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.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
Elisabeth M. Sellers


This book is really an encyclopedia. It runs the gamut of social history from sheep to newspapers. The ravings of the spellbinders at camp meetings are there, the three-horse plow, worm-destroying lozenges, and ample servings of hogs' lard. The author rightly believes that the civilization of a people is based in part on "corn and wheat, upon pigs and cattle, and upon hard, unremitting
labor.” He has, indeed, done well. It is fair to say that, with the exception of the chapter on the Indians, the work is exhaustive—at least from the orthodox historian’s point of view. Every kind of social source material is drawn upon, and good indexing, classifying, interpreting, and digesting makes the book very usable. It is mercifully free from long quotations.

Dr. Bond has shown what can be done with the political, social, and economic beginnings of a given region. His book should be most useful as a model or pattern to workers in the field of western Pennsylvania history. For instance chapter fifteen on “Religion and Order” first treats of the coming of the different denominations and of their locations. It then develops the following subjects: the tactics and characteristics of the ministers, the nature and dissemination of religious literature, the circuit rider, the camp meeting, schismatic tendencies, moralistic legislation and control, and the problem of crime and punishment. The analysis of other subjects, such as the eastern backgrounds of western civilization, the distribution of the land, pioneer agriculture, transportation, and cultural and social foundations, would be similarly profitable.

It must be confessed that the problem of writing the corresponding story for western Pennsylvania is not so simple. The region has no political identity of its own, no separate legislative, judiciary, and executive departments; consequently the problem of public source material is highly complicated. Furthermore practically all the Old Northwest belonged to and, for the larger part of the period, was governed by, the federal government, whose archives are thus rich in material relating to its local history. Moreover western Pennsylvania does not possess numerous societies of merit such as those that have so well preserved the historical treasures of each state of the Old Northwest. It is probable that the lack of public spirit in things historical in western Pennsylvania accounts in some measure for the paucity of records. A history of the beginnings of the civilization of this region must and will be written. The difficulties are not insurmountable.

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RANDOLPH C. DOWNES


The lover of history will enjoy reading this book. Written for the undergraduate college student and for the general reader, it is eloquent testimony