

BOOK REVIEWS

A History of Pennsylvania. By WAYLAND FULLER DUNAWAY, Ph.D., professor of American history, The Pennsylvania State College. (New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1935. xxiii, 828 p. Illustrations, maps.)

IN THE somewhat inelegant words of a distinguished historian, authorship is a matter of "sweat and blood," a statement that is certainly true of any scholarly publication. A book so produced is very much a part of the author's life and almost a part of his personality.

It is well known that Professor Dunaway has been at work upon preparation for this book for about a decade. The result of his studies and labor has been long awaited by those especially interested in the history of Pennsylvania and by his many friends. As he states in his preface, the "need for a one-volume history of Pennsylvania suitable for the general reader and adapted to the requirements of a college textbook is generally acknowledged. No such book has appeared within the past fifty years." In addition to bringing the history of Pennsylvania abreast of contemporary scholarship and up to date in point of time the author has aimed to trace not only the political history but also the economic and social progress of the people, in keeping with the most modern concept of history. The book is divided into two parts: first, the "Colonial Period (1609-1790)," covering 404 pages, and second, the "History of the Commonwealth since 1790," covering 403 pages.

To the reviewer this publication seems to be a decided success. Its value as a one-volume history of Pennsylvania suitable both for the general reader and as a college textbook cannot be doubted; the work is not only scholarly but also well written. Its clarity is one of its distinct merits. For college textbook purposes it is, moreover, well organized. As a compendium it might be covered in one semester or term. As a manual, it might, with additional work on materials suggested in chapter bibliographies, be used in a course throughout the school year. Particularly valuable in this publication are chapters 10 to 17 on economic and social conditions in the colonial period, and chapters 25 to 32 on the same general subjects during the period since 1790. These topical chapters are well classified under various economic and social headings. That they cut across the chronological treatment of other chapters and involve some repetition is inevitable. The publication also has the merit of being written from a disinterested viewpoint, and controversial subjects are treated in an unbi-

ased manner. There is no catering to special groups. The author is to be congratulated on his excellent, though necessarily condensed, analysis of the political history of Pennsylvania. If, as would be natural, he has partisan feelings, he has disregarded them in the interest of critical history.

Few, if any, of the products of authorship are free from some demerits, which should be indicated in a critical review. The reviewer greatly regrets that, probably because of pressure from the publishers, the author did not cite important materials in footnotes, after the manner introduced in another textbook, *A History of Colonial America*, by Oliver P. Chitwood. Hostility to footnotes is little more than a prejudice, especially in a scholarly educational publication. Probably out of consideration for the general reader, the volume has been made almost unnecessarily elementary. An encyclopedic handling of data has resulted from the effort to include all aspects of Pennsylvania history in one volume. This is apparent not only in the topical chapters mentioned above, but also in the chronological chapters on political history, in which gubernatorial administrations are used as a basis of organization. Frequent repetition of fact and data, though to some extent unavoidable, distracts the attention of the reader of this volume. Additional maps would have added to its value, such as a map of the Dutch and Swedish settlements on the Delaware, another of the boundary dispute with Maryland, and yet another of Indian trails and portages. A further natural criticism of a general type on the part of a resident of western Pennsylvania is that the author overemphasizes Philadelphia and eastern Pennsylvania, as is done, for example, in the treatment of architecture.

Defects of a minor character are also apparent. There are a number of inaccuracies. Some Pennsylvania Indians moved to the Ohio Valley earlier than 1742 and 1750 (p. 6). Emphasis on Sebastian Cabot rather than on his father, John Cabot (p. 20, 120), is questionable. It is generally disbelieved that the French discovered the Ohio River as early as 1669 (p. 120). The account of the Jumonville affair (p. 121) is somewhat distorted. Carelessness in copying and typography is evident, especially in the bibliographies: for example, "Tillers of Land" for "Titles to Land" (p. 252), "Koviar" for "Kovar" (p. 491), and "Aloig" for "Albig" (p. 697), to mention only matters well known to the reviewer. "Lancasterian" would seem to be a less ambiguous word than "Lancastrian" (p. 751) to use in reference to the famous school system. Articles that are non-metallic are wrongly included under metals (p. 668). Unfortunate English is found in a few places: for instance, in the sentence concerning British troops "pursued by Washington in an indecisive en-

gement called the Battle of Monmouth" (p. 182), and in the phrase where the word "centers" reads as a verb but is intended as a noun (p. 633).

Students of special aspects of Pennsylvania history will find in this volume excellent outlines of their topics. It furnishes a very satisfactory introduction to more detailed reading and research and as a valuable general reference work should have a large sale. It should be gratifying to friends of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania to note that the volume is partly based on material in the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE and that as many as twenty-seven articles published in that magazine are mentioned in the chapter bibliographies. Printed in large type, well bound, and provided with an elaborate index of nineteen pages, the volume is a credit to both author and publishers.

University of Pittsburgh

ALFRED P. JAMES

Frontier Ohio, 1788-1803. (Ohio Historical Collections, vol. 3.) By RANDOLPH CHANDLER DOWNES, assistant professor of history, University of Pittsburgh, and research associate, Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey. (Columbus, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1935. xiv, 280 p. Maps.)

THE purpose of this book is to give "a somewhat balanced description" of Ohio from the time of its first settlement in 1788 until it was admitted to statehood in 1803. To this end the author has drawn upon practically every available source of information, except the *Territorial Papers of the United States*, volumes 2 and 3, covering the Northwest Territory, which did not appear until after his monograph was in page proof. The product of his researches is, however, effective, scholarly, and readable.

The central theme of this work is the frontier, with special attention to its agrarian, religious, and commercial institutions. Dr. Downes follows this theme through eight chapters: "The Conquest, 1788-1795"; "The People of Frontier Ohio"; "The Problems of Trade"; "The Reign of Winthrop Sargent"; "Political Reform"; "The Statehood Contest—Cincinnati Phase"; "The Statehood Contest—Chillicothe Phase"; and "The Making of the State." These chapters are interspersed with maps showing principal settlements in 1803, scenes of Indian wars, division schemes, and the like. The bibliography is complete to the point of being exhaustive, and the book has a usable index.

To western Pennsylvanians the chief interest of this work lies in its presentation of the contributions of Pennsylvania to Ohio. On this subject the au-