in these volumes will be of great historical value to specialists in the history of that topic, but students of any one part of the British Empire have much to gain from this general and yet scholarly survey of other parts with which they may not be so familiar. The first volume, on *Great Britain and Ireland*, for example, furnishes for American historical scholars who have not specialized in English history a valuable picture of British and Irish society in the crucial era of the eighteenth century. To the reviewer the volume seems a valuable supplement to the famous volumes of Osgood. Similarly it is highly probable that the second and third volumes, on *The Southern Plantations* and *The Northern Plantations*, will be valuable reading to those in the British Isles not closely familiar with the history of those parts of the empire lying beyond the Atlantic. A synthesis of this type, scholarly, well written, judicious, and unbiased, meets a need. So complex a subject as the British Empire could not well be treated satisfactorily in any other way. These and the volumes that are to follow are to be counted to the credit of the famous vision of Cecil Rhodes and viewed as a partial fulfillment of his hopes and expectations.

In such a work, some shortcomings are inescapable. Minor defects, such as quotations of considerable length without indentation, can be easily forgiven. The omission of important data is more serious—the chapters on New York state and Pennsylvania are inadequate by reason of such omission; and the author also shows a tendency to generalize on the basis of too few documents.

Doubtless later volumes covering topics after 1750 will be of more specific interest to readers of this magazine, but a revealing light is shed in these three volumes on numerous matters that should be studied in acquiring an understanding of the events and situations in western Pennsylvania during the eighteenth century.

*University of Pittsburgh* 

**Alfred P. James**


A little more than a century and a quarter ago Isaiah Thomas, founder of the American Antiquarian Society, wrote his *History of Printing in America*. 
Since that work was printed in 1810 and reprinted, with additions, in 1874, no comprehensive history of printing in the United States has been produced. Mr. McMurtrie has undertaken to write such a history and the present volume, although the first to appear, is the second of a four-volume work soon to be completed. It deals with the origin and growth of printing in each of the states of the Atlantic seaboard except the New England states and Florida. One chapter suffices for the story of pioneer printing in each state except New York, which is given an additional chapter, and Pennsylvania, which is important enough to require five chapters.

The section that will appeal most to students of western Pennsylvania history is the chapter on "The Western Spread of the Pennsylvania Press." As late as 1785 Carlisle was the westernmost point in Pennsylvania where printing was done. The next year a tremendous step was taken when a press was transported across the mountains to the forks of the Ohio, where on July 29, 1786, John Scull and Joseph Hall printed the first number of the Pittsburgh Gazette. No copy of this issue, the first printing west of the Alleghenies, exists, nor of the next issue. The earliest copy known, the third number, is in the American Antiquarian Society library. Similarly no copy of the first pamphlet printed at Pittsburgh, a Fourth of July oration advertised in the Gazette in 1786, exists, but there is a copy in the American Antiquarian Society library of the second known pamphlet, the Pittsburgh Almanac for 1788. A reproduction of the title page is given in the present volume. The first book produced at Pittsburgh was the third volume of Hugh Henry Brackenridge's Modern Chivalry, which was published in 1793 although dated 1713 to continue a typographical error in the preceding volume.

In spite of the trials of a frontier publisher, the Gazette and its publishers managed to eke out an existence, and a second newspaper, the Tree of Liberty, was established in opposition to it in 1800. Other newspapers, notably the Commonwealth, Mercury, and Statesman, were established during the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Probably the most important printer, publisher, and bookseller in Pittsburgh was Zadok Cramer, whose typographical achievement was the second American edition of John Brown's Dictionary of the Holy Bible, published in 1807 in two volumes with a total of 1,376 pages. Each volume was embellished with a folding frontispiece and twelve plates, and the two are said to have been the first illustrated work produced west of the Alleghenies. Cramer's other publications, his annual Pittsburgh Almanack begun in 1802, his Pittsburgh Magazine Almanack begun in 1804, and his
numerous editions of the *Navigator* beginning in 1801, were also important. Pittsburgh became a publishing center for the West, and the names and contributions of many other printers and publishers are to be found in this history.

Other towns in the region soon acquired printers and presses. Newspapers were usually the earliest productions of these presses, and there were several papers in western Pennsylvania before 1800, beginning at Washington in 1795, Uniontown in 1798, and Greensburg in 1799. Information about these and later newspapers, until about 1820, is drawn largely, as is noted in the preface, from Clarence E. Brigham's bibliography of newspapers published in preliminary form in the *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society. No mention is made, however, of the first newspapers in Bedford, Somerset, Kittanning, Ebensburg, or Butler, although there were papers there before 1820, the period which saw newspapers established at Meadville, Beaver, Erie, Greensville, Mercer, Waynesburg, Indiana, Perryopolis, and Connellsville, as the author indicates. Moreover, the omission, both in the chapter on the western spread of the Pennsylvania press and in the chapter on the German press, of notice of printing in Somerset is surprising. In addition to the newspapers in German and English produced there, Frederick Goeb in 1813 published a Bible in German at Somerset, which is said to have been the first Bible published west of the Susquehanna and was certainly the earliest printed in western Pennsylvania. A German edition of the New Testament was published at Somerset the next year. A less serious omission in noting eighteenth century newspapers is that of the *Western Sky*, 1798, published at Beula in Cambria County. There was apparently only one number of this paper, printed to further the claims of Beula as a likely place for the county seat. No copy is known to exist, although one was described in the Ebensburg *Alleghenian* of February 7, 1861.

The author cannot be severely censured for a few omissions in a work so comprehensive. Mr. McMurtrie's researches in the history of printing in the region covered by the present volume have made available much more information on the subject than can be found in any other work. Numerous illustrations add to the value of the book, and the bibliographies given, although not exhaustive, are helpful. Placing the numerous footnotes in a section at the back of the volume is a feature that is annoying in a detailed work in which the notes are frequently as valuable as the text. But in spite of such minor defects the completed set will be distinctly valuable, and this volume in particular will be a helpful reference work for students of western Pennsylvania history.

*Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania*  
*John W. Harpster*