
“The United States . . . until recent times has nearly always set the pace for the Old World in reform zeal,” Mr. Schlesinger tells us in the first of three urbane and penetrating essays. But in doing so he assiduously avoids falling into the narrow provincialism so common to many historians. Surveying our past, he finds two reasons why reform prospered in the New World: the absence of any heavy burden of tradition; and the temper of the people whose very presence here indicated a dissatisfaction with or a rebellion against Old World abuses or conditions. Like our English brethren, we have preferred change to revolution, and generally have succeeded in making needed adjustments to fit our institutions to new conditions before it was too late. In other words, Americans have historically been chronic objectors to things they did not like, and this concept of the constitutional right to gripe, derived from the Enlightenment, has worked in practice as a brake upon, rather than an accelerator of, precipitate, unconsidered, and badly planned change. This truth wise conservatives have always clearly understood—that limitations upon freedom of utterance, whether in speech or press, almost always defeat their own ends. Because we have maintained free discussion, “many a plausible reform has died of exposure, while others, more responsibly considered, have won their way to public acceptance.”

The most powerful drives sustaining American reform have been the Christian religion in its dissenting Protestant form, which has imparted a high ethical content and religious sanction to movements for the public welfare; and what President Truman calls “the belief in the dignity and freedom of man” so cogently set forth in the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Schlesinger traces briefly, but with a master touch, the natural history of American reform, using as an example the course of the antislavery movement from the violent advocacy of immediate action by the abolitionists (on whom a few very refreshing comments are made) to its later phase of gradualism. He also analyzes the effect of third parties devoted to reform alone, as well as the modern resort to pressure groups. Especially arresting is the characterization, not only of the reformers, but of the temper of the conservatives, some of whom believe, or rather feel, that any change, no matter how necessary or beneficial, is a dangerous thing.

This little book, which casts such a bright beam on the American scene, ends with ominous shadows creeping across the edges. Mr. Schlesinger, like so many thoughtful observers, is saddened by the hysterical (if often well-meant) actions of so many Americans, who would preserve our liberties by destroying them. In this sense, the historian performs his greatest service
by relating past experience to present imperatives. Communism cannot survive the revealing glare of free speech and a free press; democratic governments thrive upon it, and by means of constitutional reform can eliminate abuses before they become disastrous. “In our detestation of Communism we must not . . . do irreparable damage to our American heritage of freedom. Abhoring authoritarianism, we must not substitute an authoritarianism of our own, match repression with repression, and become like the thing we loathe. Nothing would please Russia’s rulers more—if indeed it is not their deliberate purpose. . . .” Nor is Mr. Schlesinger “crying wolf”: the flood of phone calls and letters of protest to one of the broadcasting systems, recently, charging it with Communist propaganda because it ran a program on the priceless Bill of Rights is one of the most disheartening episodes in the history of American freedom.

University of California, Berkeley

CARL BRIDENBAUGH


The period covered by Mr. Smith’s study is primarily that from 1696 to the American Revolution. In the introduction, however, Mr. Goebel, editor of the series in which this volume is published, reaches back into the Middle Ages for precedents for the later appeals from the plantations. And Mr. Smith in his first two chapters treats of the early development of appeal jurisdiction both in the Channel Islands and in the first American colonies. He then considers various aspects of the establishment of appellate jurisdiction, the procedure in the handling of appeals, and finally the influence of the Privy Council upon the extension of English law to the colonies and upon the validity of laws passed by the colonial assemblies. Complete success in such a tremendous undertaking would depend upon thorough research in the special field; a wide background in law, in institutional forms and practices, and in the colonial policies of the English government; skill in organizing details and in drawing conclusions; and finally, a style lucid enough to be understood by any reader who might wish to use such a work. In this instance the results are uneven.

The author’s research in his special field is amazingly extensive and detailed. His determination to test and, if necessary, to correct the results of previous research is in the scholarly tradition, although his attitude seems somewhat less than generous toward those to whose pioneer work he probably owes more than he realizes. Mr. Smith, a member of the New York Bar, is naturally most at home in the study of law itself or law in the process of formation. He is understandably less familiar with topics subsidiary to his main subject, although such topics may be of fundamental importance in the more general field of colonial control, of which appellate jurisdiction
is a part. For example, the reader may have reservations regarding the author's oversimplified statements on the committee system of the Privy Council or the functions of the Board of Trade. References to the Board of Customs as "Lords Commissioners" (pp. 139, 349, index), a comparatively unimportant error, nevertheless suggest an unfamiliarity with one of the several agencies responsible for enforcing English statutes in the colonies and thus dependent for effective administration upon the judicial system which Mr. Smith discusses.

The investigation of appeals covers a great variety of cases, both criminal and civil, arising in the colonial courts of common law, chancery, and admiralty. In the field of admiralty jurisdiction particularly, problems persist. The results of this recent study are inevitably inconclusive. The principal difficulty in arriving at definite conclusions with respect to appeals from colonial admiralty courts arises from the conflicting or concurrent appellate jurisdiction, as the case may be, of the Privy Council and the High Court of Admiralty. Mr. Smith has undertaken to study only the work of the Council in this respect. Until a thorough study is made of the High Court of Admiralty it may be unreasonable to expect that the last word can be said about appeals from colonial courts of admiralty.

Mr. Smith expected that the reader would encounter difficulties on account of legal terminology. Actually there are other obstacles to a clear comprehension of this study. For example, the author shows some tendency to follow the inconsistencies of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century usage instead of adopting for his purposes a precise vocabulary rendered intelligible by definitions. Again, certain sections place an extraordinarily heavy burden upon the reader because they are more like the raw material of research than the product of repeated refinements. In reporting cases, the author's style is heavy, characterized by many passives with the indefinite subject. As a result the reader is sometimes troubled to differentiate among the arguments of plaintiff and defendant, the opinion of the court, and the comments of the author. Nevertheless, here is much valuable information, and for the patient student, an interesting study in legal history. Appeals to the Privy Council from the American Plantations may be made to contribute to a more complete picture of the relations between England and her colonies.

Wilson College

DORA MAE CLARK


Our knowledge of the application of fundamental Quaker tenets to the development of science and the modern organization of industry has been greatly increased in recent years. Studies by Miss Isabel Grubb, P. H.
Emden, and by Dr. Raistrick himself have treated only of England; Dr. F. B. Tolles has recently done a similar service for the Quaker merchants of colonial Philadelphia. There still remain records of Quaker business houses which would reveal the connection of this religious Society with such American activities as shipping, whaling, mining and transportation.

In the new volume by Dr. Raistrick here under review, the Quaker lecturer on applied geology in Durham University carries further back the earlier conclusions of P. H. Emden in his *Quakers and Commerce* (1939). Starting with the obligatory account of early Quakerism, the development of its spiritual nature, and its social economy, he makes use of Sarah Fell’s account books of 1673–1678. These precious documents kept by the step-daughter of George Fox reveal the domestic economy of a self-contained gentleman’s estate in the primitive days of the young and bitterly persecuted Society of Friends. In the northern shires of Lancaster, Westmorland, and Cumberland there was much sheep raising, and our author traces the development of the wool trade through the processes of shearing, stapling, carding and weaving by different hands until the Industrial Age made of woolen manufacture one of the basic national industries. The connection between this development from a domestic occupation to a far-flung industry and the household visits of the early Quaker preachers is very close. The independent farmers and yeomen who formed the early backbone of the Society were visited and held together by itinerants whose chief concern was spiritual. Certain spiritual standards thus penetrated the business integrity from the bottom to the top of the later woolen dynasties of such families as the Gurneys, Hustlers, Peases, Backhouses and Weres. Capital was provided where needed by men who lived very modestly and ran no hazards. Quaker banking in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century was the natural outcome of business integrity and of scrupulous care for the funds entrusted to them.

The author is on his own ground in the thorough chapters on the ironmasters and mining companies of the eighteenth century. Here again the interlocking interests of such families as the Rawlinsons, Lloyds, Darbys and Reynolds are partially explained by the intimacy of the Quaker fellowship through frequent meetings, itinerant preachers, and religious correspondence. It is the same process in England as that described by Dr. Tolles in our local twin interests represented by “Meeting House and Counting House.” This intimacy, and the tendency to intermarry within the membership of the Society, is vividly illustrated in this volume by genealogical charts as well as by contemporary portraits of the heads of business clans.

Other chapters deal with the brass trade, the porcelain industry, improved agricultural implements, canals and railways, but do not include the great chocolate firms of our own day. The interest of Friends in the applications of experimental science is explained by their exclusion from the universities and from most corporations and civilian offices due to their refusal to take a legal oath. Thrown back upon their own resources, upon experi-
mentation, and upon the study of the wonders of Nature, they made discoveries which their humanitarian outlook applied to the benefit of mankind in medicine and in such ingenious devices as clocks and instruments of precision. The botanists and naturalists have a chapter to themselves, as is proper when such men are included as Collinson, Lettsom, Fothergill, Dalton, Allen, Dillwyn and Phillips—all Fellows of the Royal Society.

For a Quaker the interesting evidence in this book shows the incompatibility of wealth and marriage outside the Society with the simplicity and democracy of primitive Quakerism. William Penn faced the situation in his own life for fifty years. George Fox reminded his contemporary Friends that they made greater claims than other Christians and that their lives must make good these claims. But wealth came on the very heels of Quaker virtues, and the result was disastrous in depriving Quakerism of many of its most stalwart families. The exit gates were crowded both in England and in America by persons who could no longer find their social ambition gratified within the confines of the Society. The Church of England, and in Philadelphia the Episcopal church, became the beneficiaries of Quakerism.

But the end was not yet. Dr. Raistrick shows how even those who renounced their Quakerism retained their integrity in business and their passion for humanitarian relief and reform throughout the nineteenth century. And to those who cherished their old affiliation has come new inspiration in these latter days of the world’s distress with the demand for a personal religion which shall function every day in the week and apply a spiritual solution to secular affairs.

_Haverford College_  
W. W. Comfort

_Jane Mecom, The Favorite Sister of Benjamin Franklin: Her Life here first narrated from their entire surviving Correspondence._ By Carl Van Doren. (New York: The Viking Press, 1950. viii, 255 p. Illustrations, index. $4.00.)


It has been increasingly recognized that history is three dimensional, including not only political and economic movements on a broad scale, not only leaders who took part in great events, but the background of the times and the daily life of the people, with all the richness and flavor that seeming trivialities bring to the whole. Jane Mecom brings such background to the great figure of Benjamin Franklin. She was, and took pride in being, a foil against which gleamed more brightly the jewel of his success. Characteristic is her telling him in the spring of 1786 that she was “Painting the Front of
the House to make it look Decent that I may not be Ashamed when any Boddy Inquirers for Dr Franklins Sister in the Neighbourhood."

Perhaps the life of Jane Mecom can be summed up by saying that she was what Franklin might have been had he not been a genius. She was typical of the milieu from which he came, the great middle class of New England. In the eighteenth century comparatively few rose above it in wealth or station, and apparently few were far below it, except for indentured servants and slaves. Life was fairly primitive, and birth, sickness, and death played a greater part in daily living than they do in our more scientific age. The necessities of food and clothing and warmth loomed stark and real, and most Americans then played out their years in a struggle for existence, a struggle with the physical to attain and enjoy the spiritual freedoms which they sought.

All we know of Jane Mecom comes from her letters to her brother and his to her, with a few from friends and relatives to both. No contemporary deemed it of importance to chronicle her life, and now at last, over a century and a half after her death, thanks to the scholarly skill of Carl Van Doren, she emerges as a person, rather than as the next-to-last on the list of Benjamin Franklin's siblings and half-siblings. With no other person did Franklin maintain so long and so intimate a relationship. He was born six years before Jane; she died four years after he did. Of his surviving letters only one, to Sir Hans Sloane written while he was in England in 1725, is earlier; only one, to Thomas Jefferson in the last month of his life, is later. Jane Mecom was the only one who shared with him a common heritage—the Franklin recipe for crown soap was one of the little things that bound them together—and she perhaps unwittingly kept him conscious that there, but for the grace of God, went he.

Jane Mecom's life was a patchwork of tragedies and a few joys. She buried all her brothers and sisters, her husband, all her children and a great number of her grandchildren too. The shadow of a taint of insanity which touched her sons Benny and Peter hung over her. Because she could never turn them away, she was always at the mercy of improvident and incompetent kinsfolk, and she hovered on the verge of penury continually staved off and finally completely removed by Franklin. But there were happinesses too: a stay with Deborah in Philadelphia, years with the Greenes at Warwick, a few loving and capable daughters and granddaughters, and above all the letters and affection of her brother. She was philosophical in the best manner of Poor Richard himself. One can picture her a stout elderly woman, troubled with asthma, finding it difficult to walk much or far, loving children, mentally alert and surprisingly well read, a gossip but not a malicious one, and a devotee of her brother and all he did.

If little has been said of the great events described or of Franklin's career as touched upon by the letters, it is because Jane Mecom is really the heroine. However, one closely related aspect of Franklin's life is here thrown more clearly into focus. Like his sister he could not say "no" to a kinsman
even when his head must have argued against it. Benny Mecom, Peter Collas, Tuthill Hubbart, Josiah Flagg—those he helped with influence or money go on and on. In respect to these hordes of relatives, however, the two books have a common fault. The data concerning them is given in welcome detail, but nowhere is there a genealogical chart or table to enable the reader to trace at a glance the highly complicated connections, for instance, between Franklin and Rebecca Partridge. She was the daughter by a first marriage of Samuel Partridge who married Betsy Hubbart who was the daughter by a previous marriage of Elizabeth Gooch who later married John Franklin, an elder brother of Benjamin, or his double-step-grandniece. Yet this is but a minor inconvenience, for the information is there.

It is perhaps fitting that Carl Van Doren chose for what, unhappily for us, turned out to be his last contribution to scholarship, Jane Mecom, who shared with him a real feeling for the essence of the man Franklin. These two books are a joint tribute to the sturdy New England courage of Jane, the warmth of her brother’s affection for her, and Carl Van Doren’s human understanding of both. It need not be stressed that the letters, printed with exactitude and retaining all the delightful idiosyncrasies of Jane’s spelling, have been well and carefully edited, nor that the notes are both accurate and informative; these are the hallmarks of Van Doren. From this source material he refined a biography which presents the story of the letters in more readable style and with the notes forming the continuity. Scholars will prefer the former; most readers the latter. Both are worthy of their author and their subjects. “The few friends I have hear flock about me when I recve a Leter,” Jane wrote to Franklin in France; thanks to Mr. Van Doren those friends will become legion, and their curiosity can be satisfied.

One could end such a review by saying that the Franklin-Mecom correspondence is now definitely edited and can await collection with Mr. Van Doren’s other similar work. However, as this is being written, a letter from Franklin to his sister, written from London, March 2, 1767, appears for sale at the Parke-Bernet Galleries. It is a fine one, giving colorfully in parable form Franklin’s opinion of his critics. And so, others must continue to cultivate the fields Carl Van Doren tilled so well and so long.

Philadelphia

EDWIN WOLF, 2D


Professor Herbert Butterfield has earned a reputation among students of history as a writer of great keenness of perception and sound scholarship. Some of his books, such as the Origins of Modern Science, 1307-1800, the more popular Christianity and History, and even The Whig Interpretation of History, take in a great sweep of the past; others, such as The Statecraft of
Machiavelli and The Peace-tactics of Napoleon, 1806–1808, are more limited in scope, as is his latest work, George III, Lord North, and the People, 1779–1780. This study, here under review, should be of exceptional interest to all who seek light upon political developments in the British Isles at a time when the War for American Independence had reached a critical stage. It is true that the casual reader may be turned away by the massing of facts. But the serious student will only be grateful for so detailed a treatment of events in Great Britain and Ireland covering two decisive years in the history of the Old British Empire—especially as this is done in a commendable spirit of detachment and is supported by a most penetrating analysis of their significance.

Why were the years 1779–1780 of such importance as to justify the writing of a substantial book to cover them? Professor Butterfield has the answer in making clear that not only was the Lord North ministry, while in the midst of a great armed conflict that in its essence was a civil war, on the brink of utter disintegration, but the nation was living under the threat of a French-Spanish invasion with a French fleet massed in the Channel, and was also faced by an ominous crisis in Ireland that exhibited decided revolutionary tendencies. The picture painted of Lord North himself at this juncture—his exasperating periods of utter indecision and helplessness as a leader and his very real desire to be rid of his onerous public responsibilities—is not a flattering one, to say the least. At the same time his devotion to the interests of his country as he understood them, his personal loyalty to the King, and his anxiety to do what was right, according to his light, is abundantly emphasized, as is the fact that when the path of duty was not clear to him he temporized, preferring to drift rather than to steer a course that might prove to be wrong. The Cabinet Council over which he presided was made up of a number of incompatibles, with Lord High Chancellor Thurlow at one extreme and Attorney-General Wedderburn at the other, with William Eden, recently returned from his futile peace mission in America, representing one group in Parliament and Richard Rigby, a Bedford Whig, representing another, and finally, with the Earl of Sandwich, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord George Germain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The last two, while they were considered to be distinct liabilities in the ministry, became, paradoxically enough, at the height of the crisis that faced it, its most stabilizing elements. The opposition within Parliament was talented and formidable, including such men as Edmund Burke, Charles James Fox, the Earls of Shelburne and Rockingham, the Duke of Richmond, and John Dunning, to be known later as Baron Ashburton. Without Parliament, the opposition was evidenced in various ways, such as the so-called Yorkshire Movement that had as one of its chief objectives the revolutionary idea of setting up a more representative body than Parliament that would become supreme over the latter.

In Ireland the years under consideration were symbolized by unusual unrest and the spread of armed bands known as “Volunteers,” first organ-
ized with the idea of resisting the anticipated combined French-Spanish invasion of the island, but soon taken over by those opposed to the government. This is also the period of the emergence of Henry Grattan as a leader of the Irish nationalist movement that aimed at least at legislative independence of Great Britain. However, it was in the latter kingdom that violence flared up as the result of the activities of the Protestant Associations, and that was chiefly manifested in the great anti-Catholic Gordon Riots of June, 1780, resulting in the loss of many lives and the destruction of much property, especially in London. The stern measures now taken by the government to restore order did not fail to impress even the most radical of the reformers.

That the North ministry weathered the great storms of 1779 and 1780 was, as Professor Butterfield stresses, chiefly due to the leadership exercised by George III and to the strong preference of the majority of the nation for policies of legality well within the framework of the constitution. Nevertheless, Dunning's famous resolution of April 6, 1780—that "the influence of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished"—which was passed in House of Commons, was destined to become an important landmark in the slow evolution of the English constitution in the course of the nineteenth century.

It should be mentioned before closing this review that the author of this provocative book has for some time been gathering materials for what one may hope will be a full-length biography of Charles James Fox. When it appears it is sure to throw still more light upon Fox's somewhat enigmatic attitude toward the more radical reform movements of the critical years 1779-1780.

Lehigh University

Lawrence Henry Gipson

The Declaration of Independence and What It Means Today. By Edward Dumbauld. (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1950. xiv, 194 p. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. $3.00.)

This volume is a timely and thought-provoking study. Few American citizens who possess the rights of citizenship, whether native born or naturalized, exercise those rights before memorizing, at some time or another, at least the preamble of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Dumbauld writes, quoting Lyon G. Tyler: "it is plain that Jefferson's 'felicity of expression' ... possesses 'the witchery of true substance wedded to perfect form.' Only thus can one account for 'the persistent fascination which this state-paper has had, and which it still has, for the American people, or for its undiminished power over them.' " Yet this very familiarity with the magnificent phrasing of the Declaration tends to lessen the force of the
ideas embodied in it, making that document which is acclaimed as the core of our political thought something which is revered but not understood.

The title of the book may be misleading and may suggest a hasty classification with articles and books written too often to “interpret” American doctrines in order to further the bias of one political faction or another. Mr. Dumbauld is both a lawyer and a historian and his analysis of what the Declaration meant to Jefferson and to the persons for whom it was written, together with his documentation of subsequent developments of the ideas it proclaims, is singularly free from personal bias. He has admirably fulfilled the purpose he set for himself, as stated in his preface:

The present volume is thus designed for the accommodation of readers desiring to ascertain the meaning of any particular passage of the text of the Declaration. Accordingly I have sought to present relevant data in convenient form, rather than to develop a significantly original treatment of the subject. I have included in my commentary, however, any observations that seemed pertinent and interesting, whether novel or otherwise. In connection with many passages in the Declaration, I have referred to related ideas appearing elsewhere in Jefferson's writings or in sources he may have used.

The first section of the book outlines the historical background of the causes and events which led to the adoption of the Declaration. The second section outlines briefly and simply the development of the text, with copious references to Julian P. Boyd, Carl Becker, and John Hazelton who have made detailed studies of that subject. In the third and principal section (pp. 30–156) the author has compiled under each significant word or phrase a documentation of its use by Jefferson, his predecessors or contemporaries, and pertinent passages from subsequent writings on political theory. To illustrate, the analysis of the meaning of the words “the Laws of Nature” includes quotations from Jefferson's Summary View, from the natural law theories of John Locke and the eighteenth-century French philosophers, the Stoic philosophers, the jurists of the Roman republic and empire, and Aristotle; discusses the origin of the term “international law,” and the validity of natural law as opposed to established law as interpreted by the Positivists.

Following the text there are appendices which include the texts of the Dunlap broadside of the Declaration, Jefferson’s preamble to the Virginia Constitution, the English Bill of Rights, and the Virginia Bill of Rights.

The author’s style is clear and concise. His statements are carefully annotated and the footnotes and bibliography are valuable guides to the student who wishes to pursue his ideas further. Mr. Dumbauld has accomplished what he set out to do—to contribute a new and useful aid to a real understanding of the Declaration of Independence.

Princeton University Library

Mina R. Bryan

Lying in the historical shadows cast by two of the most dramatic and significant events in American history—the Revolution and the formation of the Federal government—the era of the Confederation has too long remained obscure and neglected.

With this volume we have for the first time a reasonably comprehensive account of the Confederation in all its major aspects, soundly based on an impressive range of sources. Rich in pertinent detail and at the same time positive in its evaluations, The New Nation quite demolishes many ancient misconceptions, establishes important new generalizations, and raises challenging questions for scholars of the future.

Jensen finds his central theme in the constitutional debate over the character of the central government that so engrossed and divided leading men of the time. Taking their stand on the Articles, which were largely their creation, were the "Federalists." On the opposite side, favoring a central government possessed of extensive sovereign powers, were the "Nationalists." Included in both camps were men of similar economic, geographic, and social backgrounds, but for a variety of individual reasons they differed in their attitudes on the great constitutional issue. With the exception of the closing years of the war, the Federalists were dominant in Congress. The Nationalists, however, were constantly at work, both on the state and national level, seeking fundamental changes in the nature of the union. Eventually they were to triumph, and the Federal Constitution was to replace the Articles.

While the constitutional debate raged, the new nation demonstrated remarkable vitality, both spiritually and economically. It was a time of strong cultural stirrings in literature, religion, and education. Humanitarian impulses were quickened. The minds of men were stimulated by the prospects of the future.

Although the war was followed by a severe depression, economic recovery was remarkably rapid, especially in trade and manufacturing. "There is nothing in the knowable facts to support the ancient myth of idle ships, stagnant commerce, and bankrupt merchants in the new nation" (p. 218). The exact status of the agrarian masses is more difficult to ascertain, but there is evidence that distress was localized rather than general.

Such problems as those relating to demobilized veterans, loyalists, debts, trade regulation, and money were vigorously attacked on the state level; and the achievements, objectively assessed, were far from inconsiderable. "Trade barriers" were all but nonexistent; the state acts were "strikingly effective and are a partial explanation of the rapid growth of American commerce after the Revolution" (p. 300). Even in the monetary field, where so much scorn has been heaped on the time-tested devices utilized by the states, the need for revision of traditional judgments is clearly evident.
The Confederation period is not to be regarded as a skeleton in our national closet; it will stand full scrutiny. This is the burden of Jensen’s argument. Yet the fact that his book at times assumes too much the character of an argument will properly tend to make scholars wary of accepting fully his positive conclusions. Because The New Nation is “revisionist,” it should provoke controversy and the further research that is still needed on many topics.

Rutgers University  
Richard P. McCormick


“For heaven’s sake,” John Randolph counseled, “get some worthy person to do the second edition into English.” But the “forcible, concise, perspicuous, feeble, tedious, obscure, unintelligible” Inquiry of the sage of Caroline County knew no second edition until one hundred and thirty-six years after its original publication in 1814 by Green & Cady up the Rappahannock River in neighboring Fredericksburg. Its appearance now marks the beginning of a series of “Rare Masterpieces of Philosophy and Science,” edited by Dr. Stark of the University of Edinburgh. And though the Roanoke eccentric might be disappointed that it has not been translated “into English”—for the original text is printed in full with no additional notes—it has been translated into England, having been printed at Bristol.

Although John Taylor’s involved verbosity precludes a wide audience, he has been fairly frequently quoted by writers ranging from Stephen Simpson to Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and the studies in this century by Dodd, Beard, Wright, Simms and Mudge have made the views expressed in his Inquiry well known. He was a proper Jeffersonian. His Inquiry, composed over a span of twenty years, was an “oblation” offered in response to The Federalist and to John Adams’ Defence of the Constitutions. With reference to a wide variety of writers from Aristotle and Ovid through Machiavelli and Bolingbroke to Godwin and Malthus, Taylor attacked the concentration of executive power, the “independence” of the judiciary, long official terms, the re-eligibility of the President, the irrevocability of charters, the funding laws, and the establishment of banks. He feared that a new aristocracy of paper and patronage would arise to replace the clerical hierarchy and the feudal nobility. He assailed “the pernicious and impracticable idea of equalizing property by law”; neither knowledge nor property could be equalized by law, but law could make them extremely unequal. It was, indeed, subjecting land to money by providing for the division of the former and the accumulation of the latter. Yet since wealth governed, “the majority must have wealth or lose power.” “The most immoral motives,”
he argued, “contend most loudly for the capacity of human nature to turn out of its hands a perfect moral work”; since such a result was unlikely, conventions should frequently be held to reform and amend our constitutions. Those of the states and of the Confederation had many virtues which were overlooked in forming our new federal government “because we were dazzled by the prospect of permanent union.” The people must withhold from the government the right to form a militia and the rights of freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press.

The union, he felt, was “a compact between two distinct minds, state and popular,” each represented in one branch of Congress. As a supporter, and even an instigator, of the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, he concluded that “the best restraint upon legislative acts tending to the destruction of a true republican government, consists of the mutual right of the general and state governments to examine and controvert before the publick each others’ proceedings.”

The introduction by Dr. Nichols is a straightforward essay discussing, in turn, the development of America as a laboratory of political ideas from colonization to the Constitution, the emergence of Federalist policy and of a Jeffersonian opposition, the career of John Taylor, and the origin and nature of his Inquiry. This reprinting is a service, for it makes available once again a work which, in spite of its lengthiness and its peculiarities of style, deserves continued attention.

University of Delaware

John A. Munroe


The shape of this book is undeniably curious. As a work of scholarship it is imposing—the abundant harvest of a lifetime’s study. For this, it certainly deserves the honors and praise already accorded it. On every page keen analysis is displayed, intelligent writing, and a degree of learning no other man has ever attained in the materials of this age and its diplomatic problems. On most pages there is something of wit and wisdom; throughout, the book is permeated with an exciting sense of the place of America in the world of nations—the America that was, the America that is now, these two Americas, different in most parts, in some things the same. But this book is not a biography. It is a work which takes its contours from events, not from its central personality. And in the events, the personality is somehow lost.

It is useless to say that John Quincy Adams’ life is his diplomacy—that he had two careers, one before, one after his presidency, that this is his diplomatic biography. Quincy Adams was a single personality, with a consistent, a tough, an unusually expressive philosophy, and with certainly the longest
and most extraordinary career in American public life. He felt, he thought, he believed deeply and with passion. Biography should unfold the man. Biography is two personalities—the writer and the subject. In this book, the writer is always before us, thoughtful, erudite, stimulating. But the subject is only a name on the page, a shadow, a one-dimensional blur.

True, there are flashes: the young Adams writes from London, "There is something so fascinating in the women I meet in this Country, that it is not well for me. I am obliged immediately to leave it." But the mature Adams is only a diplomatic mind, "a competent, reliable, and agreeable man to do business with," Professor Bemis calls him, and turns him into a personage, not a person. As a consequence, the unity which Adams himself should give to the whole disappears, and what remains is a detailed history of American foreign relations in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, too detailed for biography, too particular for the stuff of life to emerge. The hero is not a man; the hero is a political system, in large part fashioned by Adams, but separate from him. This book should really be called "Bemis on America's Foreign Policy." That is its importance—and its greatness.

John Quincy Adams passed his sixtieth birthday halfway through his presidency, which is about the point where Bemis leaves him in this volume. But most of these sixty years are treated briefly. Fully half the book, nearly three hundred pages, deals with the eight years during which Adams was Secretary of State. This arrangement gives Dr. Bemis occasion for a series of essays on the diplomatic problems Adams faced, tracing their beginnings from the Revolution, describing their course in Adams' period, suggesting their ultimate disposition in American history. They are the most authoritative accounts of these subjects which we have.

First, he describes the conduct of diplomacy, the organization of the department and its services, the men around the Secretary, the American offices abroad and the foreign diplomats in Washington. Then come essays on the treaty with England in 1818, the Florida question, the transcontinental treaty with Spain ("a great epocha in our history," Adams wrote), three essays on Latin American independence and the Monroe Doctrine which bring together all that has been said and a good deal of new material on this vivid moment when America faced the possibility of confronting the four corners of the world in arms. ("A successful war," Henry Clay told Adams, "creates a military influence and power, which I consider the greatest danger of war.") The presidential message of 1823 was the climax of Adams' diplomatic career, and is the climax of this volume.

Slavery, freedom of the seas, impressment, trade with British colonies, St. Lawrence navigation, fisheries, the great questions of the northern boundary east and west, and Oregon, carry Professor Bemis before, through, and beyond Adams himself. They are the big classical questions of America's diplomacy. Occasionally we are permitted to see the Secretary at work, or in conversation—spirited, terse, vigorous, no aloof detached scholar in politics but a partisan patriot of immense intellect and barely repressed angers, a
man of intense emotional force, supremely able, equal to the angers of others. Through the precise loom of diplomatic history we sometimes perceive that heady personality, who still needs his biographer. But Dr. Bemis is concerned to trace the fabric of policy. His final chapter, "The Foundations of American Foreign Policy," constitutes a primer of permanent national ideals, which are Adams' legacy to our own age—ideals he fashioned from the whole experience of a half century of free America. They are not, certainly, "the great historical secret" of our nationhood. Bemis concedes this. But they contain within them the seeds of what keeps us alive, and are the core of the conditions of freedom for which we contend, even now.

Philadelphia

J. H. Powell


Any new biography of Lewis Cass must necessarily be examined in comparison with the American Statesmen Series biography by Andrew C. McLaughlin which was published in 1899. One would expect the passage of a half century to provide some new sources of information and new points of view from which a modern author could delineate more fully or appraise more discerningly his subject. Unfortunately, Mr. Woodford has not availed himself of these opportunities. The new volume will provide for the casual reader an informal, well-balanced, and basically honest biography. But the historian will be on safer ground if he continues to depend upon McLaughlin for his information about Cass.

Woodford has used nearly the same secondary sources of information as McLaughlin did, but the latter investigated considerably more primary material than the author of the book under review. Although Woodford lists thirteen manuscript collections in his bibliography, he refers in his footnotes to only a score of individual documents. For the general background of American history, Woodford relied heavily upon Schouler and Rhodes; for diplomatic material his main source seems to be Eugene Schuyler's work of 1886; for military matters relating to the War of 1812 and the Civil War he depends upon Benson J. Lossing. His material on Calhoun is based almost exclusively on Von Holst; he uses Curtis' Webster, but not Fuess; he refers to Curtis' Buchanan, but gleans nothing worthy of note from Moore's Works of that gentleman; his Van Buren biographer is Shepard. In short, he bases his work on the same books which McLaughlin used in the 1890's. For example, in Woodford's Chapter X on Cass' mission to France, only two out of twenty-one citations refer to sources not also cited by McLaughlin in his Chapter VI on the same topic.

The author uses no recognizable scheme of documentation. Interesting quoted material which cries for identification is left without a reference, while frequently the most obvious matters are uselessly supported by
authority. For example, the reader is given a citation for Governor Letcher's outburst, upon hearing of Polk's selection in 1844: "Great God, what a nomination" (p. 226), but is left wondering about the source of dozens of meaty quotations such as those of Levi Reynolds (p. 216) or Richard Rush (p. 234). Woodford may have used some hitherto untapped sources of information on Cass, but what they are remains a mystery to the inquiring student. The reviewer feels that the author has in this respect neglected the chance to perform a real service to modern historians.

The substance of Woodford's volume is much the same as that of McLaughlin's. Both are full-length, chronological narratives. Both stress as the dominating ideas in the life of Lewis Cass his love of the new West, his hatred of Great Britain, and his conviction of America's "manifest destiny" to expand. McLaughlin left ample room for the further development of his presentation of Cass as a diplomat, but Woodford's treatment does not fill the gap. There is no evidence that the author seriously studied the official documents of Cass' negotiations while Minister to France or while Secretary of State. He does not mention Bemis' American Secretaries of State in footnotes or formal bibliography. The one area in which Woodford has added some new material is in the early period of Cass' life—the years prior to the War of 1812.

The author writes with an easy informality which, at times, verges on the colloquial. He uses the technique of swift generalization with more historionic than historical effect. His introduction of the reader to the origin of the Wilmot Proviso: "Then David Wilmot had a bright idea!" (p. 243) is a sample. Woodford's violent antipathy to Buchanan (pp. 194, 328), which McLaughlin also manifests, is presented in a manner more suited to the stage than to the study.

The reviewer was disappointed in this book not so much because of its lack of scholarly quality as because it failed to offer any significant new data to amplify or to modify the older work of McLaughlin—a work which that gentleman in his later years was accustomed to disparage as inadequate to the subject. There is still much spade work to be done on Lewis Cass.

The Pennsylvania State College

PHILIP S. KLEIN


A curious strain of American contemporary culture is its ignorance of the personalities of its own architects. Although literary figures as modest in stature as Wyld and Saltus have their own devotees, few persons today could identify the work or describe the times of Peter Banner or Elias Carter. What is true of their architectural practice is doubly true of their personal lives. Those who fail to leave vivid autobiographies or who die quietly in their beds remain to most Americans colorless draughtsmen.
Among the thirty-four architects whose practice fell into the first fifty years of the nineteenth century and to whom the Dictionary of American Biography gave recognition is William Strickland, the subject of a recent volume by Agnes Addison Gilchrist. Following the fashion already set by the studies of Towne and Davis, Robert Mills and Richard Upjohn, Mrs. Gilchrist lays heavy stress on Strickland’s works, which she has catalogued in chronological order. This appendix will no doubt be of the greatest use to future students and provides many revealing insights into the details of Strickland’s architectural practice from which he emerges as a serious, careful designer, most at home when working in the masonry of the Greek Revival.

William Strickland: Architect and Engineer still needs some further interpretation to become an understandable human being and this, it is to be hoped, Mrs. Gilchrist will soon give us. Why is it that Strickland shared with so many of his contemporaries the profession of engineer? Manjin, Latrobe, Mills, Parris, Towne, Warren, Salomon Willard, Charles A. Cummings, to name a few, all designed, like Strickland, canals, bridges, or other great works of the early industrial architecture. Unlike so many of their elders, they were not themselves masons, builders, or carpenters, nor were they like their successors trained at the École des Beaux Arts. Perhaps this goes far to explain the severity of Strickland’s Second Bank of the United States and the solidity of its interior which seems more cut out of solid rock than built up of stone and brick.

One other suggestive avenue of investigation might be the part that William Strickland’s personal life played in his growth as an architect. The model provided by Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer in Henry Hobson Richardson and His Works, Boston, 1888, demonstrates how far sympathy and a keen awareness of the architect’s own aims and his personal physical and mental limitations can go in the explanation of his work. This reader wishes that Mrs. Gilchrist had permitted herself more liberty to interpret the vast documentary record of Strickland which she has uncovered.

As it stands, William Strickland: Architect and Engineer is a pioneer monograph of accurate and detailed information familiar enough in Europe but hitherto often neglected by Americans as too tedious. Many more such compilations of fact are needed as foundations for future large-scale interpretations of early nineteenth-century architecture in America.

University of Pennsylvania

ANTHONY GARVAN


This book is concerned with a fascinating subject, the history of American literary taste during a period of two hundred and fifty years. It is a chronicle of works that once commanded the rapt attention of legions of readers.
Some of these books, like *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, have survived, others have been consigned to the attic limbo or the back shelves of secondhand bookshops, and not a few have passed almost completely from memory. Who now reads *The Gates Ajar* or *The Lamplighter*? Who of this generation, except for a few specialists in American literature, has ever heard of them? Yet these novels in their day enjoyed a popularity comparable with that of *Gone With the Wind* or *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Starting with the early Puritans, Mr. Hart finds a sober-minded reading public with a taste for the Bible and printed dissuasives from vice. The Bible has continued as a best seller, but in each age it has competed with other books that have a strong appeal to a particular generation of readers. As in England, literary taste seemed to degenerate as literacy increased and the reading public expanded. Authors such as Pope and Paine, who were widely read in the eighteenth century, gave way in a later generation to now-forgotten writers like Felicia Hemans and the tearful Mrs. Sigourney.

At one point in the nineteenth century it would almost appear that any novel could attract a large number of readers if it had an orphan for its heroine, was set in exotic surroundings, and contained a generous infusion of religious sentiment. Actually, however, there is no such simple formula for producing a best seller. In retrospect one may often explain the popularity of a particular book, Mr. Hart observes, but “what a new year or a new era will select is not to be foretold, either by what has been or what is, for like the muffled voice of history, the shape of taste is various and changing, conditioned by events and conditioning them, never the same and never to be plotted in advance.” If there is any one quality that a popular work must have it is timeliness. “In some way or another,” Mr. Hart remarks, “the popular author is always the one who expresses the people’s minds and paraphrases what they consider their private feelings.” Nevertheless, certain books seem to make their own way, creating, as it were, their own public by shaping as well as exploiting the interests of readers.

Believing that books generally reflect the period that produces them, Mr. Hart sketches the milieu of an era before describing the works most in demand in that age. This method makes *The Popular Book* much more than a mere catalogue of best sellers and serves to emphasize the importance of reading taste as a key to understanding the temper of the times. Because this study of literary taste covers such an extensive period, the author has been able merely to touch upon such important topics as the widespread dissemination of tracts in the nineteenth century, the growth of periodicals, and the influence of the cinema and radio on reading habits. Many opportunities thus remain for further, more specialized investigation in this rich field of social and intellectual history. But Mr. Hart has cut a wide swath, and the scope of his book, the excellent blending of statistics and interpretation, and its tempered and sensible conclusions should recommend it to all who are interested in American cultural history.

*College of St. Thomas*  

Maurice J. Quinlan

This well-printed and judiciously assembled compendium of the Keystone State derives much of its value from Thornton Oakley’s admirable illustrations.

The script scarcely measures up to the pictorial side of the work and there are rhetorical lapses such as “Wayne’s triumphant victory” (p. 447). Mrs. Oakley appears to have tried honestly to collate the important historical traditions of each county. Perhaps her account would be more interesting without the frequent and slavish copying of inscriptions on markers. On the other hand, these memorials are usually accurate, which cannot always be said of the author. We are told that Muhlenberg College is in Reading, that Lafayette visited Cornwall Furnace in Lebanon County in October, 1778, that Buchanan’s election, after his nomination, “was a foregone conclusion,” and that there was a Lehigh coal mine in active operation in 1791. These statements rather conflict with established ideas of Pennsylvania history. The resident of Pottstown will be no more disposed to forgive the naming of John Potts’ mansion “Penn’s Grove” than will the citizen of Reading to condone the dismissal of his town with the curt statement that it does not offer as much as the surrounding country, although its squares, illuminated after nightfall, look imposing when viewed from the summit of Mt. Penn.

The suggestion of William Penn’s “mystical rapture,” at Ricketts Glen in Luzerne County, is a little bewildering to those of us who believe that the Founder never got further into the back country then Monocacy Hill in Berks County. And as for the Orleanist prince’s poor, forlorn exiles who used to “ride and tie” because they had only one horse and who hardly knew where to find the payment for their landlord—where did they get the “lace ruffled suits of white satin” in which Mrs. Oakley has depicted them at the fetes at Azylum?

Mrs. Oakley writes with enthusiasm and understanding; no one but a true Pennsylvanian could have given such a good account of the squares in Philadelphia, the district of Scranton or the water front at Harrisburg. One feels, however, that the material has not been properly apportioned. Once west of the Alleghenies, we are galloped past so many deserving shrines that we instinctively feel that too much time was accorded to the eastern sections and that space ran out.

Whether the text of this volume has materially added to our store of accurate knowledge of our Commonwealth may be doubted. Nevertheless, the illustrations, dignified, well executed, and always appropriate, would in themselves justify the publication.

Reading, Pa. J. Bennett Nolan

In this book one can learn how Mary Hays ("Molly Pitcher") won a sergeant's commission in the battle of Monmouth, how the Fourierist phalanstery at Red Bank operated from 1844 to 1856, what the first moving pictures were that Thomas Edison produced at South Orange, the nature of the scandal over Barney's State House Bar in the 1890's, and how "The War-Time Youth Problem" was handled in New Jersey during the 1940's.

These are random samples of the encyclopedic mass of information packed into this Outline History. The volume is arranged in three unequal sections: Part One covers "The Colonial Period" (1524-1790) in fifty pages; Part Two deals with "The Middle Years" (1790-1860) in seventy pages; and Part Three, entitled "Modern Trends," devotes about two hundred forty pages (or twice as much space as is given to both the earlier periods put together) to the last ninety years. This emphasis on recent history may be illustrated by a glance at the list of activities of the State Board of Public Utility Commissioners from 1911, extending over eight pages. In the course of this dull recital we are treated (heaven help us!) to an enumeration of the twenty-one items of standardized equipment required on all buses operating in New Jersey ("Window guards . . . Partition behind driver . . . Grab handles for standees," etc., etc.). But back in 1791 when Alexander Hamilton's Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures founded Paterson, the event is merely mentioned and nothing is said of the extraordinary—and prophetic—corporate setup of this dream community of our earliest industrial capitalists.

As history, then, this volume suffers from attempting to be an exhaustive civics manual for New Jersey citizens. As reading matter it suffers from the outline form in which it was deliberately cast, with its arbitrary arrangement of data under I, A, 1, etc., and its indigestible telegraphic prose. (From p. 93: "Somers in charge of expedition aboard the 'Intrepid'; valiant deed; Somers killed during battle.") In a skillfully compressed and pleasantly candid narrative and analysis of New Jersey's political history from 1860 to 1950, Mr. James E. Downes succeeds to some extent in overcoming this handicap. But the style of the book is on the whole repellent.

If the faults mentioned above are inherent in the purpose and plan of the book, the inadequacies of the bibliographical section are not. The "Bibliography," though extensive, is really a list of "works cited," alphabetically arranged in the familiar but arbitrary categories of Manuscripts, Books, Periodicals, and Reports (by official bodies). This method of classification makes the list difficult to use as a key to the short titles appearing in the text, and the arrangement as a whole is the least useful that can be imagined for independent reference. The Outline History of New Jersey
And the War Came. The North and the Secession Crisis, 1860-1861. By Kenneth M. Stamp. (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1950. xii, 331 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. $4.50.)

A considerable amount of intelligently critical attention has been focused, in recent years, on the movement from secession to war following the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency in November, 1860.

David M. Potter in *Lincoln and His Party in the Secession Crisis* (1942) presents the view that Lincoln was not the master of his party's policy and that war followed as "the result of Republican misconceptions." Kenneth M. Stamp, going deeper into the contemporary record and giving closer attention to the views which influenced policy, believes that the three forces of partyism, economics, and idealism created and directed the northern answer and forced Lincoln to a policy of southern coercion rather than appeasement. The Union must be saved, if the party was to survive (p. 206); business considerations and objectives created the economic forces and gave them direction; the idealism of "a great crusade," bent on the destruction of slavery and the creation of a unified nation, urged Lincoln to coercion and force, if necessary, eschewing appeasement in any form or degree.

The chapter, "Exercises in Constitutional Logic," is based upon a judicious study of those aspects of Lincoln's problem. By the spring of 1861, northerners generally had rationalized war as inevitable and were prepared to accept any government measures, whether called "enforcement of the laws" or "coercion," as proper and necessary. The author comments that "loaded words were dangerous weapons," whether used speculatively or in earnest.

Dr. Stamp awards more credit to Buchanan than is usually the case. He states that Buchanan's "caution and literal constitutionalism were often confused with personal weakness and moral cowardice. Actually he was guilty of neither" (p. 47). Buchanan was essentially a party man, never brilliant and always content to achieve by diplomacy rather than by executive leadership and action. In addition, he knew that anything he did might
be undone by his successor. Lincoln, on his part, had four months in which to evolve a policy before having to assume the responsibility of execution. Some of his supporters thought him both a "fool" and a "rascal" (p. 266-267), while others were willing to accuse him of a Machiavellian policy evolved to save his party from disintegration. The author believes that Lincoln "thought only in terms of what he understood to be the deep and enduring interests of the whole country." If his policy would save a disintegrating party, it was all to the good, but such an accomplishment was a by-product. It was "Lincoln's good fortune that personal, partisan and national interests could be served with such favorable coincidence as they were by his Sumter decision" (p. 286). Lincoln did not seek war, but if war came, he was prepared to meet the challenge.

This work is a substantial and important contribution to the history of this period. Sentiment in the border states and in wavering southern states is not considered in its effect on Lincoln's decision. Perhaps Dr. Stamp may next give this phase of Lincoln's preinaugural policy his attention.

This book had a number of pertinent illustrations, a good bibliography, and a useful index. Its format and make-up permit easy use.

*Locust Valley, N. Y.*

**Thomas Robson Hay**

**Swaine and Drage. A Sequel to Map Maker & Indian Traders.** By Howard N. Eavenson. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1950. 23 p.)

Mr. Eavenson in his *Map Maker & Indian Traders* made a convincing case that Charles Swaine wrote *The Great Probability of a Northwest Passage* and *The Voyage of the California*. Within less than a month of the publication of his book, Mr. Eavenson was offered by an English dealer a seven-page manuscript letter of Theodorus Swaine Drage and purchased this item at the ensuing auction. According to Drage's letter, which is to the Earl of Hillsborough, the authorship of the two earlier works is claimed by Drage himself.

This claim, as Mr. Eavenson points out, is most doubtful, for Drage's letter appears to be an extraordinary compound of false statements in which he definitely claims for himself actions known to have been performed by Swaine. The net result poses some rather intriguing questions and tends to show Drage's character in an unfavorable light.

The pamphlet which Mr. Eavenson has put out as a sequel to his book is of the same page size as the former and has all the characteristics which went to make his *Map Maker & Indian Traders* an unusually attractive volume. He has printed the Drage letter in parallel columns with the known facts, so that one can make an easier evaluation of Drage's statements. We are indebted to Mr. Eavenson for his continued, productive interest in the history of those strange and somewhat obscure men, Swaine and Drage.

*Philadelphia*

**Nicholas B. Wainwright**

This handsomely printed little volume compiled by a group of his friends was a surprise publication marking the tenth anniversary of Julian P. Boyd's service as Librarian of Princeton University. Listing the published writings of Mr. Boyd, who from 1935 to 1940 was Librarian of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, this compilation evidences his influence in the field of scholarship. A prefatory note by Carl Van Doren (written shortly before his death) adds a personal touch to the book and illuminates the vital friendship between Mr. Boyd and the great Franklin scholar. A limited number of copies of this bibliographical tribute are available, without charge, at the Princeton University Press.


It is fitting that its centenary should bring forth the dramatic and ably told story of the first and now only woman's medical college in America—that of Philadelphia. Dr. Alsop has traced the history of the college largely in terms of the men and women—many of them Quakers—whose foresight made it possible and whose devotion and generosity sustained it in the face of social and economic pressures. From humble and seeming discouraging beginnings, the school is now a modern college and hospital, and still echoes the injunction which Dr. Joseph Longshore gave the first graduating class in 1851—"Forget you are women. . . . Remember you are physicians." The story of the college is a valiant one; its history a tribute.

Virginia Gazette Index, 1736-1780. By Lester J. Cappon and Stella F. Duff. Two volumes. (Williamsburg, Va.: The Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1950. x, 1314 p. $60.00.)

This splendid Index covers the three papers known as the Virginia Gazette, the second oldest newspaper in the southern colonies, 1736-1780. Because, as the compilers point out, the Virginia Gazette contains little local news, its research value lies in general colonial history. The coverage of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia events and personalities, for example, is extensive. The Index is a reference volume which brings to the historian much "lost" material, thereby making his research vastly easier and more effective. Subject headings in considerable detail are listed, as well as personal and place names. The volumes are lithoprinted in three columns. A microfilm file of the Virginia Gazette is also available, and may be purchased with or without the Index.

This book is an adventure story in a specialized phase of American archaeology. It deals with the military accouterments — buttons, belt plates, badges — of early American wars, which were excavated on camp sites in New York and along the Canadian border. Half the volume is devoted to the explorations on specific sites; half to a description of the objects unearthed. Included is one rather unexpected chapter on the children's toys found on the locations of British encampments. The project was an outgrowth of a committee of The New-York Historical Society formed in 1918, and the book comprises articles and lectures written or delivered during the years of search and research.

Canadian Diaries and Autobiographies. Compiled by William Matthews. (Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif.: University of California Press, 1950. [viii], 136 p. Index. $2.50.)

William Matthews has published a companion volume to his earlier compilations of American and British diaries. His current listing of Canadian diaries and autobiographies, printed in offset, follows much the same format as the others: documents, published and unpublished, are listed alphabetically by the author's name; entries give the diary time span, biographical data on the writer, an evaluation of the content or historical interest, and a bibliographical record. The book has great reference value, and while admittedly and understandably not complete, offers a broad picture of life in Canada and a panorama of her history and her people.


Ferdinand-Marie Bayard is one of many French memoirists who published their observations and impressions of the late eighteenth-century American scene. This travel commentary was first printed in 1797; a second edition followed a year later. Mr. McCary has used both in making his translation. The journal is sharply written at times, interspersed with typical philosophical ramblings, and more critical than many such accounts. Among other points of interest, Bayard's Travels includes some not too detailed comments of Philadelphia, reveals the author's natural antip-
athy toward England, is quite critical of several religious groups, discusses the American Indian so fascinating to foreign visitors, and repeats the stories of gossip and scandal about Washington and the Society of the Cincinnati.

The Editor wishes to thank readers of this Magazine for their generous response to the request for back issues which appeared in the January number. Our depleted supply has largely been replenished, but we are still in need of the following issues: April, 1929; April, 1930; July, 1933; and all issues for 1934, especially the April issue. We should be most grateful for assistance in securing these particular issues.