lonely battle of homesickness which has always been the bane of soldiers.

There is one other person in the book who emerges as an extremely interesting individual. Michael's company commander was Captain E. Rose, whom the editor does not identify further. He apparently was an excellent officer, and during the battle of Stone River, or Murfreesborough, assumed command of the regiment, and shortly after the battle was advanced to the rank of full colonel, and became permanent commander of the unit. During the battle of Chickamauga, he and the rest of the field grade officers of the regiment were captured, and confined in Libby prison in Richmond, Virginia. However, this was to be merely a temporary inconvenience for the doughty and resourceful colonel, as he organized a project whereby he and one hundred and eight other officers were able to tunnel out of their prison and escape from the Confederacy! Colonel Rose wrote to the Stotler family, while he was a prisoner of war, to tell them of the death of Michael whom he'd seen struck down during the first day of the battle. He must have been a fascinating and magnetic leader from the references to him in these letters.

Mrs. Truxall, the editor, is to be congratulated for bringing these letters to our attention. The editorial comment is not extensive, and serves to supply only the minimum of information to the reader. However, to have buried these letters in a mass of footnotes and editorial comment would have served no useful purpose. As it is, they stand as a warm personal document that is both interesting and intensely poignant, at times. The physical make-up of this book is in accord with the usual high standards of the University of Pittsburgh Press.

University of Pittsburgh

Harry R. Beck


This volume, which contains the Civil War diary and letters of William Lyne Wilson, is the third written or edited by Professor Summers on the life and career of Wilson — soldier, lawyer, college professor, Congressman, university president, and Postmaster-General of the United States during Cleveland's second term. An im-
important political figure in the late 1880's and the 1890's, Wilson is best remembered for his role in the unsuccessful fight for tariff reform. A member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Wilson played a leading part in the writing of the Mills bill in 1887. As chairman of this committee in 1893-94, he engineered the Wilson bill, a low tariff measure, through the House of Representatives only to see it emasculated in the more conservative Senate. Defeated for re-election to the House in 1894, Wilson was appointed Postmaster-General by President Cleveland in 1895 where he served as "confidential adviser and assistant to the President on matters of government policy rather than as party manager and distributor of patronage." In 1897, Wilson became president of Washington and Lee University — a post he occupied until his death from tuberculosis in 1900. He maintained an active interest in politics during this period, being noted primarily as an outspoken opponent of imperialism. More than this, as Professor Summers observes, Wilson symbolized "as well as any political figure of the day," the unification of North and South "through the agency of the Democratic Party."

This volume, though Summers lucidly analyzes Wilson's later career in an epilogue, is a remarkable record of Wilson's Civil War experiences. A young lad of seventeen when he joined the Confederate army as a cavalryman, Wilson served under such notable commanders as Turner Ashby, William E. "Grumble" Jones, and Thomas L. Rosser. Wilson was involved in the famous Shenandoah Valley campaign conducted by Stonewall Jackson in 1862; he participated in one of the most daring cavalry raids of the war — the month long Jones-Imboden raid across the Alleghenies into West Virginia in 1863; and he saw action in Jubal A. Early's Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1864. In addition, he fought on such important fields of battle as Brandy Station, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor. Especially valuable are Wilson's comments on the divided loyalties of the inhabitants of West Virginia. They serve as a partial corrective — helping to place statehood politics in West Virginia in a more realistic light as most works on the subject are characterized by an unwarranted pro-Union bias.

At times, Wilson seems detached, as if he were a casual observer of men and events rather than a participant. But there are enough passages illuminating the effects of war on a sensitive human being to make this book a remarkable human document rather than a mere chronicle of military events. Wilson's account of the last days of the
war on the Petersburg-Appomattox front is especially vivid because of the continuing slaughter long after the main issue had been decided.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that this is a well-produced volume. Professor Summers skillfully “ties loose ends together” with judicious editorial comments; and sketches by Ed Fisher, Jr., which illustrate the book, are quite effective in communicating mood and providing color.

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Richard O. Curry