cussion of certain aspects of Lincoln's life and conduct should cause "a blush on any man's or woman's cheek," and he adds, "some people are too nice for this material sphere, this muddy globe of ours" (p. 243).

Herndon's emphasis on some of the less pleasant aspects of Lincoln's origin and life may be explained by Herndon's most rugged spirit of frontier democracy, and his realism, rationalism, and possibly some sense of the dramatic. "So far as I am concerned," he said, "I don't care how Lincoln came into the world; the lower he was created, the higher and grander... to me he is"; and Herndon urges Weik to bring out strongly this great contrast between the humble beginnings and the glorious heights achieved. Herndon saw in Lincoln a continued progress and growth, which was stopped only by his untimely death.

The editor does not indicate adequately the relation of the material in the book to the mass from which it was selected. In the opinion of the reviewer, the editor slightly misinterprets in the introduction the respective attitudes of Herndon and Weik with regard to the inclusion of materials in their biography of Lincoln. The bookmaking is quite attractive and satisfactory. The volume is generously illustrated with portraits, cartoons, and facsimiles.

University of Pittsburgh

WILLIAM J. MARTIN

Western Lands and the American Revolution (University of Virginia, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, monograph no. 25).


The author states in his preface that the object of this volume is to bring together in a single narrative an account of the American West from the time when its first exploitation was begun by English colonists to the end of the Confederation. Later, he states that the "primary object of this study has been to investigate the political consequences of conflicting claims to Western lands." Both objectives have been achieved. Because of Virginia's vast claims in the western country, the study necessarily deals in much detail with that state's interests. Just as Virginia was the first transatlantic experiment of the mother country, so was the Old Dominion the first colony to venture across the Appalachian Mountains.

We are taken behind the scenes in chapter 2 and introduced to one of the deep, underlying feuds of colonial history. It was a three-cornered feud. Here we find Benjamin Franklin playing his cards both against the Virginians (the
and against the Penns, proprietors of the colony of which he, Franklin, was a resident. But it was Franklin's maneuvering against the Penns that attracts most attention. In the Illinois Company, and in the Vandalia Company, we find the two Franklins, father and son, William; Baynton, Wharton, and Morgan; Trent; Sir William Johnson; and their friends, lined up on one side, against Governor Dunmore, General Gage, Lee, Washington, and others, on the opposite side. The practice of logrolling developed early in American history. Present-day Congressmen might well take a leaf from Sir William Johnson, friend of the Six Nations, or from Dr. Thomas Walker, agent for Virginia. Walker and Washington were the two people in Virginia who probably were most interested in western lands. The names of these "bigwigs," as they parade across the picture of land speculation, are indeed impressive. Dr. Walker; Washington; George Mercer; Dr. Hugh Mercer; John Donelson (father-in-law of Andrew Jackson); Andrew Lewis; John Blair; Governor Fauquier; Governor Botetourt; Governor Dunmore; William Nelson; John Page; William and Robert Preston; James Patton; Patrick Henry; William Byrd III; James Harrod; George Rogers Clark; Isaac Zane; and others are here mentioned. What a roster!

Dunmore's War is presented here in a new light. It was a war between Pennsylvania merchant-traders and Virginia land speculators. The Virginia land speculators, backed by Dunmore, even in defiance of the home government, were determined to drive back the Shawnee Indians in western Virginia and Kentucky and thereby open up this vast territory for settlers. But, on the other hand, the Pennsylvania traders and merchants were equally determined to aid the Shawnee in holding on to their regions, so that trade would not be interrupted. A pretty picture!

In the chapter on "The Land Question and the Continental Congress, 1776," one runs into a few surprises. According to the author, the idea that Robert Morris financed the Revolution out of his own pocket is purely mythological. It would be nearer the truth to say that the Revolution financed Robert Morris. And one wonders how much of the fund appropriated by France to help the American cause was used for aiding Washington and his army, and how much was used in laying the grounds for a great land speculation scheme in the West. Yes, one wonders! To the readers of this magazine, chapter 19 is of special interest. Here we learn of the efforts made by interested parties to set up a separate state, independent of both Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Finally, one is impressed by the intense sectionalism that early developed in
this country's history. This sectional rivalry almost broke the young union. Even before Yorktown, the secession movement began to spawn in the West, and we are led to believe that in every case these movements were fostered by land speculators for the furtherance of their own personal interests. Critical as the author is of these land speculators, he nevertheless concludes by saying that they helped to open the way for the westward expansion. They, "with their 'tomahawk' rights, their 'squatters' rights, their military and treasury warrants soon covered the West, with layer after layer of competing claims, which overlapped the land like shingles on a roof." Nothing could stop these restless, land-hungry pioneers. They were definitely on their way to the Pacific.

_John W. Oliver_


From the standpoint of the secular as well as of the ecclesiastical history of Pennsylvania this is a very welcome and valuable volume. For the most part it is a treatise that follows the empirical rather than the theological approach. It is filled with the narration of events, the recital of facts, the record of achievements without either the overstatement or understatement that are too often found in denominational histories.

There is much citation of secondary materials when the author deals with such subjects as European antecedents, and of primary materials when he deals with the history of the eastern and central parts of the commonwealth. There is little, if any, indication that the author ever left Philadelphia for the examination of source materials. This is especially evident in the less than five pages setting forth the early Presbyterian beginnings in western Pennsylvania. For this portion of the state he relies solely upon a few items in Hanna's _The Scotch-Irish_, the minutes of the Presbytery of Donegal, the _Pennsylvania Gazette_ of 1758, and a page in the _Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography_.

Clearly this treatment of early beginnings west of the mountains is utterly inadequate, even though the author has set the year 1776 (approximately) as the terminus of his history. The author of this review has discovered that much of the very earliest Presbyterian history of this part of the state is to be found in letters written by David McClure, as well as in ones written to him, now deposited in the archives of Dartmouth College.