. The newspapers discussed (although not fully reproduced) date from the Publick Occurrences of 1690 to the Lancaster Eagle Gazette of 1946. Ohio's first newspaper was The Centinel of the North-Western Territory, Cincinnati, November 9, 1793.


This is an encyclopedia of quotations. The familiar and not-so-familiar words of Abraham Lincoln, both written and spoken, are here gathered for easy reference under many subject headings, alphabetically arranged. In each instance the source of the quotation is given.