
Mr. Schachner has written a curious book. It is curiously ambitious and it falls curiously short of what it attempts. It has been highly praised by reviewers not too familiar with the subject.

Mr. Schachner tells us, modestly, that he has "gone to every known source" on Jefferson "and some which have hitherto been unknown." He continues, with equal modesty, to observe that he has "sought to make this book as readable as possible, and as interesting to the general reader as to the scholar and student." This is an ideal obviously impossible of realization. The general reader who will consume with delight a biography of 1,070 pages, complete with notes, on any subject is yet to be found. As for the scholar and student, they are baffled. There seems to be a lack of understanding on the part of the author as to what are the scholar's requirements and his demands. Certainly no one in this category could possibly want "the story of Jefferson's life and career to be wrapped up in the unintelligible jargon of the schools and limited to the esoteric few," as Mr. Schachner suggests. He has, however, a right to demand certain fundamentals: dignity of expression, a proper regard for the work of those who have preceded him in the field, and, certainly, accuracy. These, alas, can hardly be said to be the strong points of the work under discussion.

Mr. Schachner writes somewhat ponderously. He does not employ the dramatic approach of the popular journalist, such as might intrigue the general reader upon whom he confesses he has an eye. His forte lies rather in lack of elegance—indeed, inelegancies begin in the foreword and are scattered with a liberal hand throughout the book. Thus on page 285 we are informed that "General Sullivan had a one-track mind. His friend, Jefferson, wanted a moose and, by God, he would get him one, no matter what the difficulty!" On page 395 we are told that "far more urgent business was on tap." A few pages further (413) "the rapid dissipation of the ominous clouds spiked all his schemes," and on page 445 it is stated that "in the midst of the hullabaloos over Freneau, Hamilton issued another report." At another point (579) "the fat was on the fire," whereas a few pages later (765) "the pot boiled over with a rehash of every charge against Jefferson."

The author's nebulous acquaintance with various persons and places closely associated with Jefferson frequently comes to light. There is no
excuse for spelling the well-known retreat of the celebrated Madame d'Houdetot, Saunois, or du Simitière, the distinguished artist, Cimitiere (minus accent), neither is there for calling Rosewell, the home of his great friend, John Page, Rosedale, or even of speaking of Jefferson's early school "in the parish of Fredericksville at Hanover." Quite as unhappy is the author's tendency to perpetuate such myths as that Jefferson's "bed [was] worked by pullies so that it could be hoisted into the ceiling during the day and let down into position at night," or to speak of "the breakfast room," an institution that did not exist at that period. It may seem petty to point out such errors which, unfortunately, may be multiplied many times, yet one does not expect them in a book of such ambitious claims.

Mr. Schachner leans heavily, at times, on the work of his predecessors. That, now and again, he embodies a phrase coined by one of them is doubtless inevitable in a hasty work. He likewise shares the amiable characteristic of another current biographer of giving references to manuscript material first having been brought to bear and already published by previous writers on the subject—a practice not generally considered scholarship according to Hoyle.

Yet the marks are not all against Mr. Schachner. In certain minor details, such as the use of the unpublished Private Memoir of Jefferson's one-time secretary, William Burwell, and the account of the final collapse of the relationship between Jefferson and Thomas Mann Randolph, the son-in-law who had seemed so promising and who had, indeed, had a distinguished career, he has added his bit. His interpretation of the life and work of Jefferson cannot, however, be said to be new or distinguished.

Philadelphia

Marie Kimball


Anyone who has read the story of Jefferson's life must have been impressed by the extraordinary range of his interests. It is, therefore, important to have these interests isolated and investigated by a competent scholar so that the reader may learn what degree of efficiency was achieved in any one of them. The author of The Declaration of Independence never claimed to be a complete scientist. He described himself as a "zealous amateur," and that term most suitably describes his scientific activities; he was a true lover of science. Living at a time when the sum of scientific knowledge was not beyond the compass of an active mind, we find his insatiable hunger for knowledge leading him into almost every branch of the natural sciences. To the modern mind, accustomed to specialization, the subjects in which he was interested were staggering in their variety, roving over agriculture, archaeology, mechanics, meteorology, botany, weights
and measures, optics, and steam engines. His diaries and letters are a gold mine of information about the scientific interests of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Jefferson's attitude was never that of a dilettante. Its most salient characteristic, like that of Franklin, was purposeful application, and he was ever seeking to turn science to useful social ends. He was not content to read or hear about something new; he had to see it for himself, and his diaries are full of notations of payment for admission to view curiosities and novelties. He continually fidgeted with gadgets and often to such good effect that he was able to produce some decided improvements. His most important achievement in the field of invention was the moldboard for a plow, in which he employed a flow of line that foreshadows the application of streamlining. In respect to his improvisation and invention, the reader of this book will surely be unable to refrain from speculating upon the possible outcome had Jefferson withdrawn from public affairs in order to devote himself to science. However, it will be difficult to deny that he gave more to life than he could have given to science under any circumstance.

Even in his scientific studies, Jefferson was above all a patriot, as the author shows in his two chapters devoted to the controversy between Jefferson and Comte de Buffon, considered the leading naturalist of his time. Buffon had issued some disparaging comments upon the climate and the inhabitants of America, to which Jefferson replied with good effect in his Notes on Virginia.

No great man, be he statesman, poet, or scientist, can be judged unless he is viewed as a living figure against the background of his time. Mr. Martin provides an adequate contemporary background for Jefferson which reflects creditably upon the author's scholarship as a scientist and a historian. He might have made more of Jefferson's foresight in perceiving the advantages to American industry of the adoption of interchangeable parts, which Jefferson described and recommended to the American government. The author does a service to his subject in pointing out what few of Jefferson's contemporaries recognized, that his greatness consisted in his insistence upon freedom of the scientific mind, his emphasis upon objectivity and the assembly of sufficient data before arriving at a decision, and his attempts to promote and diffuse scientific research. This aspect of Jefferson's work calls for emphasis, for his conclusions not infrequently confuted general belief. Mr. Martin illustrates this in his able account of the virulent attacks made upon Jefferson during his presidential campaign for no other reason than that he was a scientist, which was construed to mean he was mocking religion and undermining the Bible.

Mr. Martin's book admirably fills a gap in our knowledge of a great American. His book is so good that it surely deserved a more adequate index.

The Franklin Institute

Thomas Coulson
Zachary Taylor, Soldier in the White House. By Holman Hamilton. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1951. 496 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. $6.00.)

Since this is another presidential campaign year in which military men are figuring prominently, it is enlightening to read Holman Hamilton's well-written second volume on Zachary Taylor. This is doubly true since the author casts fresh light on Taylor in the White House, portraying him as a Unionist of strength and character, as a statesman who earned and deserved the respect and admiration of the people. Some students of military history might contend that Taylor was a better president than he was a tactician or strategist, and that the author's second volume is far superior to his first, but regardless of these points it is reassuring to be informed so convincingly that the American people in 1848 voted for and elected not a hero fabricated by his communiqués and by the expanding American press, but a man capable of measuring up to the serious crisis then before the country.

Taylor, we are told with an abundance of factual support, was the foil of no man or faction, Thurlow Weed and William Henry Seward included. Rather, the general from the outset of his presidential candidacy and later despite his on the whole weak cabinet, decided not to compromise with southerners who threatened disunion, but to follow his own nationalistic plan in solving the problem of California and the border dispute between New Mexico and Texas. He wanted both California and New Mexico admitted to statehood, with or without slavery as their inhabitants might decide, in sequence and rapidly, after which the border trouble could be settled by the Supreme Court.

The commonly accepted interpretation has been that had Taylor not died in the midst of this crisis and had the patronage of the new president, Millard K. Fillmore, not been thrown behind the Compromise so eloquently voiced by Henry Clay and so skillfully engineered through Congress by Stephen Arnold Douglas, the Civil War would probably have come in 1850 and the South might have gained her independence. Mr. Hamilton is too good a historian to embark on a flight of speculative fancy on this point, particularly as there is considerable evidence in the opposite direction. Taylor's determination was so great and his following in the South so widespread and strong, it may well have been that his plan, if implemented, would have prevented altogether the eruption of 1860-1861.

To sustain this view, Mr. Hamilton closes his excellent biography of Taylor with several well-chosen quotations. The two most notable among these are from the British Minister to the United States, Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, and from Abraham Lincoln. Taylor, observed the astute Bulwer, "was chosen by the People not because he belonged to a party. . . . His intentions were always good; his word could always be relied upon; his manners were downright, simple, straightforward. His name was popular
throughout the Union, and he died almost universally respected and lamented."

"I fear the one great question of the day," testified a foreboding Lincoln on the occasion of Taylor's death, "is not now so likely to be partially acquiesced in by the different sections of the Union, as it would have been, could Gen. Taylor have been spared to us."

Princeton University JETER A. ISELY

*A Philadelphia Story. The Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire.* By NICHOLAS B. WAINWRIGHT. (Philadelphia: The Contributionship [212 South Fourth Street], 1952. [xiv], 260 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

There used to be a story around town that at the board meetings of one of the ancient insurance companies of the Quaker City nothing was served but oysters and "old Philadelphia ginger snaps." Whether it was the Contributionship or the Green Tree matters not; each was assumed to be old enough to have developed a corporate personality and a proper streak of queerness. Although Mr. Wainwright clearly demonstrates that the rare Madeira and Virginia hams bought for the spreads of the Contributionship suggested more of a Lucullan feast than the two chaste items mentioned above, the fact is that age and stability have always characterized the long life of this early fire insurance company. To this the colonial city contributed measurably between the founding in 1752 and the outbreak of the Revolution by having no serious fires, thereby sparing the infant undertaking the fate of the earliest American fire insurance company, The Friendly Society, which was wiped out by Charleston's great fire of 1740. Thus blessed, the Contributionship was able to ride out the War for Independence and the inflation of the Confederation period.

Founded by Benjamin Franklin and conducted on basic principles laid down by him, the Contributionship remained long in Quaker hands. It has always been conservative; change even for the better has seemed dangerous. It would not insure any houses fronted by trees because Nature thus obstructed the feeble streams of hand-pumped engines from reaching the edifice. Nevertheless some Philadelphians cherished William Penn's dream of a green country town, and in 1784 formed the Mutual Assurance Company to write policies for houses so "encumbered," defiantly adopting the "Green Tree" as a device for their fire seal. Conservatism being the Contributionship's watchword, its directors seldom bowed to progress. Until 1810 they continued to refuse to issue policies for houses with trees (or without additional premiums until 1823) or to issue policies in perpetuity. It actually took two wars with England to convince the treasurer in 1815 that he should commence calculating premiums and payments in dollars instead of pounds, shillings, and pence.
Under the aegis of Horace Binney, Quaker management unobtrusively gave way, like so many other features of the city’s life, to Episcopalian gentility and control, and new life was infused into the organization. Slowly, but eventually, the directors changed with the times, but never did they go so far as to solicit new business. After 1852 the persistent refrain of the Contributionship, however, assumes an elegiac strain. Some unkind wag even asserted that it would insure only pig iron, and that only when below high-water mark. Yet the Contributionship did so well financially that its surplus attracted a greedy group of policyholders who wanted dividends and in 1894 organized “The Raid.” It was a dramatic struggle for control while it lasted, but respectability and conservatism triumphed and the company moved into the twentieth century stronger than ever. For over a decade Dr. George Strawbridge badgered the directors at meetings, but under the management of the Smiths (father, son, and grandson), the Contributionship pursued its very deliberate course, weathering two world conflicts and a severe depression, becoming more and more conservative each year.

Mr. Wainwright tells the story of this interesting undertaking soberly, but often with a touch of sly humor he stops to chronicle the vagaries of this two-hundred-year-old Philadelphia institution which “cannot quite forget its eighteenth-century origins.” To which we say, Amen. Unfortunately depriving us of an index he yet makes up for the deficiency with some beautiful colored Kennedy prints. This volume is a fitting tribute to one of America’s oldest businesses—or is it a business?—one so old that an employee whispers with awe: “It is indestructible.”

University of California, Berkeley

Carl Bridenbaugh


There is nothing which presents more of a problem to a reviewer than a Festschrift, for it contains articles of varying importance by different authors connected only by the personality and interests of the man whom the volume honors. In this case the man is Dr. Wroth, the distinguished librarian of The John Carter Brown Library, and the interest, as the books under his care, Americana before 1801.

It does not belittle the work of the contributing scholars to say that the best part of the book is the introduction by Wilmarth S. Lewis. With a grace inherited by association from the eighteenth century Mr. Lewis has painted a pen portrait of the ideal librarian of a special collection. That this portrait turns out to be one of Dr. Wroth will surprise no one, for the world of books has been in general agreement that the ideal is fleshed in him. Yet, we are grateful for the definition of that ideal in print.

Space prevents a critique of each of the twenty-five essays in the volume, and so personal interest must make me selective. It is significant that two
articles, one by James G. McManaway on the several episcopal appeals on behalf of Whitbourne's Newfoundland colony, and the other by John Cook Wyllie on the first Maryland charter, bring to the field of Americana the Gregian approach which has proved itself in the field of English literature. Wyllie ingeniously shows that the so-called first printing of the charter of "1632" is actually the third which should be dated about 1685. This is first-class analytical bibliography, and makes one wonder what may happen in the field if others subject equally important items to the same objective examination.

Cataloguers will be grateful to E. P. Goldschmidt and Messrs. Stevens and Tree for their respective contributions to the "not in Harrisse" books and the yet uncharted ocean of maps. Even though the items are but a few of many, yet they point out the need for two new bibliographical works. In much the same way Clarence S. Brigham's informative list of American Bookseller's Catalogues, 1734-1800, limited frankly to the holdings of the American Antiquarian Society, whets one's appetite for a definitive work on the subject.

Since we still lack a full-scale imprints inventory of New York (and alas, of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, too), R. W. G. Vail's upstate imprints of the two patriot printers, Holt and Loudon, is valuable bibliographically as a subsection of that project, and historically as evidence of the absolute necessity of a press to a government in exile. As a suggested form for the publication of early copyright records and as a contribution to the history of American publishing, Frederick R. Goff's article on the first decade of the Federal Act for Copyright is interesting, although one wonders what such a listing may add to knowledge that the completion of the large state imprints inventories may not do better. Marie Tremaine, in her survey of eighteenth-century Canadian printing, is a worthy herald of her own such work nearing completion.

In addition to the tributes to Dr. Wroth, the bibliographer, are fittingly others to Dr. Wroth, the historian. Beginning with Leicester Bradner's account of the development—surprisingly late—of the Columbus story in sixteenth-century poetry, they range in time to Richard S. Hill's thorough tracing of the use in America before 1820 of the English drinking-song melody which was attached to Key's words of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Curt F. Bühler's discovery in the Morgan Library of the hitherto undescribed, fictitious voyage of Cattanio, Lloyd A. Brown's history of the charting of the Gulf Stream, Gerald D. McDonald's research into William Bradford, bookseller, and his Long Island agent, these and other articles surely do deserve fuller and more detailed comment, but even a mere listing of those still unnamed would take me beyond my prescribed limits.

However, I cannot help bringing to the attention of one who may pick up the volume two other features. One is the bill of Henry Stevens for books sold to John Carter Brown in 1846, appended to the survey of Hispanic Americana in that library by Henry R. Wagner, the dean of the field. This
is the record of the beginning of a library more than a hundred years ago, the kind of record rarely found in print. What books, what prices, what opportunities! A pendant to the Stevens-Brown bill is the bibliography of the works of Lawrence C. Wroth. The former provided the raw material; Dr. Wroth’s writings are what a craftsman fashions from such material. This is really the moral of a volume not issued for didactic purposes. A rare-book library, under the proper care, can be a treasure house for the world of scholarship. The resources are far from exhausted; much history can still be rewritten.

Philadelphia

Edwin Wolf, 2nd

_Early American Gunsmiths, 1650–1850._ By Henry J. Kauffman. (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Stackpole Company, 1952. xx, 94 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

This is a list, sparsely annotated, of 776 gunsmiths active in the United States during the two centuries 1650–1850. The author has taken meticulous care, with the assistance of several co-operators, to have all of the names mentioned properly authenticated as gunsmiths by documentary evidence as found in assessment lists, church and courthouse records, and elsewhere.

In this character of authenticity of contents the list is a distinct improvement on similar listings of early gunsmiths by Charles Winthrop Sawyer (1910), J. G. W. Dillin (1924), David F. Magee (1926) and others, in which the names are too frequently entered on the basis of local tradition. Mr. Kauffman’s book stands out today as the most complete and thoroughly authenticated list of the gunsmiths of the flintlock and percussion gun periods ever published. As such it will be useful to the many collectors of ancient firearms and to genealogists and historians.

Unfortunately, even this list is not complete. How could it be, with many of the ancient gunsmiths not marking their pieces and with many of their names unrecorded? Nor is this considerable lack of completeness due entirely to names which could not be found. The author missed many by failing to extend his research.

Typical among many not on the Kauffman list are N. Beyer and H. Carlile, whose definitely marked guns are in many collections; several Henry’s, descendants of William Henry of Lancaster, who were noted gunsmiths at Boulton, Pennsylvania, in the early nineteenth century; John Burt and Henry Hawkins, well authenticated as gunsmiths in Donegal Township, Lancaster County, a century earlier; and Martin Meylin (1670–1749), whose gunshop, built in 1719 and still standing in West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, is recognized today as the birthplace of the Pennsylvania or so-called Kentucky rifle. With a few exceptions, the names of the gunsmiths are on the Kauffman list without their life spans. Most show only one date, like Samuel Coutty, Philadelphia, 1783. While life spans are sometimes difficult to find, they always are valuable in a historical record.
And there is no indication in the list of relative bulks of trade. Who, of the average reader, is to know whether the gunsmith mentioned made only a few hundred pieces, or, like William Henry, Henry E. Leman, Samuel Colt or George W. Tryon, made them by the tens of thousands? A few words like “Extensive producer” or “Conducted a large factory with many workmen” would have helped here. Nor were all gunsmiths riflemakers. Here, too, the reader is left in doubt on an important point.

The sixty-nine illustrations in the book notably enhance its value. These photographs are chiefly of guns in the great collections of Joe Kindig, Jr., of York, Pennsylvania, and Herman P. Dean of Huntington, West Virginia, the two widely recognized authorities on ancient firearms. Also among the illustrations—indicative of the large extent of ancient firearm collecting—are guns from sixteen other collections. These pictures well illustrate differences in patterns of stock, patchbox, trigger guard, lock and lockplate.

With all its incompleteness and lack of detail the Kaufman list of gunsmiths is the best we have on the subject thus far.

Lancaster, Pa.

HERBERT H. BECK


As originally planned, this book was to be a history of Franklin and Marshall College from 1900 to 1945. Happily, the plan was reconsidered and so changed that the book was written to cover, with varying emphasis, the history of the college from its beginning to the “high tide” of its enrollment in recent years. Although much the greater part of the book deals with the period since 1900, the first seven chapters provide at least the minimum background that is needed to make meaningful the history of Franklin and Marshall College in the twentieth century.

Despite some assertions implying the contrary, Franklin and Marshall College is not, strictly speaking, a “colonial college.” Like Dickinson College, it belongs to the first decade of our independence. Thus it is colonial only in the sense that the spirit of colonialism had not entirely disappeared from our country when it was founded. Nevertheless, Franklin and Marshall, like Dickinson, is old enough to have a distinguished history as a small church-related college that was dedicated to the task of educating liberally young men for service to both church and state. Many persons who are not of the Franklin and Marshall “family” will rejoice to learn from this book that those who now direct the affairs of Franklin and Marshall College are fully committed to the principle of liberal education. In an era of intense specialization, when Americans are more and more becoming concerned with the making of gadgets and with the operation of machines, it is well for us to have institutions that put young men in the way of dis-
covering the truth that will make them free. Upon the leadership of men so educated the future of our country largely depends.

To readers who are not of the Franklin and Marshall circle the earlier chapters of this book will no doubt be more interesting than the later chapters. It is natural that this should be so. The first century of the history of Franklin and Marshall was a time of struggle, a heroic era in which were laid the foundations for the noticeable growth of this college in the twentieth century: growth of physical plant, growth of curriculum, growth of faculty, and, in recent years, remarkable growth of student body. Nor does interest in the first century of this college end here. With its early history are associated names that are nationally famous. Franklin College, established in Lancaster in 1787, was named for the most renowned colonial American; and one of its founders, Benjamin Rush, was a distinguished physician of the Revolutionary generation. Marshall College, founded in Mercersburg in 1836 and united with Franklin College in 1853, was named for one of America’s most illustrious jurists. The first president of the board of trustees of the “united college,” James Buchanan, was President of the United States from 1857 to 1861. Moreover, to this list of notable names may be added both the names of able scholars who taught at Franklin and Marshall and the names of prominent alumni who have deserved well of their alma mater, of the German Reformed Church, and of their country.

This book is well printed and profusely illustrated. Quite properly, it contains a great deal of biographical material, particularly for the period since 1900. It is, in a sense, an elaborated Who’s Who of Franklin and Marshall College for the last half-century. The author, Dr. H. M. J. Klein, a member of the class of 1893 and an emeritus professor of history in Franklin and Marshall College, has been a part of much of the history that he has set down in this book. Naturally, he wrote as a loyal son of Franklin and Marshall, but in so doing he did not forget his duty as a historian to be diligent in research, unbiased in the selection of facts, and judicious in the pronouncement of judgments. The writing of this book when he might well have been resting from his labors has not been the least of Dr. Klein’s services to his alma mater. Franklin and Marshall College is fortunate to possess, well in advance of 1953, an adequate centennial history of the “united college.”

Bucknell University

J. Orin Oliphant

Regionalism in America. Edited by Merrill Jensen, with a Foreword by Felix Frankfurter. (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1951. xvi, 425 p. Bibliography. $6.50.)

The celebrative ritual in observing anniversaries and commemorative events is usually a fanfare of pageantry, entertainment, dinners and oratory,
all arranged by a high-powered publicity agency. Eye, ear, and gastronomic appeals are not to be gainsaid as essential to the success of such occasions, but alone they leave little beyond pleasant reminiscence. Befitting a leading institution of learning in its centennial year, the University of Wisconsin wisely applied some of its birthday "pennies" to the publication of this study on regionalism. The appearance of this volume might be regarded as a milestone in the literature of the subject, and it could appropriately be dedicated to Frederick Jackson Turner, for it brings within manageable compass the thought of historians, sociologists, political scientists, planners and government officials who are much concerned with regionalism and its application in their teaching, writing, and administrative duties.

This volume contains the papers presented at a symposium on regionalism held at the University of Wisconsin in April, 1949. The purpose of the meeting was "to show the great variety of approaches to regionalism and its utility both as a tool for research and as an approach to problems of administration." Twenty participants representing a wide gamut of interests offered papers that have been published here under five headings:

1. The history of the concept of regionalism.
2. Discussions of several historic regions of the country.
3. A survey of cultural regionalism.
4. The application of regionalism to planning, development and administration.
5. A summary, pointing out the limitations and promises of regionalism.

In the Foreword, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter strikes the prevailing note of integration when he poses America's basic problem: "How a country that is a continent can be governed by organs that fairly represent its disciplined will and at the same time adequately evoke the diverse civilized potentialities of its people." This spirit of unity—of the several parts functioning in constructive harmony with one another, and with the whole—is evident in nearly all the essays. Use of the terms "sectional" and "sectionalism" with their pre-Civil War connotations of divisiveness and separatism seems to be consciously avoided in favor of "regional" and "regionalism" that imply interrelationship and organic unity. No attempt is made to resolve the issue of regionalism versus nationalism or universalism; a few comments carry the assumption that they are not clashing concepts but rather coexist and supplement one another. Experience has proved that the nature and scope of some problems require their study on the national level while others are better viewed from a more local level. In the deceptive complexity of our way of life the Olympian and the grassroots approaches are not mutually exclusive.

Regionalists today eschew narrow provincialism, cast aside the idea of priority favors to a given region, disregard geographical factors as bounds to regions, and deny that regionalism is a doctrine opposed to universalism.
It can serve as a strong counteragent to the leveling influences of standardization, uniformity, and overcentralization. It can also furnish a keener understanding, a synthesis, of the relationship of the variety of phenomena that make up the life of a region. It preserves the distinctive characteristics of various arts that have been identified with a prescribed area, an ethnic group, or with some coalescing tradition—a prime quality of American life has been its heterogeneity. For the greater part of its history the story of America has been that of its regional cultures; first the interaction of people to their own immediate environment, then a developing expansion outward to a stage of interrelationship between regional patterns.

For those who fear loss of regional identity and characteristics in what seems to be an era of bigness and absorption, reassurance can be gained by noting the great variety of published works that are regional studies and descriptions of literature, architecture, painting, linguistics, folklore, cookery, rivers, lakes and mountains. As these essays amply demonstrate, the regional approach is being utilized with profit in historical research, in sociological surveys, in studies of political behavior, in conserving natural resources and in their rehabilitation, and in planning public works. Scholars, planners, and administrators are usually timorous about extending the regional application beyond general cultural matters, but in the American tradition is the record of great regional development. In it there are also certain mandates that assure the continuance of regionalism as a principle shaping the future of a democratic American society.

What might the regional concept add to the study and interpretation of American history? In recent days, possibly a consequence of the symposium of 1949, there has been established at Madison, Wisconsin, the American History Research Center. In its "Statement of Purpose" are enumerated some of the desired objectives to be anticipated from a more local approach to the American experience. It will provide more thorough documentation of local behavior that will influence generalizations on a nation-wide scale; it will vitalize the study of states, communities, and individuals; it will produce comparative studies of similar institutions and developments in different parts of the country; possibly it will challenge and correct traditional concepts of our national history that have been derived from inadequate probing of local experience; it will show the reaction of local areas to national policies and events; it will recommend to the consideration of the historian-neglected or antiquarian-treated aspects of our history; and it promises to raise the level of the quality of scholarly study of local history by both professional and amateur historians. Even if these aims are attained only in part, the patches in the quiltwork of our national structure will take on sharper individual clarity, and at the same time combine to form a total pattern that can more easily be comprehended and appreciated despite its complexity.

Harrisburg, Pa. 

NORMAN B. WILKINSON

A biography of James Parton, almost a century after his own first work in that kind, is but poetic justice. Surely no one of his times contributed more than he to the art of telling the story of someone else's life. His rules were simple, his subjects chosen because of intrinsic interest, and his style readable. From the first biography of his contemporary, Horace Greeley, to that last of his more remote idol, Voltaire, he worked steadily at his craft, always doing exactly what he wanted to do and deferring to nobody. Yet almost all of his works are forgotten. No one of them, except perhaps the Franklin, holds its place on the shelf of essentials. Burr, Jefferson, Jackson, General Butler served their purpose in their own day, but have disappeared almost as completely as have the newspapers of the time.

The reason for both the popularity of these volumes in the mid-nineteenth century and the neglect which has since caught up with them is that they are neither scholarship nor art on a high level; they are supremely skilful reportorial journalism. Parton attacked each of his tasks as would a good reporter setting out for a fire or an interview. He chose a newsworthy subject, he made himself thoroughly acquainted with it, he worked fast (although he says he worked slowly), and he subordinated his own feelings, letting the tale tell itself. Surprisingly uncolorful in his own personality, he had the knack of recreating a vivid personality in print. The portrait of Franklin that he painted is still the Franklin that we know; later scholarship has only made him better and more fully known.

Parton is important as a biographer because he was concerned with "that part of history which is so important that historians seldom say anything about it." It is the part that includes sewing machines, Catholicism, smoking, Horace Greeley, popular vulgarities—in short, everything that concerns living human beings. When his essays and lectures are added to his biographies, the real significance of the man becomes apparent. He was the father of modern social history. He sensed American civilization in the making, and he spent his life in a living awareness of the trivialities that cumulatively make up life itself. It would perhaps be unkind to include his tempestuous elderly wife, Fanny Fern, in his collection of Americana.

Dr. Flower has followed the rules of his subject and has told his story fully and straight. He has not Parton's journalistic skill, but Parton himself can tell his own story. That Dr. Flower wisely allows him to do from the vast and previously untouched family papers and the contemporary printed records.

University of Pennsylvania

Robert E. Spiller

Mr. Monaghan set out to write a popular biography of the implausible E. Z. C. Judson whose best-known pen name was Ned Buntline. His first chapter, "The Discovery of Buffalo Bill," which begins smack in medias res, is certainly hilarious enough, but the pace is so furious that much which follows limps by comparison. For some reason Ned's maneuvers in and out of marriage and the escapades which involved him in trials, riots, jail sentences, and, on one occasion, a near-lynching, are not so exciting and amusing as the author intends them to be.

In part the trouble is that Mr. Monaghan's style is slow-footed. His attempts to beat it into a faster pace by the use of snappy sentences are not very effective. There are other difficulties. Ned Buntline wrote constantly about his own adventures. His biographer must make what use he can of these highly colored accounts or he will not have much of a story to tell. Yet Mr. Monaghan, as a practicing historian, has dug up and presents what corroborative and corrective evidence there is. The consequence is that the reader, much of the time, rides a roller coaster. One moment he dashes wildly down the steep slope of Ned's autobiographical prose, only to be brought up sharply by a brief passage of slow, though somewhat "jazzed-up," historical writing which details Mr. Monaghan's researches into Ned's naval "career" or his service in the Civil War. (How extensive these researches have been the ample footnotes give evidence.)

One could wish that Mr. Monaghan had been as much interested in the phenomenon of Buntline the author of at least 150 tales as he was in the "great rascal." The literary historians give Buntline a depreciatory footnote, if they mention him at all. Yet what he wrote and what it represents is the obverse of the genteel writing of the age. Educate a new nation to read and what it reads is the comics or Mickey Spillane or Buntline's The Last Days of Calleo; or, the Doomed City of Sin.

Ned Buntline was certainly the master of lascivious prose which just slips under the law. Because he could turn out a complete cliff-hanger between midnight and dawn, he never kept his printers or his readers waiting. But there is more to say about him than that he was one of the shrewdest of those operators whose special trade, for a century, has been to shake dimes and quarters out of America's illiterate reading public.

Since he rode all the popular prejudices of the time, in what better place can one look for expressions of these prejudices than in his stories? He was quick to exploit the latest reform movement. He wept in print for the drunkard's widow and the bookbindery girl, while the law and his women tried to reform his not-so-private life. A glance at the titles of his works shows that he played to many desires of his readers. What genteel writer of the day ventured to tell them anything about trappers, smugglers, scouts,
miners, ballet dancers, convicts, detectives, firemen, magicians, policy dealers, moonshiners, fancy women, or spiritualists? Ned also appealed unerringly to the national consciousness which developed after the Civil War. There is surely some connection between his success and the fact that he got around, in his stories, to New York, New Orleans, Texas, Oregon, Florida, the plains, the Black Hills, California, the "Shore Plantations," and to every war America had fought.

For all their shoddiness and sensationalism, Buntline's novels contain a fund of realism, of a kind, which no one should neglect who wishes to understand the drift of American life between 1850 and 1890.

Princeton University

Willard Thorp

Foreigners in the Union Army and Navy. By Ella Lonn. (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1952. x, 725 p. Frontispiece, appendix, bibliography, index. $8.50.)

If there are any facts or statistics desired by a student of the Civil War on the foreign element in the northern army and navy they will be found in this extensive and painstaking study of this important subject. That an enormous amount of research and reading was required is evident, and Miss Lonn states in her preface that historians bind themselves to a life of slavery when they labor long hours on references which appear to have no end. But aside from infinite pains, Miss Lonn has caught the spirit of the foreign-born who gladly enlisted and fought for their adopted country long before "bounties" offered any monetary inducement or the draft offered no alternative.

While the exact number of enlistments in the Union army during the war can never be determined, Col. Livermore's figures of 2,900,000 are accepted by most authorities as a fair estimate, and when, Miss Lonn points out, the German-born soldiers accounted for 200,000 and the Irish for 176,000 more, it will be realized that foreign groups deserve a consideration for their part in winning the war, a part which up to this time has been rather ignored in Civil War writings. With a total of 500,000 foreign-born soldiers, one sixth of the Union army came from this source. Since in 1860 the total foreign-born population in the states which remained in the Union was about 4,000,000, roughly, one eighth of the total foreign-born enlisted, a very high percentage indeed.

In view of the number of foreigners in the ranks, the performance of foreign officers in the higher military brackets was not impressive, with the exception of Osterhaus, Schurz, and Sigel of the German contingent, Meagher and Nugent for the Irish, and de Trobriand for the French. There were, of course, many other foreign officers of distinction, but they were not corps or army commanders. Among the foreign-born generals Miss Lonn
includes Phil Sheridan on the theory that he was born before his parents reached this country from Ireland. In his personal memoirs, however, Sheridan says, "Before leaving Ireland they [his parents] had two children, and on the 6th of March 1831, the year after their arrival in this country I was born, in Albany N. Y."

The listing of foreign-born officers in this work is carried down from generals and colonels even to junior officers, these being picked out of volunteer regiments from the nation as a whole. A listing is also given of all military organizations in which the foreign-born represented a majority or a material portion of the organization, and these are listed by states for ready reference.

The author gives a good summation of the effect of the foreign-born in the Union army when she says, "Probably the finest result that flowed from this heterogeneous assemblage of various nationalities, this colorful, dramatic, fantastic, almost bizarre collection of men from all parts of the world, was the creation of a truly American army, composed of native sons and adopted sons, representing all nationalities . . . all animated by a genuine devotion to the ideals for which the Union stood."

_Paoli, Pa._

_Kent Packard_

**Lincoln and His Generals.** By T. HARRY WILLIAMS. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1952. 363 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. $4.00.)

Professor Thomas Harry Williams, Illinois-born and Wisconsin-educated, now teaches in Louisiana State University. He is already known to scholars for his _Lincoln and the Radicals_ and for articles in scholarly journals; he now promises to become known to the nonfiction-reading public through the selection of his latest work by the Book of the Month Club. Without seeming to say too much, this is altogether fitting and proper, for the historian is likely to prefer his first book and the layman his second. Both are really good books.

Mr. Williams appears to write with fine objectivity; that he actually does so would be impossible to say, at least without reading all that he has read. He is a stanch admirer of Lincoln, but he sees errors of judgment by Lincoln and he names them. To put it mildly, he does not exploit them. Williams is also warmly attached to the South and its history, and his silent assumption that there is no contradiction in his devotions does much to establish his spiritual qualifications for writing on what he is willing to call the Civil War. _Lincoln and His Generals_ is the story of Lincoln's disheartening search for a winning general; it is not a study of tactics or of politics, although neither can be excluded. One by one the hopefuls rose and fell: McDowell, McClellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker, Buell, Rosecrans, and so on. Williams cannot
help it, but his account possesses a repetitiousness that drives the reader to impatience, wondering if the incompetence will ever end. Finally, of course, it does end with Grant, whereupon it became possible to set up "a modern system of command" that was "superior to anything achieved in Europe until von Moltke forged the Prussian war machine of 1866 and 1870."

Most of Williams' characters end up just about where they were before but with their shortcomings documented. Perhaps Halleck gains the most; he is not given greatness by any means, but he is revealed as a man whose limited talents were useful to the Union. McClellan, the most controversial figure of the war, comes out badly, although not so badly as in Kenneth P. Williams' *Lincoln Finds a General*. Little Mac has real virtues as well as faults, as do all of the Union generals, Grant included. Some of the worst generals get the most attention, which Williams explains by saying that they must be headaches to the reader for they were headaches to Lincoln. Sherman and especially Thomas, being neither nearby nor headaches, get very little attention. Lincoln has his rightful and familiar role as the Rock of Ages, but he is less the tearful and agonized man that the sentimentalists make of him; he cheers and smiles on news of victory. As always, he keeps on humbly saying and writing things that often have no humility in them. Robert E. Lee appears here as a tactical genius but no great strategist, a judgment that would be more impressive if the bibliography contained one good study of Lee. Indeed, one wonders throughout *Lincoln and His Generals* how competence for judgment on military strategy and tactics can be so easily come by.

This book is highly readable, its language nontechnical, its character sketches clear, its organization simple and logical. It has a number of good pictures of good and bad Union generals. Its two maps are hardly adequate to enable the reader to follow all the military operations that are discussed. The major thesis of Lincoln's gifts as a master strategist is asserted too often and too explicitly. The title itself excludes naval action from this study of grand strategy. There is extensive use of *Official Records* (Army only) and of participant accounts. It does seem that a study in command should have found some use for Shannon's *The Organization and Administration of the Union Army*, but Professor Williams apparently felt otherwise, perhaps because Lincoln, unlike his generals, could move his armies about without the encumbrance of logistics.

Finally and less seriously, Williams has a bit of fun at Halleck's expense when he chides him for a "banal" and "solemn" sentence (p. 138). Three pages later, Williams himself says this of McClellan: "As commander of a field army, he had no right to judge whether or not he would risk lives merely because he disliked the personnel of the administration." No comment.

*University of Pennsylvania*  

HOWARD C. PERKINS

Popular understanding of the South—the states that made up the Southern Confederacy and, to a lesser degree, the border states—during the thirty-odd years following the end of Reconstruction has usually been based on the visible surface aspects. What went on behind the veil of romanticism of a past era has seldom been brought to view more effectively and constructively than in this account of the origins of the New South. Dr. Woodward has here presented an interpretation of the period, both in its parts and as a unit, that cannot be overlooked by any future historians of the region. He has covered the period of redemption, readjustment, and single party control and has brought the account to the threshold of the evolution of the Confederate South from a segregated section to a regional area and to the revolution in economic, social, cultural and political conditions now in process throughout its extent.

The author discusses the methods and practices employed by the Redemptionists, many of them former Whigs (called Conservative Democrats), former Confederate military and political leaders, and businessmen and planters, with a sprinkling of agile carpetbaggers and scalawags. He has exposed how these new rulers of the reviving South secured and consolidated their power and position. In most cases the Redeemers allied themselves with the business interests. The planter class allied with the industrialist Redeemers composed their differences amicably, and together they began laying the "foundations in matters of race, politics, economics and law for the modern South." Each state was ruled by a small group whose representatives were elected to office and who were thus able by affiliation and association to control the legislatures and to maintain themselves in power and position. The extreme of their philosophy and methods was expressed by former governor Joseph E. Brown of Georgia, who wrote that "The Statesman like the business man should take a practical view of questions as they arise." Brown, on his part, "'First in secession, first in reconstruction and very nearly first in the restoration of Democratic home rule, came up on top at every revolution of the wheel of destiny.'"

The first eleven years of Redemption, 1877–1888, were marked by the beginnings of an economic exploitation of southern resources by northern capitalists which was in marked contrast to the missionary and political attempts at exploitation pursued in the previous decade. Speculations in land, mineral, and timber rights, steel mills, textiles, cottonseed and tobacco were common. One writer on the period exclaimed: "A brand new sensation was born every day." But one of the most powerful adjuncts available to Redemptionist leaders was the matter of aiding in the consolidation of the many short, impoverished rail lines of the region into integrated systems that traversed the area and brought wealth and prestige to the manipulators.
All this reconstruction, development, and exploitation led naturally to abuses which could only be corrected by drastic reform policies. "The business man's gospel of free enterprise, competition and *laissez faire*" was opposed by radical reform movements that were accelerated by the depression of the 1890's which struck the South with devastating force. Populism mustered much strength "in the heart of the 'conservative' South." "A free ballot and an honest election" were demanded, and some reforms in election laws resulted.

During the period race relations varied in importance. Politically, the Negro could vote, but how freely and effectively was another matter. Disfranchisement by law did not come until near the end of the period, that is from 1890 to 1910. In southern labor relations "for a long time to come race consciousness would divide more than class consciousness would unite." White supremacy was "a discourager of political independence and a uniter of the Solid South." The period was marked, in the author's opinion, by a transition from the slavery system to the caste system at the cost of grave deterioration in race relations. Booker T. Washington, however, "gave assurance that the Negro was more interested in industrial education and economic opportunity than in political rights and privileges."

The period, as it drew to a close, was marked also by the efforts of southern reformers to gain some measure of control over "the trusts"—railroads, insurance companies, oil companies and the large and powerful aggregations of capital possessing great economic and political power. One of the most powerful of these was Milton Smith and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. "The capitulation of this fortress of *laissez faire* [to public control legislation] might almost mark the end of an era."

Dr. Woodward's account is concerned not only with politics and economics, but also considers educational, cultural, and social aspects of the period, in such chapters as "Mudsills and Bottom Rails," "The Divided Mind of the South," "Philanthropy and the Forgotten Man," and the "Bonds of the Mind and Spirit."

The election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912 "represented [more than] a revolution in the geographical distribution of power" and a change in "the matter of accents." Its implications were far-reaching. Wilson's election not only changed the source of political power and control, but brought to the front men imbued with progressive economic and social ideas and objectives.

Much that went on politically and otherwise in the South beginning in the 1890's was paralleled by similar movements developing elsewhere in the United States. All of this subdued unrest, restrained only by World War I and the succeeding decade of speculation, made the country—North, South, East and West—ready for the New Deal of the 1930's, which was activated by world-wide depression and is still unresolved and uncertain in its end results.

This is a distinguished production, informative and objective without being dogmatic, and constitutes a valuable addition to the History of the
South. It is based on careful and extensive research in letters, diaries, and newspapers, reflecting the mind and the mood of the period. A "Critical Essay on Authorities" and a good index conclude the volume.

_locust Valley, N. Y._

THOMAS ROBSON HAY

The Pennocks of Primitive Hall. By George Valentine Massey, II. (West Chester, Pa.: Chester County Historical Society, 1951. viii, 139 p. Illustrations, genealogical chart, index. $10.00.)

Usually a volume about a particular family is labeled as being of interest only to that family and their descendants. This book is certainly a contradiction to such a thesis for although it recounts the story of Christopher Pennock and a number of his descendants, it also provides rewarding episodes of local history of southeastern Pennsylvania and neighboring New Castle County, Delaware.

Utilizing the material collected by Mrs. Tello J. d'Apéry and supplementing it liberally with citations from family letters, Friends records and public documents, Mr. Massey has told in an interesting series of biographical sketches the rise and contributions of this particular family to American life. As time passes and we get farther away from the events of the colonization of this country, it becomes increasingly important to keep the record straight by relating, whenever possible, in the words of the immigrant the events as they transpired. Carefully annotating his statements, the author tells of the Irish background of Christopher Pennock and his wife Mary Collett, their persecution as Quakers, their arrival in Philadelphia in 1684, the acquisition of their lands, and his wife's dissatisfaction with America and her return to Ireland.

Following the death of Christopher Pennock in 1701, his son Joseph came to America and after some difficulties was successful in claiming his father's estate. His marriage in 1705 to Mary Levis seemed to ameliorate thoughts of his disaffection to the beliefs of the Society of Friends, with the result that he received their support when seeking public offices. He represented Chester County in the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1716 and intermittently until 1745, but it was as a county squire that he gained greater local influence. He built, in 1738, a massive house with thick brick walls laid in Flemish bond and trimmed with woodwork from the forests of his own ample five-thousand-acre tract. This was Primitive Hall, the home of his family, the seat of justice in that part of the county, the rendezvous of friends and public officials and a haven for friendly Indians as well as a place of confinement for the wrongdoer in the basement prison. Situated in West Marlboro Township on Route 841 about two miles north of Chatham, Primitive Hall is now being restored by its present owner, Stewart Huston, a direct descendant of Joseph Pennock.

In the remaining seven chapters of this volume, the author traces care-
fully a host of descendants of Joseph and Mary Pennock. Among the families with which they have intermarried are Marshall, Lukens, Huston, Bailey, Way, Baker, Tatnall, Shipley, Warner, Lea, Canby, Price, Bradford, du Pont, Bellah, Edwards, Pusey, Passmore and others. Outstanding among these were Rebecca Pennock Lukens who was credited with guiding the Lukens Steel Company through difficult years; Mrs. William H. Miller (Sarah Wistar Pennock) of Media, Pennsylvania, who presented in 1909 to the State of Delaware the Royal Charter from King Charles II and the deeds and leases from the Duke of York to William Penn for the Delaware Counties; and Herb Pennock (Herbert Jefferis Pennock), New York Yankees pitcher and general manager of the Philadelphia National League club. In these chapters Mr. Massey has not only traced carefully the lines of family descent and provided references for his statements, but he frequently inserts in extenso important and significant documents bearing on the history of these families. These may seem tiresome to the casual reader, but they are invaluable for reference purposes.

The Chester County Historical Society is to be congratulated on the publication of this reference book which will add considerably to the knowledge of regional history of the Middle Atlantic States. It is also to be commended upon the fine choice of format of the book, the attractive illustrations, the helpful genealogical chart, and, of course, the useful index.

Delaware State Archives

Leon deValinger, Jr.


The most recent popular account of American communitarian life is the work of a retired Englishman who has made this study as an intellectual hobby. Written for the general reader, Heavens on Earth supplements rather than supersedes previous commentaries on our fabulous utopian and sectarian communities. Mr. Holloway’s work will not please the scholars, for he has uncovered no new data; neither has he enhanced our understanding by novel insight. But our novice historian has written entertainingly on a subject close to his heart.

Interpretations of American community experiments since John Humphrey Noyes’ pilot study in 1870, History of American Socialisms, have varied greatly. There have been two general tendencies among the commentators. Either the communistic colonies are discussed as an inseparable unit, with appropriate subdivisions according to religious sect or inspirational founder, or it is discovered that all are a part of a particular movement or tradition, be it Christian Socialism or utopian thinking since Plato.

Mr. Holloway has written informally of these interesting experiments, as did V. F. Calverton ten years ago. However, Heavens on Earth helps per-
petuate the idea that all communities are related and should be considered as a historical unit. Their contributions to American life and thought were by no means homogeneous. Often their activities were of national importance. The transmission of European educational ideas to America by the Owenites and the development of letters in New England by the transcendentalists at Brook Farm are two examples.

Differences among the communities, both in conception and application, have been wide. There was, for example, little in common between such ascetic German Pietists who settled in Pennsylvania as the Rappites with their celibate social structure, humorless, hard-toiling habits, and millennial belief, and the intellectually inclined followers of Owen or Fourier whose numbers included a broad range of urban reformers. Certainly Noyes' plan to provide sexual freedom for women through his theories on the "complex marriage" and "male continence" would have shocked equally those communitarians who practiced either celibacy, monogamy, or polygamy.

We can only agree with Arthur E. Bestor's observation on the state of communitarian literature today in the bibliographical note of his Backwoods Utopias. There is, he writes, a "need for a fresh historical interpretation of the communitarian movement and a scholarly synthesis of the available material. . . ."

Heavens on Earth is one of the initial issues of Library Publishers, Americana specialists, and was jointly published in England by Turnstile Press.

University of Pennsylvania

Louis H. Arky


This important tome of giant size records in permanent form the magnificent photographs and excellent essays that originally appeared in shorter serial form within the weekly picture-news magazine whose publishers evidence profound interest in and concern for history and art.

It is significant for several reasons. Twenty-five editors, art directors, researchers, editorial assistants and writers co-operated in producing the handsome volume. In black and white and color the reproductions do enable one to sit in one's library and roam the whole Western World, as well as move backwards into our origins and the beginnings of our heritage before really plunging into the direct influences on modern life to be found best in medieval life, the Renaissance Man, and eighteenth-century England. Finally, there is a brilliant essay on "The American Experience" signed by John Knox Jessup, one-time chairman of the board of editors for Fortune and now the chief editorial writer for Life.

In the general bibliography prominent place is given to The Cambridge
Medieval History and The Cambridge Modern History and, of course, J. R. Green, Arnold Toynbee, G. M. Trevelyan and H. G. Wells. This is not an encyclopedia or a digest of The Great Books. It is a solid history of mankind, coupled with a biography of Man and his ideas in prose and poetry, photograph and reproduction.

Overbrook, Pa.

RICHMOND P. MILLER


Although the four volumes of the Jefferson Papers which have appeared with commendable regularity since the publication project began in 1950 have not produced the excitement attending the appearance of Volume I, there is increasing satisfaction and admiration among scholars for this undertaking. The satisfaction comes from the steadily growing availability of the papers, from the continued authority and care of the editing, and, of less but not least importance, from the maintenance of the excellent and handsome format designed for the series. The vast research and detail of scholarship, apparent on every page, can elicit nothing but admiration. The publication of the Jefferson Papers is setting a standard for such projects, and will undoubtedly stimulate similar undertakings for the papers of other great figures in our history. The contribution to American history and to scholarship as a whole of Julian P. Boyd and his associates is a tremendous one today and will increase as the years go on.

The fifth volume of the Jefferson Papers runs to May, 1781, embracing, for the most part, military affairs incident to the southern campaigns of the Revolution, in which Virginia was a key factor. Every phase of wartime circumstances as they affected army and civilians came within the scope of Jefferson's attention. The volume also includes in an appendix the most thorough discussion of "The Affair of Westover" which led to suspicions that Mrs. Mary Willing Byrd was loyal to the British.


A collection of family papers as extensive as that of the Ridgely family obviously represents something more than just a family record. It reflects as well many aspects of the times and environment touching an illustrious family, and so provides a source of material valuable to scholars with varied historical interests. Delaware both as an area and in its individuals is
naturally of first importance in the Calendar, but information relative to Philadelphia is prominent, as well as letters from Washington and Baltimore.

The two volumes of the Calendar of the Ridgely family papers, privately published for the Public Archives Commission in Dover, Delaware, are ably edited by Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist, and by his assistant, Virginia E. Shaw. Family data was supplied by Mrs. Henry Ridgely. A historical introduction and biographical sketches serve to unify the items of this collection and provide helpful information as background material.

NOTICES

Mount Vernon Silver

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union has asked John Marshall Phillips, Director of the Yale Gallery of Fine Arts, to write its book on the original Mount Vernon silver. Considerable information already exists in the records of the Association, at Mount Vernon, relating to the Washington silver, but the story is not complete. This inquiry is directed to all who may have useful knowledge upon the subject. Anyone having such information is urged to communicate with me as soon as possible.

JOHN BEVERLEY RIGGS
Research Associate
Mount Vernon, Virginia

Papers of Henry Clay

Through the University research facilities in co-operation with the National Historical Publications Commission the University of Kentucky is endeavoring to compile and publish the papers of Henry Clay. Letters both to and by Clay, other materials of which Clay was the author, and particularly significant items about him will be included. Information about such Clay documents will be greatly appreciated.

JAMES F. HOPKINS
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky