noticed one error in interpretation—the statement that the law of 1849 required 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 college established at Erie by the University of Pittsburgh.

The greatest merit of the book, namely, the author’s extensive use of citations, 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 subdivisions 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 hundred 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, especially those in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, no historian interested in the development of secondary education in western Pennsylvania can ignore the value of this book as a work of reference.

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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 accuracy and written in a straightforward manner and an engaging style, commands especial attention.

Life in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region during the nineteenth century 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
there from Canonsburg in 1796 and found employment with the merchandising firm of Denny and Beelen. During the War of 1812 he became deputy commissioner of purchases and in 1814 he undertook to load the ship "Enterprise" with supplies for the relief of Jackson at New Orleans. The accounts of his subsequent experiences as manager of a turnpike transportation company and later as collector of tolls at Pittsburgh for the Blairsville-Pittsburgh Canal and of his efforts on behalf of the cause of temperance in this region throw light on local economic and social conditions. Stephen Foster spent most of his life in and about Pittsburgh, moving from one house to another or staying with relatives there and in Ohio, according to the fortunes of the family. His practical-minded parents, although kindly disposed towards him, did not recognize in him a musical genius, and his talents along this line went untutored. His struggles as a composer, the fortunes of his many songs, and the affairs of his later life, slowly assuming the complexion of tragedy, comprise the balance of the book. Because the reader is steeped in his family lore and in the background that produced him, the serious, rather pathetic figure that emerges from this book is an entirely plausible one.

Discussions concerning the chronology of Foster's compositions, the numerous quotations and references to sources, and such statistics as appear in the chapter on "Finances" may perhaps seem out of place to the casual reader, but these matters are of importance in a biography of a man concerning whom there has been so much picturesque speculation and so little definite knowledge. The appendixes, containing a chronological outline of Foster's life, lists of his published works and of collaborators, and a bibliography, contribute much to the book as an authority on "Fosteriana." There is, in addition, a useful index. Sections of the last chapter deal with memorials to the composer in Pittsburgh and elsewhere and with the founding of Foster Hall at Indianapolis.