that the country could no longer be maintained as an integral part of the old Spanish empire.

This is a worthwhile book for everyone to read who is interested in the history of western Pennsylvania and in the relation of this region to world history. It is written with an animation of style that provides a happy escape from the dullness of the average historical narrative. It is skillfully arranged so that objectives and developments appear in normal and clear proportions and with a minimum of the clutter of long quotations, antiquarian discursiveness, and barren speculation.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
*Randolph C. Downes*


This volume, like the others in the series to which it belongs, is not a history of the nation in the period with which it is concerned but a survey of the life of the people. Political, diplomatic, and military events are ignored; and economic and social conditions and developments are extensively portrayed. The greater part of the volume is devoted to the decade of the fifties, with topical chapters dealing with transportation and industry, agriculture, immigration, health and amusements, intellectual activities, and religion. Labor problems, crime, drinking and prohibition, and feminism are treated in a chapter entitled “The Growing Pains of Society”; and separate chapters deal with the special aspects of the South and the “New West.” A chapter on the slavery issue furnishes the transition to the treatment of the war period, which deals with the preparations for the struggle and its effects on the life of the people in the two sections. The central theme of the book is the increasing divergence, leading to inevitable conflict, between the culture patterns of the North and the South; and many of the chapters conclude with summaries that emphasize that divergence. More attention might have been given to the elements that made for cohesion such as a common cultural heritage and the economic interdependence of the sections, especially in the interior. If the conflict was irrepressible, perhaps also the ultimate reunion was inevitable.

Any book that deals with the life of the people must be highly selective, for the possible topics and the pertinent materials are almost unlimited. It is natural for the writer to use the materials with which he is most familiar and
which are most readily available, and that may account for the fact that the Middle West seems to occupy an unduly prominent place in this book. The Appalachian Plateau, which was rapidly becoming the industrial center of the nation, receives little consideration. Apparently no files of Pittsburgh newspapers were used, and the name of the city does not appear in the index. The writer of general works must rely, however, to a considerable extent on monographic studies, and few such studies are available on the social history of the Appalachian Plateau. Those interested in western Pennsylvania history will pick up occasional items of regional interest in the book. There are references to the railroad construction of the fifties (p. 14), the Erie War (p. 17), industrial development (p. 24), a German revolutionary congress in Wheeling in 1852 (p. 142), a western Pennsylvania petition of 1860 to restrict the immigration of free negroes (p. 265), and the beginnings of the petroleum industry (p. 351). The important part that the industries of the region played in the Civil War is not developed.

Any work that deals with such a mass of miscellaneous data as this one does is sure to contain slips and doubtful statements. "Monongahela County, Virginia," should be Monongalia (p. 125); lager beer was certainly well known in Pennsylvania long before 1850 (p. 163); it was the bituminous rather than the anthracite coal of Pennsylvania that was extensively used "in locomotives and manufacturing establishments" (p. 351); and the implication that Jane Grey Swisshelm was not one of the "bolder spirits" who "mounted the lecture platform" is unfortunate (p. 176). The book is written with considerable literary skill. The layman will find it interesting to read and the scholar will find in it important contributions to his understanding of the period. The critical essay on authorities will be invaluable to anyone interested in research or reading on this period.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
Solon J. Buck


This journal of a young Presbyterian clergyman who "rode circuit" in western Virginia and central Pennsylvania during the opening months of the American Revolution presents a valuable picture of life in the Shenandoah and Susquehanna valleys and throws light on the activities of the Presbyterian