

*George Washington.* By LOUIS MARTIN SEARS, professor of history in Purdue University. (New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, c1932. xiv, 560 p. Maps.)

*George Washington, the Son of His Country, 1732-1775.* By PAUL VAN DYKE, formerly Pyne professor of history at Princeton University. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931. 310 p.)

*George Washington, Country Gentleman.* By PAUL LELAND HAWORTH. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, c1925. 336 p. Illustrations.)

The increased interest in and the deluge of books and articles upon George Washington, stimulated by the bicentennial anniversary, have added few facts hitherto unknown. The tendency has been to interpret anew those facts already established or to select the phases and incidents of Washington's life pertinent to one's own particular interests. The novelist, the so-called "debunker," the citizen of western Pennsylvania, the patriot, and the professional historian have investigated the life of Washington, each according to his own interest. These three books are all from the pens of professional historians.

Louis Martin Sears' biography is a pretentious, comprehensive, chronological account of the entire life of Washington. The style of the author is popular and engaging though the failure to discriminate between significant events and unimportant details tends to make the reading of the book a trifle burdensome. Apparently the facts have been drawn largely from Worthington C. Ford's edition of Washington's *Writings*. Consequently, practically every event of Washington's life, both significant and insignificant, is treated. The youth, the surveyor, the youthful soldier and his activities in western Pennsylvania from 1753 to 1758, the patient, persevering hero of the Revolution, the president of the Constitutional Convention, and finally the president of the United States are all portrayed. The author frankly assumes that he is dealing with no common man and treats his subject accordingly, lauding him whenever the occasion merits praise, and excusing him and defending him against his critics, particularly Charles F. Adams, Jr. Nevertheless Washington is

portrayed as a human being. Throughout the book the author follows the interesting yet dangerous policy of psychoanalyzing his subject and attempts a psychological explanation of Washington's behavior. One wonders why the explanation of the relation of sexes and the observation on Lincoln's sex life were drawn in. Withal, the book is a comprehensive work in a popular style containing rather complete information.

Paul Van Dyke's biography is an unpretentious, simple account, told simply. The style is in the popular vein, and the author quite admirably portrays what the title suggests — Washington, a son of the eighteenth century in Virginia. He shows that Washington was a frontiersman in his youth, a prominent captain of the militia in his young manhood, and a typical Virginia planter in his maturity. He does not emphasize the political life of his subject. Obviously, he has followed the *Writings* closely with little pretense at profundity and with little effort at psychoanalysis. In treating Washington as the son of his country, the author necessarily emphasizes his activities as a planter and his activities in the West. Six of the seven occasions which carried Washington into western Pennsylvania are discussed at length. In many respects the book is of the most desirable type of popular biography.

Paul Leland Haworth's book is a reprint of a work first published in 1915. It is an account in the popular style of the agricultural phase of Washington's life. In it Washington appears to be the most praiseworthy of planters. The author depicts him in obviously laudatory tones as most progressive in all forms of husbandry and in the business of keeping accounts. It is quite possible, however, that one could obtain as complete and a more correct opinion for himself from the *Writings*.

R. J. FERGUSON

*The Making of Pennsylvania.* By GEORGE SYDNEY FISHER. Introduction by GEORGE WHARTON PEPPER. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, [1932]. 380 p. Map.)

As this book was originally published in 1896 and the only new part of this edition is the introduction, it is doubtless well known and does not call for an extended review. It is essen-