of the result will depend upon the extent and quality of such work and the care with which he makes his selections. Mr. Adams' interpretations are his own of course, and few scholars will agree with all of them; the book contains some minor errors of fact, as a result perhaps of following careless guides; but it is much nearer to the truth and the whole truth than it could have been if it had been written a generation ago. If one of the objects of history is to enable a people to understand itself, then the production and widespread reading of such books as this one and the Beards' Rise of American Civilization would seem to be the culmination of the historical process. Not every worker in the field of history can write such books, but even the most humble of them may make his contribution to the edifice of knowledge upon which they rest.

Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey  Solon J. Buck


As its title indicates, this book is not a biography of William Penn only, but of the family of which he was the most eminent representative. The Penn cycle begins in 1642 when William Penn, the admiral, first came into prominence, and closes with the death of the Reverend Thomas Gordon Penn in 1869, when the male line became extinct. Somewhat more than half the space is given to William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania; about a hundred pages are devoted to his father, the admiral; and the remaining fifty pages are taken up with a description of the later members of the family, none of whom rose to distinction.

Mr. Pound's book does not pretend to be a work based upon laborious research into the sources, or even upon a very wide use of the secondary materials available. It adds nothing to our knowledge of either Admiral Penn or of his distinguished son, though it sums up in convenient form the main facts relating to them and their descendants. Nor does it make any special contribution to an understanding of conditions in colonial Pennsylvania by way of additional facts or new interpretation. It is a book for the general reader rather than for the scholar.
Nevertheless we are glad to have this book. It contains a good deal of solid information presented in an interesting fashion, and it is very readable. It is printed in attractive form and is free from typographical errors. While it brings out no new facts about William Penn and the founding of Pennsylvania, it gives more information about other members of the Penn family than is readily available elsewhere. This aspect of the book constitutes its chief value, and alone amply justifies its publication.

Pennsylvania State College

Wayland F. Dunaway


Here is a “modern” organization of the history of the United States in a textbook for college students. It is practical in its implication that the peculiar factors which have made the United States what it is today have largely been introduced in comparatively recent years. The application of the chronological measure reveals the allotment of space to the period before 1865 to be nine pages per year; from the Civil War through the Spanish-American War, eleven pages per year; and since the Spanish-American War, thirteen pages per year. The author does not assume, however, that the subjects of English expansion, colonial development, institutional origins, and the winning of independence shall be omitted from the college course; these two volumes are intended for the second and third parts of a three-part course. There are several textbooks devoted to the colonial period and the winning of independence.

The author does not choose to be “the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to cast the old aside.” There is no startling innovation in the treatment of the material. It is still practical in the refusal to surrender the sound logical—and pedagogical—principle that the best unifying element for a work or a course of this kind is to be found in the national problems which have interested the people in general. The work is not an account of the social and economic development of the United States nor a history of American life; it is a narrative of the national evolution as a political organism largely in terms of the