

BOOK REVIEWS

The Great Experiment. An Introduction to the History of the American People.
By FRANK THISTLETHWAITE. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1955. xiv, 335 p. Maps, index. \$5.00.)

We Americans have always been interested in what the English have had to say about us, and to their comments we have reacted variously: with outrage at the diatribes of colonial governors and army officers, with irritation over the acerbic strictures of a traveling Frances Trollope or a Charles Dickens. The passage of time, however, has allowed a large part of our population benignly to reflect that these uncousinly remarks were made when we were indeed cousins, when most Americans were still Britishers in slow transit. But by the latter nineteenth century vast migrations to America from other parts of the world had produced an ethnic disparity. This, along with America's amazing growth and changing patterns of international power, posed a problem for the visiting Englishmen that could not be dismissed with a few airy generalizations about transplanted Cornish farmers and Lancashire mill workers who had lost respect for their betters and suffered, naturally, a deterioration in character. Fortunately, on the eve of our emergence as a world power there appeared Lord Bryce, and high time, too. Since then we have been hosts to several scholarly historical interpreters, notably Harold Laski and D. W. Brogan. To these might be added, happily enough, Frank Thistlethwaite.

Mr. Thistlethwaite undertook *The Great Experiment* with a motivation that will be lauded by all on both sides of the Atlantic who seek a better and more sympathetic understanding between Britain and the United States. Specifically, he wrote it as an introduction to American history for English undergraduates. His criterion of selection, emphasis, and theme, therefore, has been determined not only by the outstanding characteristics of American development, as he understands them, but by the lacunae and misconceptions in the undergraduate's knowledge. It would seem, however, that his professed intent to correct undergraduate misconceptions is rather hard to reconcile with his desire "to describe the evolution of American society as a whole and in the round." The latter objective necessitates an evenness of balance that is difficult to harmonize with the implicit selectivity of the former. The attempt has been made, though, and, in a book of only three hundred and thirty-five pages, with excellent results.

In order to endow America with meaning for the English student, the author has adopted a viewpoint, along with a thematic treatment, the cohesiveness and pervasiveness of which permits him to bring together in

fairly manageable proportions the major political, social, and economic forces in American history. This is the conviction that the supreme dominating influence in the evolution of our society has been the migratory flow of Europeans into and across the continent. In our formative years this constant stream of new blood, ideas, and credit promoted not isolation, as has so often been asserted, but a continuing and fairly close relationship between the Old World (with emphasis on England) and the New. For almost one hundred years after the American Revolution, which had not fundamentally altered the deep relationship between America and Europe, "American growth was to retain its character as a process of settlement, an integral part of the expansion of Europe; and in that expansion Britain was to continue to play an important role." In the party divisions following 1789, a basic cleavage stemmed from the Federalist adherence to Atlantic-mindedness, whereas the Republicans were continental-minded, despite their ideological attachment to France. By the 1820's an Anglo-American partnership existed in fact, but it did not become explicit because Americans were preoccupied with continental expansion and too suspicious of the Mother Country. Up to 1861 this partnership dominated the Atlantic world.

In pursuit of his theme Mr. Thistlethwaite has naturally emphasized the mobile character of American society, the inexorable westward flow. It is only to be expected, therefore, that he would regard the ending of the frontier as a matter of profound significance, and in an excellent essay—one that should be of interest to anti-Turnerians—he makes a good case for the contention that the frontier's disappearance "altered the whole balance of American life and its relation to the outside world."

In this general, topicalized study of American history—a flight at 20,000 feet, as it were—the author at no time becomes involved in details. He maps instead the salient peaks of crisis and development. And if he finds the majority of these to be economic, rather than ideological or political, he is probably reflecting the usual European evaluation of American influence on the world today.

English students should welcome this provocative and well-written book. So should American undergraduates. It may serve as a counterbalance to the particularistic views they so often bring from the high schools. This is the other side of the Bancroftian coin, kept so well-polished by the Andrews-Gipson school of historiography.

Temple University

HARRY M. TINKCOM

County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1632-1640.

Edited by SUSIE M. AMES, with a Prefatory Note by FRANCIS S. PHILBRICK. [American Legal Records, Vol. 7.] (Washington, D. C.: The American Historical Association, 1954. lxxii, 189 p. Indices. \$7.50.)

Virginia's two "Eastern Shore" counties of Accomack and Northampton possess the oldest continuous county court records in America, and it is

fitting that the earliest record volume of this most westerly maritime dominion of Charles I should now be published as Volume 7 and the oldest material yet to appear in the American Historical Association's *American Legal Records* series.

Professor Susie M. Ames of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, who is at least the third transcriber of this record, although the first to bring it fully (or almost fully) into print, appears to have worked on a difficult manuscript with painstaking care. Her historical introduction furnishes much useful biographical detail regarding public leaders in seventeenth-century Accomack. The importance of local government in England and in English colonies, especially Virginia, to modern political and institutional history can scarcely be exaggerated, but detailed early seventeenth-century American records are few in number. Of the other original Virginia shires, formed in 1634, only two possess even fragmentary records of their first decade.

Those who share this reviewer's opinion that American historiography suffers at times from an excess of interpretation, and almost always from a lack of original evidence, at least in the colonial centuries, will agree that historical associations cannot perform a more valuable service than the publication of sources. All students of colonial America are indebted to Miss Ames and her sponsor for thus publishing, for the first time with virtual completeness, this most continuous of the earliest Virginia local records.

Several shortcomings of this volume doubtless result from the fact that it is a collaborative work. Professor Philbrick's prefatory note, containing useful generalizations about popular courts in the seventeenth century, never tells us that this is the record of an English Quarter Sessions Court, and a fairly typical one. Miss Ames's introduction employs spelling for Accomack County itself and for some of its best known and most consistently spelled names that accords neither with that which appears in the records transcribed nor with modern practice. Readers who are confused by the hyphenated title of the book must go to Morgan P. Robinson's *Virginia Counties* and other works for an explanation.

Indexing is extremely unsatisfactory. Miss Ames's "Index of Persons" covers the entire text, including the prefatory note and the introduction, but contains no subject entries. Mr. Philbrick's "Subject Index" contains both subjects and names, but limits itself entirely to the prefatory note and introduction.

The editors have made profitable use of a handwritten transcription prepared by Thomas T. Upshur in 1892, when the original manuscript of the court record was in better condition than is now the case. Unhappily, they appear to have remained in complete ignorance of the transcription made in 1943 and 1948 by the late Beverley Fleet and presented in Volumes 18 and 32 of his *Virginia Colonial Abstracts* series. Mr. Fleet's text suffers from the fact that portions of it are admittedly abstracts. His work has one advantage over the present transcript published under the distinguished

auspices of the American Historical Association. He never bowdlerized his text in the interest of twentieth-century refinement.

University of Virginia

FRANCIS L. BERKELEY, JR.

Governor Tryon and His Palace. By ALONZO THOMAS DILL. (Chapel Hill, N. C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1955. xvi, 304 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

The ostensible reason for this book is the current restoration of Governor William Tryon's Palace at New Bern, North Carolina, and the author, who was historical research consultant for the Restoration Commission, certainly seems the man best qualified to write it. The tale begins with Tryon's tour of the province in the winter of 1764-1765, while awaiting the departure or death of old Governor Arthur Dobbs. It is a delightful chapter, with interesting descriptions of the little towns and tidal rivers of the coastal area, and the crude cabins and sparse clearings in the red clay soil of the backwoods. The author then sets the stage for Tryon's arrival by reviewing in two rather tedious chapters the events of the preceding half century. He cuts the pleasing continuity of his story with a somewhat diffuse account of "Cary's Rebellion," Graffenried's colonization scheme, the growth of various religious sects, and the emergence of New Bern as the most flourishing town in the province. From then on, the book becomes more a history of New Bern as the provincial and state capital than it does of the Governor and his Palace.

In this period Tryon built the elaborate edifice which bore his name, subdued the Regulators, and moved on, in 1771, to become governor of New York. Thereafter his mention in the pages is infrequent and inconsequential. Governor Josiah Martin, who succeeded him, succeeded also to the impossible task of stemming the Revolutionary tide, and finally fled the Palace in May of 1775. Through the Revolution and post-Revolutionary period, the building fell pretty much into disuse. Apparently, the Council of Safety preferred to meet elsewhere, although under the state government, the Senate seems to have sat in the Palace Council Chamber, and some of the governors "spent part of their time" there. Later, many of its rooms were rented as lodgings, and, before it burned in February, 1798, it had housed a law office and a school, and had survived five years of legislative efforts to sell it.

In depicting New Bern in the period from 1783 to 1794, when the capital moved to Raleigh, Mr. Dill paints a readable but rather involved account. He draws with considerable frequency upon memoirs or journals of visitors, whose observations at times scarcely apply to the period he is describing. It is questionable, for example, whether Francisco de Miranda, who visited the town in 1783-1784, could be an authority upon New Bernian marriage customs seven years later; nor could Miranda's visit to Joseph Oliver's

ordinary be evidence that the ordinary existed in 1791. In one case this practice seems to have led Mr. Dill into some anachronisms. On pages 186-187 he writes:

Everywhere [in New Bern] there was excitement. There was a constant going of troops and the flurry attending the brief visits of gallants like Light Horse Harry Lee or Crazy Jack Stewart, the hero of Stony Point. The spirit of revolution reigned in the celebration of the new holiday, July Fourth, or in the mauling of the British in the North. These occasions called for a display of the Continental flag, torchlights, and bonfires, while the guns of the town's armed merchantmen "seemed to vie with each other in a contest who should do the most honor to the day." Townspeople would assemble at the Palace, and toasts were drunk on ship and shore to "the bright morning star of this western world." In this crackling atmosphere the state government came into being. The blatant, brawling elections of October, 1776, sent many a radical Whig from east to west to the Constitutional Convention at Halifax late in the year.

In October, 1776, Light Horse Harry Lee was about to join Washington's army in New Jersey, and Jack Stewart was staggering along with the reeling Continental Army to the north of New York City. Stewart did not visit New Bern until 1780, and Henry Lee not until he had joined Greene's army late that same year. Nor, in the fall of 1776, was there any "mauling of the British in the north"; news of Trenton and Princeton did not reach New Bern until sometime after the state constitution had been adopted at Halifax.

Careful editing could have eliminated some annoying repetition, an example of which is the iteration and reiteration on pages 22, 105, 110, and 132-133, that the Albemarle counties each had five members in the Assembly, while all other counties had but two each. History tells us that Clinton did not "sink his shot in the spongy palmetto logs of Fort Sullivan in a vain effort to take Charlestown" (pp. 183-184). The Fort Sullivan palmetto logs absorbed the cannon shot of Sir Peter Parker's fleet, which was co-operating with the British general, but not under Clinton's command.

From the British Public Record Office in London, the author procured and reproduces two excellent drawings showing elevation and floor plan of the Palace. The balance of the illustrations, including end papers, seem to confirm a suspicion that Mr. Dill's real love is not Tryon and the Palace, but his native town of New Bern. The format of the North Carolina University Press shows the usual excellence of its publications.

Brevard, N. C.

WILLIAM BELL CLARK

Joseph Brant: Mohawk. By HARVEY CHALMERS, in collaboration with ETHEL BRANT MONTURE. (East Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State University Press, 1955. [iv], 364 p. Frontispiece. \$5.00.)

A good biography of Joseph Brant, probably the most famous Indian chief in American history, is long overdue. The only extensive treatment of Brant is still the two-volume *Life* by William L. Stone, published in 1838.

Hence many readers will be attracted by the title of this book. Unfortunately, they will be disappointed. In spite of its length, this is not a biography of the great Mohawk, but a rather detailed recital of the troubles of the Indians in the years following the Revolution. Brant was indeed a leader of the Indians in this period, and his devotion to his people and his efforts in their behalf were heroic. But these struggles to most readers are less romantic and less interesting than his colorful early life.

The intricate relations of Indians and governments are very complicated and the author has not succeeded in making them clear. Furthermore, the role of Brant is often lost sight of in preoccupation with the words and actions of many other persons. These participants in Indian affairs are for the most part given harsh treatment by the author, who finds many bitter epithets for the opponents of his hero. His partisanship leads him to sweeping statements and dubious conclusions: Had the Indians prepared their warriors, "the annihilation of St. Clair's army would have been so nearly complete that the entire American frontier might have recoiled. A general Indian assault might have followed with the Canadians in open support and a renewal of the Revolutionary War and ultimate reduction and dismemberment of the United States" (p. 141). "Brant was far more of a natural leader of men than Wayne. . . . In strategy and courage Brant was Wayne's superior" (p. 180).

It is difficult to judge the author's research or the dependability of his numerous quotations, for he provides no documentation, no bibliography, no index. The reviewer must fall back upon his own knowledge and research in that portion of the book upon which he is best informed. The nineteen pages of chapter one are hardly adequate to treat the first forty-one years of Brant's life, but there are a number of errors here which seem unpardonable. For example, it is an old canard to call Sir William Johnson "the father of a hundred, or hundreds of children" (p. 3); William of Canajoharie did not go to Dr. Wheelock's school with Joseph (p. 5), but was sent to be educated in Philadelphia; it is not true that Joseph "took a job as secretary to Sir William Johnson" (p. 6); and there is absolutely no evidence to support the assertions that "Sir William's health was impaired by over-fathering," or that "at a council at Johnson Hall they [*the Indians*] asked Sir William some pointed questions. Sir William's effort to answer them brought on a seizure" which caused his death (pp. 6-7). The author employs some of his harshest words on Sir John Johnson, but when he writes that in England John "squandered thousands of pounds, in fact most of the big balance which his father had maintained in England," and that "he got a baronetcy for his expenditures" (p. 280), he shows that he is unacquainted with John's correspondence with Daniel Claus (Canadian Archives), where the opposite is clearly set forth. John received his baronetcy almost immediately after his arrival in England, was unhappy while there, but was compelled to stay by the urgings of his father, and behaved himself well, as his contemporaries have testified.

Those who are somewhat acquainted with the career of Joseph Brant find much that is commendable in his character, and it is no longer acceptable to bracket him as a Tory beast, as did early writers on the Revolution. The same detachment is not generally displayed, however, in dealing with his Tory associates. Thus the writer of this book idealizes the Indian and makes all others black or gray in comparison. "Where in the British army could Portland have found an officer as sagacious and resourceful as Brant or a private soldier who could match him in personal combat with knives? What resolutions or acts of Parliament equaled the considered and wise statecraft of the Grand Council? Where in the British courts, or the American, was there forensic discourse to match the inspired eloquence of Red Jacket pleading not for some criminal but for his people?" (pp. 292-293). That the result is a distortion will be apparent to any critical reader.

It is indeed unfortunate that a book on Joseph Brant should have so little of Brant in it. It cannot be called a biography, and yet it falls short of the requirements of history.

Division of Archives and History, N. Y.

MILTON W. HAMILTON

The Birth of the Bill of Rights, 1776-1791. By ROBERT ALLEN RUTLAND. (Chapel Hill, N. C.: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1955. viii, 244 p. Appendices, index. \$5.00.)

If, with Benedetto Croce, we view history as the story of liberty, then certainly one of the most significant chapters of that narrative is the development of liberal constitutional processes in this country. Here for the first time in modern history political power was to be used primarily for the protection of rights, and only secondarily for control of the governed. Constitutions made it plain that government operated under law, and bills of rights specified the areas of human freedom which government must not invade.

Robert Allen Rutland retells clearly, concisely, and usually with insight, the story of how the corpus of rights in the English heritage was gradually formulated into the explicit bills of rights of our first state constitutions and the Federal Constitution. Although he adds little to our factual knowledge of the subject and does not attempt very much in the way of reinterpretation, he has produced a valuable synthesis which fills a gap in our constitutional historiography.

Beginning his study with a short examination of English legal precedents, he shows how these were reflected in the various guarantees of personal liberty in colonial charters and laws. Passing on to the Revolutionary period, he recounts in greater detail the formation of the Virginia Bill of Rights, in many ways the prototype for the other state bills and the first ten amendments to the Federal Constitution. Disposing of the Declaration

of Independence in a few sentences "since it provided not a single legal assurance of personal freedom," Mr. Rutland deals briefly with the formation of bills of rights in other states and resultant struggles over personal freedoms—particularly that of religious liberty. Discussing the Federal Convention, he makes it plain that although the delegates were interested in obtaining "energetic" government and in diminishing the powers of the states, they did not desire these objectives at the expense of jeopardizing the freedoms proclaimed during the Revolution. Thus some delegates, as the debates wore on, became alarmed at the extensive powers given the central government and felt that a bill of rights was needed as a counterweight. The refusal of the majority to agree to the inclusion of such a bill, usually on the ground that the specific limitation of the powers of the Federal government precluded any invasion of the rights specifically protected by the states, provided the major issue between Federalists and anti-Federalists in the ratifying conventions. Reviewing the course of these conventions, Mr. Rutland concludes that it was only the promise of the Federalists to enact a bill of rights when the government went into effect that secured the adoption of the Constitution. Mr. Rutland ends his study with an account of the writing of the first ten amendments.

In a few particulars of emphasis and conclusion Mr. Rutland's book is open to criticism. Limiting his account of the origins of bills of rights to legal precedents, he omits any discussion of the natural rights philosophy, although he recognizes its importance in this regard. Although he finds legal precedents in colonial charters, his statement that "each of the American colonies had written guarantees" is certainly too strong. In the royal colonies, at least, the legislative power of Parliament and the prerogative power were superior to any "guarantees" of freedom which might be made by other agencies. In his discussion of the ratification of the Constitution he brushes aside without sufficient examination the familiar charge that the calls for a bill of rights were often part of an obstructionist strategy designed to serve political ends. Certainly these demands were usually made in good faith, but evidence indicates that they were often used as a mask for the protection of local and sectional interests.

These shortcomings of Mr. Rutland's book, however, do not materially affect its value. Within its limitations it is an important and revealing study of a subject whose importance, in these days, can scarcely be overestimated.

University of North Carolina

ELISHA P. DOUGLASS

Mr Franklin. A Selection from His Personal Letters. Edited by LEONARD W. LABAREE and WHITFIELD J. BELL, JR. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1956. xxii, 63 p. Illustrations, chronology. \$3.75.)

To write the most appreciative review of *Mr Franklin* would be to reprint the editors' introduction to this select sampling of Benjamin Franklin's per-

sonal correspondence. For in introducing these letters, Leonard W. Labaree and Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., have caught the essence of the man as well as the art of his expression.

It is almost pointless to attempt a characterization of Benjamin Franklin. His facile mind and boundless curiosity penetrated virtually every field of knowledge. His ready pen has preserved, especially in his letters, the wit, acumen, humanity and charm with which he approached both people and ideas. Professors Labaree and Bell, who have the arduous if rewarding task of compiling the papers of Franklin, have obviously fallen under the spell of the great man. The twenty-seven letters they have chosen for this printing reveal the many-sidedness of Franklin in a most affectionate way. The letters were written between 1726 and 1785 in America, England, and France, and are presented under delightful captions and with brief explanatory paragraphs. Many of the letters are familiar; some are new. To discuss but a few of them would be to slight the rest, although each reader will have his favorites. All make good reading.

Were Mr. Franklin here today to comment on this volume in his honor, he would surely be pleased. Not only has he two editors with a deep sense of the eighteenth century, but a press whose work maintains the fine standards of printing that he himself so highly valued. This is truly a handsome volume, with its special touches in cover paper, stamping, and typography—and, undreamed of by Mr. Franklin, fine color illustrations.

Mr Franklin is an exciting prelude to the vastly larger project of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. In itself, however, it offers a rare "glimpse of Franklin the man, in all the colorful variety of his experience and feeling, the one above all Americans who combined most happily the greatest talents and the greatest human attractiveness."

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

LOIS V. GIVEN

The First Rapprochement: England and the United States, 1795-1805. By BRADFORD PERKINS. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press for the American Historical Association, 1955. xii, 257 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Historians have neglected to a large degree Anglo-American relations from 1795 to 1805. Textbooks of American diplomacy commonly omit mention of the complicated interrelationships from the time of Jay's Treaty to the events leading up to the War of 1812.

Bradford Perkins, with the able guidance of Frederick Merk, who has illuminated in his past studies neglected phases of Anglo-American diplomacy, has carefully searched manuscripts collections in this country and England and presented his conclusions about this decade in a thesis at

Harvard University. His revised study was accepted for publication by the Albert J. Beveridge Fund of the American Historical Association.

The author declares his intention to study "the relatively neglected developments" of the period, including such factors as English opinion, the formulation of a constructive British policy, and the generally satisfactory state of Anglo-American relations.

His conclusions are of interest to students of diplomatic history. He examines the reception of Jay's Treaty in the United States and concludes that the strengthening of the ties of the English-speaking people only twenty years after Lexington was the best possible testimony to the wisdom of John Jay and William Wyndham, Lord Grenville. He believes that the policy of the Adams Administration in persuading Great Britain to release impressed American sailors by agents and negotiation was "every bit as successful as the one of the bluster and recrimination" adopted by Thomas Jefferson. At the turn of the century, Great Britain and the United States were in close agreement upon a variety of diplomatic problems. Together, they faced France as a common enemy at the time of the American undeclared naval war, they formulated a joint policy toward Toussaint L'Ouverture, and Great Britain decided not to stand in the way of American acquisition of Louisiana. Unfortunately, *rapprochement* was followed by "ebb tide," due to a combination of inept statesmanship, mercantile greed, nationalistic ambition, and the pressures of war.

Although the volume is marred to some extent by a heavy and ponderous style, it is the most thoroughly documented study in existence of this period of Anglo-American relations and weaves together into an understandable pattern much elusive material. The Albert J. Beveridge Fund did well to sponsor the publication of the book.

Otterbein College

HAROLD B. HANCOCK

Benjamin Henry Latrobe. By TALBOT HAMLIN. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1955. xxxvi, 633 p. Illustrations, index. \$15.00.)

From 1796 until his death in 1820, the British-born architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe dominated the field of architecture in this country, first in Virginia, then in Philadelphia, next in Washington and finally in Baltimore and New Orleans. He was the first professionally trained architect to pursue a full career in this country, and as such had profound influence on the practice and teaching of architecture. But Latrobe was more than a well-trained designer. He was an architect of genius, who at a critical moment in the nation's development provided the United States with some of the finest buildings created anywhere at the time. He was also an eminent engineer, a painter of consummate skill in the great English water-color tradition, a decorator of distinction, a writer of uncommon ability; he was

likewise a man of noble and generous instincts and actions, who endlessly expended his best efforts in the service of his adopted country.

For all these reasons, Latrobe has long deserved a comprehensive biography. Yet the writing of such a biography presented complex problems because of the intricacy of the architect's activities and the amount of material available about them, consisting of an extraordinary number of original drawings, a long series of personal journals, letters and contracts, many of which are still owned by Latrobe's descendants. In the task of digesting and interpreting these documents Talbot Hamlin has proved himself an excellent biographer, both because of his authoritative knowledge of American and European architecture of Latrobe's time and because of his thorough understanding of his subject, born in large measure of his long and fruitful association with the architect's distinguished great-grandson, Ferdinand Claiborne Latrobe, who encouraged him to write this book. The resulting work is not only one of the outstanding studies of American architecture, but also a contribution of major importance to the history of the Federal period, for Latrobe maintained close relations with Jefferson and other eminent political and intellectual figures of the country.

A critical study of this sort depends for its effectiveness, quite apart from the examination of the character of the subject, upon the way in which the material is organized, the amount of new information provided, and the analysis of the subject's accomplishment. On each count Hamlin's book meets the most demanding tests. In organizing the story of Latrobe's life he has wisely alternated the accounts of each phase of the architect's building activity with chapters on his relations with his contemporaries. Thus we can follow, step by step, the growth of the great dichotomy of Latrobe's career—the success of his buildings and the failure of his personal fortunes. Stage by stage, the reader is conducted through the dark panorama of repeated financial debacles brought about by Latrobe's too-generous gestures, by the public's unwillingness to give the professional architect his just pay, and principally through his ruinous involvement with the visionary Nicholas Roosevelt and other unfortunate associates. Through it all is revealed the indomitable spirit of the man who refused to admit defeat, who rebuilt his Capitol in Washington burned by the British in 1814, and in an unsuccessful effort to recoup his losses endured the back-breaking ordeal of building steamboats for the Mississippi in Pittsburgh and the perils of the final commissions in Louisiana which cost him his life.

From the standpoint of documenting the buildings, there is scarcely a page of the biography which does not cast new light on Latrobe's manifold undertakings, the majority of which have already been extensively examined elsewhere. Through the hitherto inaccessible journals and letters of the architect we have his own comments and decisions in the execution of the great works: the penitentiary in Richmond (1797), the Bank of Pennsylvania and the waterworks in Philadelphia (1798–1801), the Baltimore Cathedral (1804–1821) and Exchange (1815–1820), and the additions to the Capitol

and President's House in Washington (1803-1817). In addition, Talbot Hamlin presents two totally new houses built by Latrobe in England before his arrival here, which show him already an apostle of the Soanian simplicities that he was later constantly to refine. He also offers full accounts of several fine residences in Ohio and Kentucky as well as of the small Gothic Christ Church in Washington, which have remained until the publication of this book almost entirely unknown. Hamlin has also unraveled the complicated story of Latrobe's superintendency of public buildings in Washington under Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe and has published the masterful original drawings for the Pittsburgh Arsenal now in the Library of Congress. Great attention is paid to Latrobe's considerable activity in the realm of house building, and in this particular the Philadelphia reader will find of special interest the careful reconstruction of the great destroyed Burd, Waln, and Markoe houses in this city, each of which represented outstanding contributions to the planning of urban mansions in an elegant, compact, comfortable fashion which Latrobe thought indispensable to the kind of life led in America.

Hamlin's analysis of these contributions is a part of the general analysis of the significance of Latrobe's architecture which, from the standpoint of scholarship, is the greatest achievement of the book. It begins with a brilliant, concise account of British architecture at the close of the eighteenth century, through which the author traces Latrobe's turning in his formative days in London from the decorative elaboration of the Adam manner to the dignified and vigorous new style of the younger Dance and John Soane. Then there is an equally satisfactory report on the state of architecture in this country at Latrobe's coming, which points up the true meaning of what might be called his superficial innovations, namely the introduction of the Gothic Revival in domestic architecture at Sedgely and the use of Greek detail in the Bank of Pennsylvania, both in Philadelphia. At the same time, Latrobe was inaugurating in this country a much more profound concept in architecture, which is the use of space and form for emotional purpose. In this respect, Mr. Hamlin rightly interprets Latrobe's aim as the expression of strength and power in his edifices. He shows how for this purpose the architect carefully chose his proportions, eliminated ornament to a large extent, and experimented with new effects in vaulting. He stresses how consistently this was done in all the structures in the Classic style (for those of Gothic design were Romantic exercises not to be taken seriously) until in the original designs for St. John's in Washington the architect arrived at a final purity of geometrical forms which sets him in the company of the greatest architects of the Renaissance line.

In any work of this sort it is usual to find some errors of fact, as for example the slight mistake in the location of the First Bank of the United States Building on Second instead of Third Street in Philadelphia. Yet these errors are so minor that they scarcely deserve mention. More worthy of criticism, perhaps, is the author's tendency to exalt Latrobe to such a point

that all his actions seem blameless if not actually heroic. This may be the most serious shortcoming of the book. Another is the fact that a number of the illustrations were made from poor photographs and almost all are so small that they scarcely do justice to Latrobe's work. These, however, are of slight consequence beside the many excellencies of the book. To those already mentioned should be added that of its readability, for it is so well written that one's attention never lags. In a work of such dimensions, with so much technical detail, this is rare indeed.

University of Pennsylvania

ROBERT C. SMITH

A Basic History of Lutheranism in America. By ABDEL ROSS WENTZ. (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1955. viii, 430 p. Bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Abdel Ross Wentz is thoroughly qualified to write a definitive history of Lutheranism in America. He is the author of nine previous volumes on various phases of Lutheran church history in America, professor of church history at the Gettysburg Seminary of the United Lutheran Church, and an active participant in the official life of his denomination.

In the preface, Dr. Wentz states that this book has a twofold purpose: to introduce the average reader to the history of the Lutheran church and its people, and to suggest to the advanced student the possibilities of more intensive studies and special research in this field. This double purpose is successfully achieved. The reader easily follows the general course of events as the various Lutheran groups move toward a broader vision, a growing concern for unity within confessional bounds, and a desire to co-operate in the modern ecumenical movement. At the same time, the interest and imagination of the student are stimulated by the inclusion of a wealth of detailed material and a critical analysis of the innumerable movements, crosscurrents, divisions, reunions, problems, and achievements experienced by the Lutheran church in the course of its more than three-hundred-year history in America.

Recognizing that there is a reciprocal relationship between the religious life of a nation and its general history, Dr. Wentz has projected the story of the Lutheran church against the social, economic, and political environment in which it grew. The life of the church has been related to the life of our nation as one of its important component parts.

One of the marked features of the Lutheran church is the diversity of the national origins of its membership. Periodic immigrant waves of German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Icelandic Lutherans, each with their own language and traditions, account in large measure for the numerous separate Lutheran groups in America. Much of the book is devoted to the internal development of these groups with their

individual problems—social, organizational, and theological; their leadership, sometimes irenic, often stubborn and belligerent; and their subsequent divisions and mergers in America. The history of such splinter groups as the Eielson Synod with five pastors and 1,350 members is given, but no mention is made of the Evangelical Synod of North America, composed of twenty per cent Reformed and eighty per cent Lutheran churches according to the estimate of Dr. J. L. Neve, another Lutheran historian, and having a membership of 281,598 when it merged with the Reformed Church in the United States in 1934. In view of the statement of Dr. Neve in his book *Churches and Sects of Christendom* (p. 278) that “in this union the Lutheran Church of the world has suffered a tremendous loss,” it is difficult to understand why it has been ignored by Dr. Wentz.

Two bibliographies are included. One consists of seven volumes of general American Lutheran histories with a valuable descriptive note and evaluation of each. The other lists the major authorities for each chapter of the text. While admittedly not exhaustive, it is a very helpful aid for those who wish to delve deeper into any particular period or problem.

A book that will be consulted frequently as definitive in its field deserves more careful indexing than this has received. Making only a spot check, the reviewer noticed two errors. On pages 16 and 17 of the text, the ministerial activity of the two Stoevers is mentioned, but this reference is not found under their names in the index. On the other hand, “Swiss Lutherans, in Pennsylvania” is indexed for page 5, but an examination of that page reveals no mention of such a Swiss group.

While written primarily for the Lutheran, and of special interest to the church historian and student of American history, this book deserves the attention of everyone who is interested in acquiring a full appreciation and understanding of one of the integral factors in the formation of our American heritage.

Philadelphia

CARL T. SMITH

Zion in Baltimore, 1755-1955. The Bicentennial History of the Earliest German-American Church in Baltimore, Maryland. By KLAUS G. WUST. (Baltimore, Md.: Zion Church of the City of Baltimore, 1955. [xiv], 149 p. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$3.00.)

During its two-hundred-year history Zion Church has passed through three clearly defined phases in relation to Lutheranism in America. Zion reached its zenith under the leadership of Daniel Kurtz (1785-1833), Pennsylvania born and educated. He made Zion an integral and leading force within the Lutheran Church. Kurtz was the guiding spirit in organizing the Maryland Synod, and in 1820 he became the first president of the General Synod, the national body of Lutherans. Under the pastorate of Heinrich

Scheib (1835-1896), Zion broke its synodical ties and followed in the path of the liberal doctrines of Schleiermacher. Although on the outside of the Lutheran movement, Scheib inspired the large number of intellectual German immigrants who came to Baltimore between 1840 and 1870; Scheib's School was a Baltimore institution before the opening of English-German public schools in the seventies. Until the past few years, Zion remained an independent congregation. Pastors Hofmann and Evers maintained leadership of the German-American movement in Baltimore, and Zion became its center, often placing more emphasis on ties with the homeland than on its strength for the future—the youth of the congregation. On the eve of the bicentennial, Leopold Bernhard (1951-1954), during a brief and controversial pastorate, revitalized Zion. His program of evangelization and stewardship rallied Zion's youth and led them back into the Synod of The United Lutheran Church in America. "The year 1955 finds Zion Church firmly established on the foundations upon which the pioneers of 1755 built their church."

Mr. Wust has compiled a definitive history of church organization and congregational matters, with particular emphasis on Zion's position in the Lutheran church at large. The main purpose of the history has been to trace the completion of the cycle from Kurtz's synodical work to the present reintegration into the Synod. Although Zion's one hundred fourteen years outside the Synod may have been proved wanting, during the years of Scheib and Hofmann it was a great independent congregation, a leader in the intellectual life of Baltimore.

Ada, Okla.

HENRIETTA KRONE ARMSTRONG

Ho! For Cape Island. By ROBERT CROZER ALEXANDER. (Cape May, N. J.: Published by the Author, 1956. 136 p. Illustrations, index. \$3.00.)

Those of us who have vacationed on the New Jersey coast will welcome this little book concerning the early days of Cape May City. This town was known as Cape Island until 1848, and during this period was the most famous seashore resort in America. The story of its origin and growth is told most interestingly by Robert Crozer Alexander, a long-time resident of Cape May City.

In 1801, when the first notice of Cape Island as a vacation place appeared, there was but one unplastered wooden hotel in the little village; by 1856, in addition to many others, Cape Island could boast of the famous Mount Vernon Hotel, the largest in the world.

In tracing the physical growth of the town, Mr. Alexander has, in a careful search of newspapers of the period, found many other interesting facts concerning the activities of this early seashore resort. We read of the "Forkers," a secret society active in the 1830's, of the bathing regulations

which set separate times for men and women (women—11 A.M. to noon; men—noon to 1 P.M.), of the boats and stagecoaches, together with other observations on the daily life of the vacationists.

The author-publisher should be congratulated on the appearance of the book. It is well printed and well bound. The many illustrations add much to the enjoyment. This reviewer regrets, however, that the reproduction on page 90 of a Kennedy print from the Society's collection is so washed-out that most of the details shown in the original are lost.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

J. HARCOURT GIVENS

Lincoln, The President: Last Full Measure. By J. G. RANDALL and RICHARD N. CURRENT. (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1955. xiv, 421 p. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

The urge to read about Lincoln seems endless, and the interest in writing about him follows this demand. The Lincoln bibliography ninety years after his death is a mighty and ever-growing list. The search for material has been untiring but hampered until recently by an insurmountable block. Lincoln left a large accumulation of papers which his son first partly destroyed—how much he burned will never be known; the remainder he then locked up for twenty-five years after his death. In anticipation of the final release of these documents, two projects were planned. J. G. Randall, the most serious and assiduous student of Lincoln among American professional historians, undertook to write a biographical history of Lincoln as President, making first use of the papers so long refused. Also, a new and definitive edition of Lincoln's papers was planned to include the same new material.

Randall followed his schedule and in due time published three volumes covering fully the Presidential years down to December, 1863. He was proceeding to complete the fourth and final volume when ill-health and then death forced him to leave his work unfinished. He was a careful and methodical worker, writing a chapter at a time, revising and polishing and leaving each in complete form before doing much on the next. Thus when his lamented death cut short his labor, he had finished half the final volume, eight of the planned sixteen chapters. Mrs. Randall, who always shared his labors, knew much of his mind about the rest. Also, he had bravely faced the fact that he could not finish and had suggested the man who he hoped would bring his cherished work to completion. His plans and wishes bore fruit; his colleague, Richard N. Current, wrote the final chapters, and the volume was published.

Randall planned well, and his associate was amply qualified to carry on. What might easily have been a disappointing effort may be called highly successful. Of course, it is obvious that the book is the work of two hands, but one can say that the two hands were united by the influence of a com-

mon spirit, a real understanding of Lincoln. This interpretation of Lincoln is not a fulsome laudation, nor is it a cynical or debunking one. These scholars portray Lincoln as a human being with faults and virtues, as a man who united the skills of a politician and a statesman. They realistically face the fact that these skills often clash and produce an inner conflict which may wrack the individual. Lincoln was therefore humane, melancholy, raucous, mystical and spiritually exalted, sometimes confused and ambivalent. But after many times going through an inner hell, he could almost inevitably come forth with an inspired solution of the problem which he could communicate to his fellow men in matchless prose.

The Lincoln whom Randall and Current have presented is not a new Lincoln, but, as the evidence now seems to be all in, we may assume that because of their exhaustive work and deep and convincing understanding this is as near the real Lincoln as we are ever likely to get. Current's final chapter is one of the most revealing keys to the understanding of Lincoln that this reviewer has ever read. Mr. and Mrs. Randall and Mr. Current together have achieved something which might well have proved impossible and which is therefore the more remarkable.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS

Three Years With Grant As Recalled by War Correspondent Sylvanus Cadwallader. Edited, and with an Introduction and Notes, by BENJAMIN P. THOMAS. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1955. xvi, 354, x p. Maps, index. \$4.75.)

In this day and age, after the hundreds of books on the Civil War that have been rolling off the presses since Appomattox, it would seem highly unlikely that a major source book with new and firsthand personal appraisals of Grant the Man and Grant the Soldier would come to light. This happened, however, with the publication of a journal kept by Sylvanus Cadwallader, war correspondent extraordinary for the New York *Herald*, after it had lain for years in the Illinois State Historical Society. Benjamin P. Thomas, a Lincoln expert and author, has done a superb job on the footnotes and worked out continuity where lacking.

Cadwallader himself, as revealed in his own words, was an extraordinary character who seemed to spend most of his time in conflict with military authority—the higher the better. But he had a friend in Grant, who always rescued him just as some irate Union general was ready to have him shot.

In this book, for the first time, is a complete and undoubtedly accurate story of Grant's drinking and of Rawlins' efforts, usually successful, to keep his adored commander in chief in line and to cover up the only real weakness that Grant the Soldier was to display in wartime. The chapter in which Cadwallader tells of locking himself and Grant in a stateroom on the *Diligence*, an Army transport on the Mississippi during the Vicksburg

campaign, to keep Grant from getting any more liquor and to hide him from many jealous subordinates who would gladly have reported the facts to Stanton and Washington, generally is an epic. Cadwallader would not let Grant go ashore until the next day, and explained to the General what he had done in keeping him concealed until the danger of discovery was over. Grant said little, but from that day on Cadwallader was taken into the official headquarters family, was given every facility to get the news first, and in every difficulty thereafter his all-powerful friend was at hand to help him out. Cadwallader's observation that when Mrs. Grant and the children came to visit the General (and they often stayed for weeks) no drinking ever occurred and that he thought Grant's loneliness when his family was absent was one cause of his periodic drinking is of great interest.

Another facet of Grant's character is portrayed in an incident on the march from the Big Black toward Vicksburg. As the troops passed a small cottage by the wayside, a poor, sickly-looking white woman stood waving a small American flag. Without halting, the General sent an aide to inquire who lived there and was told that a river pilot who came from Illinois and who had been pressed into the Confederate service was there ill. Grant sent back a surgeon from his staff and a quartermaster to take food, later had a guard put over the house for its protection, and finally furnished free transportation for the family to return to Cairo as soon as the husband was fit to travel. And this was done by a commanding general in the midst of a great military movement.

During the Petersburg siege in 1864, Grant had his headquarters at City Point, Virginia. Cadwallader tells a story which is new to this reviewer: "A long, gaunt, bony looking man with a queer admixture of the comical and the doleful in his countenance . . . undertook to reach the general's tent by scrambling through a hedge and coming in alone. . . . The guard finally called out: 'No sanitary folks allowed inside' [meaning members of the Sanitary Commission]. After some parleying the man was obliged to give his name, and said he was Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, seeking an interview with Gen. Grant!"

Just before the surrender at Appomattox, Cadwallader tells of the arrival of an officer on a foam-flecked horse, sent by Meade with a letter to Grant from Lee. It was the final note from Lee offering to meet for the purpose of surrender. "Grant read it through mechanically," said Cadwallader, "and handed it to Rawlins, saying in a common tone of voice: 'You had better read it aloud General.' . . . There was no more expression in Grant's countenance than in a last year's bird's nest. It was that of a Sphinx."

While the reader may be irritated by some of the author's boastfulness and egoism, he cannot fail to realize that he is reading history in the raw and as it happened and marvel again at that Grant who was invincible in war but ineffective in peace. Suggested reading for all Civil War students.

Thaddeus Stevens: A Being Darkly Wise and Rudely Great. By RALPH KORNGOLD. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1955. xiv, 460 p. Bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

The guns have long since cooled at Appomattox, but American writers still deploy the fighters and the statesmen and the politicians on the field of conflict. Ralph Korngold's *Thaddeus Stevens: A Being Darkly Wise and Rudely Great* is a recent study, controversial and vigorous. In four major divisions the author tells the traditional story of Stevens' early life, his crusade for free schools, his championship of the underprivileged, his fight against the Masons, his law career, his beginning trials in politics, and—as a triumphant ending—his masterful years in the House of Representatives during the war and Reconstruction. What is new is the emphasis, and Mr. Stevens is emphatically emphasized. His achievements in any other period, it is argued, would have made him the “darling” of the American people. He fought for the underprivileged, he helped the poor, he was a moving force in the conduct of the war, and he saw more clearly than anyone else the problems of Reconstruction. But in spite of all this, it is maintained, few “have ever heard of him,” and those who have associate him with vindictiveness. This situation Mr. Korngold endeavors earnestly to correct.

The ostensible purpose of the book—to give credit where credit has been denied—is a laudable one. The author has said many things that should long ago have been said. He has, however, created new errors in the process, new errors that some may think greater than the old. At least three primary theses are obvious. One is that a handful of greedy, narrow-minded, and willful landed aristocrats drove an unwilling South on to the battlefield to defend their own greed—and their slaves. Another is that the attempts at readjustment after 1865 failed because Lincoln was uncertain, Johnson was pig-headed and stupid, and the little group of Southern landed aristocrats who had brought on the war were unrepentant and still filled with greed and a burning ambition to get back on the battlefield. A third is that had the wisdom of Stevens been heeded, the troubles of Reconstruction would have passed away as the mist after a dreadful storm and the land been left happy and smiling.

The author has fought his cause with too much vigor and with no less bias perhaps than that of those he so bitterly condemns. Too often he uses techniques rather than facts to make his case. Premises open to basic controversy are frequently set up merely by statement, emphasized sometimes by the clinching “there can be no question.” When the “Great Commoner” is not easily defended, Mr. Korngold holds him up to Lincoln to show that he is no smaller than the President; when he is worthy of praise, he makes the most of it, occasionally to the disadvantage of the disturbed and often uncertain man in the Executive Mansion. In his eagerness to rescue Mr. Stevens from the fate that has befallen him, he may have viewed the field before him too much through the eyes of his hero; he may have examined with too little care the aspects of his subject that were repugnant to him.

Certainly he has indulged in too many sweeping generalizations. Some readers will have justified reservations as to his opinions concerning the attitude of Southern planters toward the newly freed Negroes, the meaning of the election of 1866, the New Orleans riots of that year, the timing of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and many others as well.

Long ago it should have been explained and accepted that it was natural for the North to punish the South. The vacant chair, the armless sleeve, the burdened crutches—all made understandable the course of Reconstruction, but logic and wisdom may not necessarily have always been involved. The author, to be merely righting justice, sees too much good on one side and too much bad on the other. Deep-seated instincts, praised in Stevens, are damned in Johnson. All virtue lay above the Potomac. It may be that Mr. Korngold has written not only a biography of Stevens, but a treatise as well—a treatise on modern loyalty. Sometimes the treatise seems to overwhelm the biography, and what distresses me is that, badly as we may need lectures on loyalty, the solution is what it ever has been—vengeance. There may still be, even in this disturbed present, a vision in the carved lines behind a noble statue: "With malice toward none; with charity for all. . . ."

Temple University

JAMES A. BARNES

The Age of Reform, from Bryan to F.D.R. By RICHARD HOFSTADTER. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1955. viii, 328, xx p. Index. \$4.50.)

Fulfilling the promise contained in his *Social Darwinism in American Thought* (1944) and *The American Political Tradition* (1948), Richard Hofstadter has produced one of the most significant general works of the last decade. His first book was a distinguished monograph that revealed an ability to handle complex ideas, but it suffered from the common failing of that genre, a tendency to exaggerate the importance of its subject. The second, provocative and stimulating, displayed a capacity for synthesis, but inevitably the author spread himself too broadly and occasionally stumbled in areas he had not explored for himself. In the present volume, however, he has mastered his materials and has brought to play upon the familiar topics of populism and progressivism a highly original and discriminating mind. The result is a study replete with fresh interpretations, skillfully organized, lucidly written, and characterized by tolerance and understanding. It is based in part upon firsthand investigation and in part upon an intelligent utilization of recent findings by specialists in all the social sciences.

The aim is to analyze from the perspective of the 1950's the passion for progress and reform that typified the period from 1890 to 1940. The emphasis is on the years to 1917. The approach is that of a reflective and responsible scholar who has been reared in the liberal tradition, but who has grown critical of some of its assumptions and impatient with some

historical generalizations about it. The book is primarily an essay in political thought and moods. Three of the seven chapters deal with agrarian ideas from the days of populism to those of parity. These discuss the farmer's zeal for reform and his ultimate acceptance of commercial realities. The next three depict progressivism as a legacy of the Mugwumps and a reaction of several professional groups against a triumphant plutocracy. These underline the middle-class moderation of the movement and its ambivalent attempts to grapple with the trusts and the bosses. A final chapter surveys hastily but perceptively the two decades after 1918 with the avowed purpose of demonstrating that the goals and the methods of the New Deal differed markedly from those of the New Nationalism and the New Freedom.

It is impossible to do justice here to the ramifications of Professor Hofstadter's arguments and the variety of his conclusions. This reviewer learned much from the dissection of the agrarian myth which regarded the yeoman farmer as the bulwark of democracy, from the analysis of the folklore of populism and its conspiracy theory of history, and from the true dimensions of the agrarian triumph after the disasters of the Bryan campaigns. His understanding of progressivism has been deepened by the author's exposition of "the status revolution" as a factor in its emergence and by his timely reminder that modern statism was not a foreign importation but the work, in the beginning, of men who were trying to save native Yankee values of individualism and enterprise.

These challenging pages will, of course, evoke dissent. The general reader will deplore the cursory treatment of the years after 1917. The specialist may feel that the amount of space given to "the status revolution" distorts a little the manifold origins of progressivism. The present writer regrets that Professor Hofstadter, although more tolerant than in the past, still renders less than substantial justice to Theodore Roosevelt; and he fears that the generalizations on the progressive attitude toward foreign affairs rest on insufficient evidence. But these are minor blemishes in a valuable contribution to the enlightenment of both the layman and the scholar.

Northwestern University

RICHARD W. LEOPOLD

The Socialist Party of America: A History. By DAVID A. SHANNON. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1955. xvi, 320 p. Bibliographical note, index. \$4.50.)

This excellent and scholarly study is curious in one respect: that while some elements in our public life firmly accuse some other elements of having become, with or without intention, pawns of socialism, Mr. Shannon's book claims to be describing the life and career of what is now a corpse in the United States. The paradox is partially resolved when one realizes that this study does not argue that socialist *theory* is dead, only socialist *politics*. Nevertheless, *The Socialist Party of America* presents problems. If, as it

alleges, it was essentially native circumstances, uncongenial to socialism, which were responsible for its demise, why was this fact revealed only in the 1930's, when a desperate country might have seemed in best humor to consider changes in its traditional ways of action? Again, what *were* our traditional postures in this field? Why was it that this vitally capitalist country should have been willing to impart such apparent vigor to the Socialist Party in pre-World War I decades, giving it close to a million votes in 1912, in a campaign which featured Theodore Roosevelt and Wilson; developing a body of "millionaire socialists" to add prestige and money to its principles; and producing other socialists of the stature of Debs, Charles Edward Russell, Upton Sinclair, and John Spargo, among many others of whom any party could feel proud? Finally, if the form which the socialist movement took was a result of American conditions, as Mr. Shannon seems to believe, why did the movement develop away from its roots rather than in accordance with its source characteristics?

Mr. Shannon maintains something of a tone of amusement toward socialist peccadilloes: their Marxist jargon and unrealistic perspectives, the lack of regard and understanding on the part of big-city (and especially New York) socialists toward their grassroots brethren, their confused decisions during the World War I crisis, their earlier "bourgeois reformist" versus "impossibilist" factions, their later "Old Guard" versus "Progressives" differences. And yet one might suggest that there were serious, and even somber, problems at the base of these attitudes. For example, it is evident that the socialists, as a national group and as a part of the Second International, failed to prevent the beginning and spread of World War I. It is also evident that no one else succeeded in doing so. It would appear, therefore, that the failure of socialism in this situation is closely linked with the aims of other groups and tendencies within the country, and, indeed, cannot be understood without a relationship being struck or indicated between the socialists and others. The socialists do seem rather mad and absurd as they break into grouplets in the post-World War I period over communist and other issues. But one might ask whether life may not have been stirring at least as substantially in these small and agitated elements as in the large mass movements toward "normalcy."

The demise of political socialism is laid, in Mr. Shannon's book, directly to the fact that the New Deal had stolen all its thunder and substance—and not, it is emphasized, so much as "creeping socialism," but rather as healthy capitalism. But if the New Deal may be equated with the "alphabet soup" of reformist agencies of the New Deal, what can be equated, in the 1930's, with the destruction of the London Economic Conference, the toleration policy toward militaristic Japan, the hands-off policy toward the Spanish Civil War, and a domestic policy which kept the unemployment rate fairly constant from the coming of "Dr. New Deal" to his successor "Dr. Win the War"? Why did American socialism not profit from these integral New Deal policies?

My point is not that Mr. Shannon lacks awareness of controversial aspects of New Deal policy. On the contrary, he is well aware of them. My point is that he has not actually explained why the Socialist Party died, any more than he has explained why it earlier flourished.

I expect, too, that these questions cannot be answered without, at the same time, discussing two subjects. The first one would be the role of reform in American life, particularly during the "Reform Era" of the pre-World War I years, when the Socialist Party was itself so powerful, and the manner in which they both collapsed. The fateful period is 1912-1917; and I can only suggest here that I have discussed this particular subject, from my point of view, conveniently in my essay, "The Dilemma, So-called, of the American Liberal," published in the *Antioch Review*, Summer, 1948. Secondly, it is not possible to understand the collapse of the Socialist Party without at the same time discussing the rise of communist support and ideas in the 1930's. Mr. Shannon thinks that there was something amusing about the "romantic leftists" of the Socialist Party. I can only offer it as a thought that an intellectual adventure which led Alger Hiss to prison and the Rosenbergs to the electric chair is something less than amusing.

Mr. Shannon has covered his over-all assignment in admirable fashion. He has examined the internal politics of the Socialist Party with care, clarity, and discrimination. But the difference between the quick and the dead is too important a question to pass over hastily, to define too arbitrarily. It has been often noticed, in recent years, that no man is an island, and the patent death of socialism in America (as distinguished from such other lands as Great Britain) raises the question of what may be alive here in its stead. The documents in the case are, happily, being turned over and reported. It remains to report them still further, and, in addition, to examine them in the full context of our affairs.

Antioch College

LOUIS FILLER

Place Names in Burlington County, New Jersey. By HENRY H. BISBEE. (Riverside, N. J.: Burlington County Publishing Co., 1955. [xii], 116 p. Bibliography. \$3.25.)

As N. R. Ewan has noted in his foreword, Henry H. Bisbee's *Place Names in Burlington County, New Jersey* is a "veritable Bedeker" of the county. Place names well established and names all but forgotten are here recorded against the rapid changes already taking place in Burlington County. In his introductory note, Mr. Bisbee comments that time has obliterated the origins of many extant place names; others have proved transient, giving way to later names. He has performed a great service in preserving for the future such delightful place names as Apple Pie Hill, Belly-Bridge Branch (of the Rancocas River), Bread and Cheese Run, Breakfast Point, Calico,

Comical Corner, Encroaching Corners, Handpointers, Hog Wallow, Lazy Point, Old Maids Lane, Onga Hat, Petticoat Bridge, Purgatory, Swimmin Over, and Turpentine. Mr. Bisbee has endeavored to compile as complete a list of place names as possible, and for a majority of them has provided historical notes. Brief sketches of the more prominent places in the county include current details. For those who are interested in the local history of Burlington County, or who are merely intrigued with place names wherever they may be, this book should have great appeal.

Delaware's Role in World War II, 1940-1946. Two Volumes. By WILLIAM H. CONNER and LEON DEVALINGER, JR. (Dover, Del.: Public Archives Commission, 1955. 328 + 29; 232 + 21 p. Illustrations, appendices, indices. \$6.00.)

This comprehensive and detailed history of Delaware during World War II is a proud and invaluable record. Within its two volumes no phase of the state's war activity has been overlooked—a monumental task of collecting, collating, and organizing voluminous materials. It is a history of people, a memorial to Delawareans, cited by name, for their wartime service at home and overseas.

As part of the national program for the Conservation of Cultural Resources, the compilation of data for this history was begun early in 1942. The resulting volumes tell the story of Delaware's two principal military units, the 198th Coast Artillery (A. A.) Regiment and the 261st Coast Artillery Regiment (appendices to Volume I give the rosters of officers and men), and of the military installations in the state. The service record of Delawareans is presented by theater of action. On the home front, Civilian Defense and the many civilian war efforts, agricultural and industrial production, the activities of religious and educational organizations, and the operation of Federal agencies are all described. The opening chapter supplies the necessary background for the war and the subsequent total mobilization of the state's resources. The volumes are generously illustrated, and each has its own index.

Delaware Stays in the Union. By JOHN S. SPRUANCE. (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1955. 34 p. Illustrations. Paper, \$.25.)

The program of the Institute of Delaware History and Culture to provide readable, authoritative, and brief discussions of various phases of the cultural and social history of the state continues with *Delaware Stays in the Union*. This third pamphlet in the series is an account of Delaware during the Civil War. As a border state, Delaware was a battleground of its own. Although standing with the Union, strong Southern sympathy in the state

created serious antagonisms which affected politics and civil rights in particular. On the crucial issue of slavery, it is of interest that it was not until 1901 that a Republican-controlled Assembly finally ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. In a section entitled "Life and Customs Before the War," Mr. Spruance very briefly presents background information on population, business, education and abolition. The illustrations of Frank E. Schoonover are an attractive feature.

Jewish Americana. [Monographs of the American Jewish Archives, No. 1.] (Cincinnati, Ohio: American Jewish Archives, 1954. x, 115 p. Illustrations, index. Paper, \$3.50.)

The tercentenary of Jewish colonization in America has stimulated a new interest in the literature surrounding the Jews and their activities in this country. This first monograph of the American Jewish Archives, under the general editorship of Jacob R. Marcus, is a supplement to A. S. W. Rosenbach's *An American Jewish Bibliography* (1926), and lists books by Jews or relating to them which are to be found in the library of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. The first item listed is dated 1735, the last, 1850; there is only occasional duplication of Rosenbach entries. The catalogue should prove invaluable to students of American Jewish history, and will also be useful to students working in the broad stream of American social and cultural history.