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.

University of Pittsburgh

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.
These criticisms, however, must in no way detract from the fact that for the history of Presbyterianism in the central and eastern part of the state this book is a very valuable contribution, interestingly written and indicating that the author has thoroughly mastered the theme as it relates to those areas. For the purposes of general history, wherein the whole of the history of all the churches is included, we now await an author who will not confine his researches to one denomination. Mr. Klett must have gathered many facts relative to such a general history. Why did he not incorporate them in this volume?

Western Theological Seminary


John Johnson Newlon Camden (1828–1908) was a splendid specimen of the acquisitive capitalist and entrepreneur of the post-Civil War period. Born into a politically potent family in what is now Lewis County, West Virginia, he spent two years at West Point, then took up the law. His business start was obtained as attorney, banker, land speculator, and oil producer, and narrowly escaped being blighted by the vicissitudes of the Civil War in western Virginia.

After the war he engaged successively or concurrently in oil producing and refining, lumbering, railroading, and coal mining. Camden’s activities were of incalculable importance in exploiting West Virginia’s resources for forty years, and their results are still to be seen in part in the grimy, decrepit coal towns and naked, gullied hills of that state. Camden was an early ally of the Standard Oil interests, and the monopolist’s view of his mission is well portrayed by a quotation from a Camden letter to Rockefeller when they were buying up small refineries. “It almost makes me weep,” wrote Camden, “to pay out money for this kind of junk, but as it is a part of our duty to mankind, I suppose it is necessary to carry it through without flinching” (p. 197).

Camden was from youth a leader of the conservative wing of the Democratic party and served twice in the United States Senate in the 1880’s and 1890’s. His interest in politics arose, at least in part, from his desire to prevent government interference with business. He did, however, oppose the railroads’ rate discrimination against the short haul at the time of the Cullom Bill, probably because of tiffs with the Baltimore and Ohio over freight charges to the Camden interests. Certainly before long he was hand in glove in alliance with that railroad.