

tion the full applicability of lessons learned beyond those provided by the broken and marginalized old soldiers. Criticisms aside, *Sing Not War* presents a fascinating look at one of the most understudied topics of the Civil War, demonstrating the complexity and human toll of the nation's bloodiest conflict.

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J. ADAM ROGERS

The Judge: A Life of Thomas Mellon, Founder of a Fortune. By JAMES MELLON. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011. 592 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$38.)

Individuals wishing to know more about the dour, controlling, and single-minded Judge Thomas Mellon depicted in David Cannadine's comprehensive *Mellon: An American Life* need look no further—James Mellon, big game hunter and author of several notable books, has produced an engaging and readable account of his great-great-great-grandfather's life and times. Based largely on Thomas Mellon's autobiography, but enriched with the addition of materials from the Mellon family's private collection, *The Judge* offers a largely sympathetic account of Thomas Mellon's rise from somewhat modest means to a position of substantial and shrewdly acquired wealth.

Thomas Mellon is not, strictly speaking, an "interesting" figure; he had no great love affairs, committed no notorious crimes, and held no high offices. Rather, he was a canny behind-the-scenes player who from a very early age grasped the significance of long-term planning. James Mellon writes with no small amount of admiration about Thomas Mellon's extraordinary academic performance at the Western University of Pennsylvania (now University of Pittsburgh) and youthful love notes, but "the Judge" quickly put aside what he came to view as frivolous endeavors. Adept enough with classical languages to be offered a professorship at the university following his graduation, Mellon stayed there only long enough to position himself for a profitable career in law.

Indeed, it was some variation on the profit motive—filtered through his readings of Benjamin Franklin on work ethic and Herbert Spencer on the "survival of the fittest"—that seemed to compel all of Mellon's future decisions. He married Sarah Negley, heiress to the Negley fortune he had coveted since his childhood (a woman described unflatteringly by James Mellon as someone "God had fashioned . . . from the homeliest clay"), because the time had come for him to take a wife, and "she would do" (74). He also staked out pragmatic positions on matters such as his son James's desire to serve in the Civil War ("There are thousands of poor fellows fit for soldiering, but fit for nothing else, whose duty is to go"), compulsory education for children ("They [must not be] allowed to grow up in ignorance and vice . . . whence they are graduated to the penitentiary or gallows"),

capital punishment (“It may seem a hard task to condemn fellow creatures . . . ‘to be hanged by the neck until dead’; but it is not so hard if they clearly deserve it”), and trial by jury (“It is high time some important changes were made in the selection of jurors, and some discrimination . . . in the cases to which they are applicable”) (151, 173, 180, 184).

After Mellon’s tenure on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas concluded, he opened T. Mellon & Sons’ Bank. He operated the organization with his sons Andrew and Richard, whom he had been training as businessmen since they were old enough to comprehend his instructions. After weathering the Panic of 1873, investing wisely in local railroad construction and coal mining ventures, and providing some start-up capital to future coal magnate Henry Frick, Mellon retired in 1882, leaving his sons to run the bank. That they succeeded beyond his wildest dreams is unsurprising; that he never “share[d] his reading and contemplation” with them or any of his other heirs is one of the central mysteries of the book, given that he led a deep and fulfilling intellectual life. But the Mellon story came full circle nevertheless; many of his later descendants, including James Mellon himself, “delighted in deep exploratory reading” and derived considerable pleasure from supporting various educational causes (508). Even the predoctoral fellowship that afforded me the leisure to read and review this book bears the ubiquitous Mellon surname, which in itself provides proof that the fierce discipline Thomas Mellon had instilled in him first in County Tyrone and later at “Poverty Point” has inured not just to the benefit of his sons but also to the benefit of those thousands who have partaken of the family’s largesse.

One final note: this book is among the most handsomely illustrated volumes yet released by a university press. For that reason alone, Pennsylvania history aficionados may wish to add it to their collections.

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OLIVER BATEMAN

So Bravely and So Well: The Life of William T. Trego. By JOSEPH P. ECKHARDT. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. 208 pp. Illustrations, select bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

Like a number of nineteenth-century American artists who were inclined toward history painting, William T. Trego (1858–1909) has occupied a marginal place in art-historical scholarship. Building on the earlier research of Helen Hartman Gemmill, historian Joseph P. Eckhardt has produced the first monographic study of the underrecognized Trego. This book accompanied the retrospective exhibition of Trego’s art held at the James A. Michener Art Museum and is supplemented by that organization’s ongoing Trego catalogue raisonné website. Eckhardt’s book offers an engaging narrative of the life and career of this intriguing