A careful examination of these volumes reveals that in the organization of a modern pedagogical textbook in history two very likely shortcomings are a lack of good chronological perspective and a lack of accurate up-to-date historical scholarship.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
*Alfred P. James*


The subtitle is the definitive part of the title of this work. It is not a history of the presidential campaign of 1868, but almost entirely a study of the complexities of Democratic reorganization and party tactics in the first presidential election after the war. Almost one-half of the space is devoted to the candidates for the Democratic nomination, the convention, and the reaction of the country to the nominees. The author evidently believed that the selection of candidates was the most important task of the party. The reader is left quite uncertain as to why and how things happened as they did in the convention. If anything more than chance and the vagaries of human emotions determined the choice of Seymour it seems to be found in a combination of particular hostilities to other candidates, the needs of the New York Democracy, and the prestige of the war governor of the Empire State, whose reluctance was almost forcibly overcome by his friends. The author apparently accepts as genuine the unwillingness of Horatio Seymour to be a candidate. The nomination of Francis P. Blair, Jr., for the vice presidency was also somewhat mysterious and apparently regarded by the author as unwise. The discussion of the platform is purely narrative with emphasis on the sections dealing with money and southern reconstruction. Disagreement within the party with regard to both the candidates and the platform receives major emphasis; within two weeks of the election there were considerable demands for a new ticket.

The author concludes that “the victory of the Republicans was to have been expected, and that their victory was more pronounced because of the errors of their opponents.” The Republican advantages consisted in the prestige of victory in war, superior organization, established control, larger financial resources, and the popularity of General Grant. According to the author the Democratic
nominations and the chief planks in the platform were all unwise. Hancock and Hendricks would have made a better showing but would not likely have defeated Grant and Colfax; all the electoral votes of the conquered states would not have sufficed. As it was, Seymour and Blair got a majority of the total white vote of the country (p. 370). “Considering everything, the Democrats did remarkably well” (p. 377).

The party was largely dominated by New York. Pennsylvania was an important factor but appears to have played an independent rôle in the convention. The Pennsylvania delegation was instructed for Asa Packer and voted consistently for him until the fifteenth ballot, when it went to Hancock. For readers interested in the history of Pennsylvania the treatment here is hardly adequate.

There are errors not a few, mostly typographical, but some are none the less egregious. There is a bibliography and an index. The reviewer would like a map and more tabulated statistics in the appendixes. The author has organized the data on the subject in a manner useful to the special student or the reader with an intense interest in political history in the narrow sense. The book was not written for the general reader.

University of Pittsburgh

William J. Martin


This book is a family history rather than a genealogy, and the first fifty pages, devoted to William Turnbull, relate largely to western Pennsylvania. Turnbull came from Scotland to Philadelphia about 1770 and quickly established himself as one of the leading merchants. At the close of the Revolution, in which he served in the quartermaster’s department, he formed a partnership known as Turnbull, Marmie and Company, which purchased Fort Pitt and with Major Isaac Craig and Colonel Stephen Bayard as agents undertook to establish various business enterprises in Pittsburgh and vicinity. These included a store at Old Redstone, a distillery at Pittsburgh, flour and saw mills, a boat yard, salt works on the Big Beaver, and the first iron furnace west of the mountains, erected on Jacob’s Creek in 1790. Apparently Turnbull removed to Pittsburgh about 1790 and resided there until 1798, when he went back to Philadelphia. The Craig Papers in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have been drawn upon for information about these enterprises and a number of letters are