To students of western Pennsylvania history the book is chiefly important for its portrayal of the results in the East of a western event. They will find pleasure, however, in the occasional glimpses that are afforded of characters that are important in the western scene. For example, there is the picture of Conrad Weiser at Reading, sulking because Richard Peters forgot to bring him a sword, and of the commissioners, scurrying around to find him a sword so that the conference could proceed. The Reverend Charles Beatty, who two years later was destined to preach the first Protestant sermon on the site of Pittsburgh, was chaplain on this expedition. Franklin found him a "very agreeable" companion and was delighted when the Presbyterian clergyman agreed to distribute the rum to the soldiers after prayers in order to induce them to attend. Any student of frontier history cannot fail to be delighted by such bits as Franklin's views on the use of dogs on a military expedition: "In case of meeting a party of the enemy, the dogs are all then to be turned loose and set on. They will be fresher and finer for having been previously confined, and will confound the enemy a good deal, and be very serviceable" (p. 37).

The book is as pleasant in format as any it has been the pleasure of this reviewer to handle. The binding, paper, type, and general make-up are entirely admirable. The headpieces, consisting, with one exception, of vignettes by J. G. Chapman from H. Hastings Weld's edition of the Autobiography, are a happy addition to the book, and the end-paper map of the expedition greatly clarifies the text. The lack of an index in such an otherwise satisfactory volume as this is greatly to be regretted.


To illustrate the three-quarter-century struggle between the English and French colonists for the possession of the interior of North America, Miss Calder has edited a collection of heretofore unpublished journals, surveys, and letters. Two of the eighteen accounts thus made available are of interest to students of western Pennsylvania history.

An extract from the journal kept in 1756 and 1757 by Major John Smith, the original of which is in the Public Record Office, London, contains ambitious plans for the capture of French forts in the West. Major Smith had been a
captions at several of the forts; and he notes that at Fort Presque Isle there were "100 Soldiers and others," and about six swivel guns. While at a village of the Potowatamies, who he believed would be friendly to the English, he relates that they "danced under the English Colours, taken from Gen'l Braddock, and fired through the French Colours, held Council with Major Smith, agreed with him in a project formed by him for taking Fort Dequesne by their assistance with 1500 of their People" (p. 138). The details of this plan to capture Fort Duquesne are lacking, but an alternate plan to capture Detroit and other western forts included proceeding "along the Lake [Erie] to the river Beauf, where Fort Presque Isle is, attempt this Fort, or if too strong for being taken by Sur-prize, or assault, they leave it, and proceed down the river to the Ohio, as Col'l Washington did on his Interview with the Commander of this Fort, on the Commencement of the Ohio war" (p. 139).

Another account of western Pennsylvania interest is the journal of Charlotte Brown, matron of the general hospital with the English forces in America in 1754 and 1756, the original of which is now in the library of the New York Historical Society. Mrs. Brown reached Hampton Roads, Virginia, in March, 1755, and by June 13 she had arrived at Fort Cumberland. There she was taken ill; on her recovery she did not go farther west, for on July 11 "a Boy came from the Camp and said the General was kill'd 4 Miles from the French Fort and that allmost all S'r Peter Hacket's Regiment is cut of by a Party of French and Indians who were behind Trees" (p. 183). Her journal gives a brief glimpse of the distraction of those persons remaining at Fort Cumberland and records her difficult journey to Frederickstown, Maryland. The remaining portion of the journal is of less interest for the history of this region.

In making this source material available to a large number of persons, Miss Calder has not overburdened the text with footnotes. The selection of material was made by Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress, and the material has been arranged topically rather than chronologically.

Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey

John W. Harpster


This interesting volume constitutes a recasting of Mr. Haynes's well-known Chemical Economics in popular form. Up-to-date, comprehensive, and written