War. The editorial work is of the highest standard. Footnotes and cross references based on great labor and intensive scholarship add much value. The reviewer detected only one discrepancy, which may be a misprint, although it may be an error made by the writer of the original document. Captain Edmonstone commanded at Pittsburgh from December 25, 1770, and not from 1771 (p. 602). A thirty-seven page index furnishes a first-class guide to the contents of the volume.

A review of such length in this magazine is justified by the fact that materials of importance on the history of western Pennsylvania are furnished in this volume. About two score documents bear directly upon the local history of this region, while general and incidental material of importance for its history appear throughout the volume. Among matters touched upon may be mentioned the regulation of Indian trade (p. 4); hospitalization at Pittsburgh in 1764 (p. 222); difficulties of supplying Fort Pitt with provisions (p. 231-272, passim); information about the Reverend Michael Schlotter, chaplain in the Third Battalion of the Royal American Regiment (p. 338, 358); further information about John Metcalfe's Memorial (p. 513, 520—see ante, 16: 197-204); specific information about commanders at Fort Pitt, 1770-72 (p. 638); information about the abandonment of Fort Pitt, November 20, 1772 (p. 602, 638); and reference to Indian trouble caused by aggressive Virginia frontiersmen in 1774 (p. 650).

This volume, therefore, like its predecessor, makes a contribution to western Pennsylvania history. Its main value, however, consists in the light that it throws on British imperial difficulties and policies in North America in one of the most important decades in the history of this country.

University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James


The development of secondary education in Pennsylvania has been treated in various studies and books. In no case, however, has this subject been so exclusively and exhaustively treated as by Dr. Mulhern. The treatment is divided into three parts: the beginnings of secondary education in Pennsylvania, the rise and development of the academy, and the public high school. The scholarly manner in which this book is written is indicated by the fact that it contains 4,099 footnote citations and 74 pages of bibliography. The reviewer
noticed one error in interpretation—the statement that the law of 1849 re-
quired every school district in the state to establish public schools (p. 475).
This is refuted by data in the annual report of the state superintendent for
1873. In his list of junior colleges, the author fails to mention the junior col-
lege established at Erie by the University of Pittsburgh.

The greatest merit of the book, namely, the author’s extensive use of cita-
tions, makes it difficult to read as a history. Consequently it would scarcely be
suitable as a textbook. There is considerable repetition, also, and the reader
often becomes confused by the author’s violation of the chronological order of
treatment within topics (e.g. p. 460). His treatment of the various subdi-
visions is somewhat ill-proportioned, possibly because of a difference in the
availability of source materials for different topics. Forty pages are devoted to
the Philadelphia Academy while only forty-five pages are given to the chapter
entitled “The Academy Movement.” Only one hundred and sixty pages are
given to the rise and growth of the public high school, while nearly three hun-
dred are devoted to the various phases of the academy.

A reader primarily interested in the history of western Pennsylvania will be
somewhat disappointed in the book. Even though more than sixty academies
and thirty high schools of the western part of the state are mentioned, these
are meagerly treated compared with those of the eastern part of the state, es-
pecially those in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, no historian interested in the de-
velopment of secondary education in western Pennsylvania can ignore the
value of this book as a work of reference.

University of Pittsburgh

John A. Nietz

*Stephen Foster, America’s Troubadour.* By John Tasker Howard.
(New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, c1934. xiii, 445 p. Illus-
trations.)

Any book dealing with the life of Stephen Collins Foster is, of course, of
particular interest to the people of the region in which he lived and composed
his songs, and a biography such as Mr. Howard’s, compiled with an eye to ac-
curacy and written in a straightforward manner and an engaging style, com-
mands especial attention.

Life in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region during the nineteenth cen-
tury is depicted with a wealth of homely detail through the various activities of
the Foster family. Stephen Foster was born in 1826 at Lawrenceville, a town
laid out by his father on a tract of land along the Allegheny River about two
and a half miles above Pittsburgh. William B. Foster, the father, had come