during the latter part of the proprietary period that the reviewer has seen. Source material relating to the inability of the federal government to count on state-supported militia to contribute substantially to the national military defenses and offenses on the public lands is to be found in several places. Such primary matter is important for an understanding not only of the nature of the relation of Pennsylvania to the Union but also of the nature of the founding of the Union itself.

The first volume of this series is on the territories in general and has been published in an incomplete and provisional form (1934. xiii, 37 p.). The definitive and complete print thereof will be published later.

Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey . Randolph C. Downes


This literary product may well be described as a chronicle of the legal and political activities of one of the most rugged politicians of the United States. In his preface the author frankly asserts that he essays to portray his subject without emphasizing the historical setting. He has accomplished his purpose in a popularly written biography with twenty-one pages of footnotes, inconveniently placed in the rear of the book, and eighteen pages of bibliography.

The incidents of the long and turbulent life of Thaddeus Stevens from his birth in Vermont in 1792 or 1793 to his burial in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1868 are related. The author deals briefly with the early training of the sensitive, club-footed youth in a New England grammar school, the University of Vermont, and Dartmouth College, and describes his legal career in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. There Stevens prospered in law and local politics from 1816 to 1842, when he removed to Lancaster. In state politics and in the state legislature he opposed Masonry and lost; he opposed slavery without visible success; and he opposed the repeal of the statute for free public schools and won. From 1842 to 1868 he divided his time between law, in which he was highly successful; business, in which he made and lost fortunes; and Congress, in which he rose to the dictatorship of the national House of Representatives. He was in the lower house of Congress from 1849 to 1853 and from 1859 to 1868. During his first four years in that body he was overshadowed by older men, but during the decade from 1858 to 1868 he constantly rose in service and power: he attained the chairmanship of the committee on ways and means during the war
and reached the zenith of his power between 1866 and 1868, only to suffer a keen disappointment in his failure to effect a conviction in the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

The study entailed a great amount of research and is based upon a huge quantity of documents. It is written in a delightful style and is beautifully printed. The failure of the author to integrate Stevens' business activities with his political theories is unfortunate, because Stevens' interest in the protective tariff probably resulted from his interests in the iron industry. As a well-written chronicle of Stevens' political career, the work is a valuable contribution.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson


This volume is the first of a number of collections of historical essays to be published under the general editorship of Professor William E. Lingelbach. The series is planned to embrace a variety of essays dealing with synthesis and interpretation, and it is hoped thereby to stimulate more philosophical and theoretical writing among historians. The first topic chosen is the one made so vivid by Frederick Jackson Turner. Ever since it was first suggested in 1893, American historians have been debating the significance of his frontier thesis.

What Turner meant and the validity of his conclusions are matters of increasing controversy, samples of which are contained in this book. The editor, Dixon Ryan Fox, expounds the Turner thesis and combines with it his own interpretation of the process of the transit of civilization. Benjamin F. Wright attacks the thesis; Avery Craven and John D. Hicks give their interpretations of it and suggest some modifications of and exceptions to Fox's theory. Marcus L. Hansen closes the book with the thought that American society is not so isolated as it seems and that European social conditions have had their reflex in America. The main burden of the criticism is that people migrated West with ideas gained from older environments and were dominated in large part even in the new environment by the old ideas. The replication is largely to the effect that the new sections lived different lives because of the demands of the strange environment and thus created distinctive institutions that taught the older settlements a vivid lesson.