BOOK REVIEWS


An adequate review of this volume would require many pages, even if the review were devoted to laudation alone. The author, in 349 pages of text, has summarized his conclusions of years of study on the transplanting of European peoples and their institutions, customs, and ideas to the colonies of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey; he has examined and indicated the effects of the civilizations of national groups upon each other, and the result of a primitive environment upon all of them; in short, he has investigated and assessed the composite cultural foundation as it evolved in the middle colonies, and as it eventually served as a basis for the civilization of the middle states.

Treating first the Dutch settlement of New Netherlands, the author presents a background of the economic activities and cultural patterns of Old Netherlands. From that orientation he proceeds to the Dutch settlements in New Netherlands and examines their more influential social classes, patroons and merchants; their commercial activities; their architectural designs for farm homes, barns, palatial residences and churches—some of which had eight sides; their religious ideals and practices; and their language. The student of today finds the Dutch customs of New Netherlands quaint but fascinating and tremendously significant in the formation of society in New York. Despite the great number of national groups that gravitated to New Netherlands, the Dutch culture and atmosphere were predominant in New York well beyond the colonial period.

Likewise, the reader is taken for a tour of New Jersey and introduced to the settlers there, some of whom were re-transplanted from New England or New Netherlands and others of whom came directly from their former homes in England, Scotland, Ireland, and, in a few instances, from France. Their farms, farmhouses, barns, and churches are portrayed. Again, their social aspirations are examined in the light of their Old World backgrounds and the wilderness environment.

Pennsylvanians, even western Pennsylvanians, will turn more expectantly to the section dealing with “Penn’s Holy Experiment” and will not be dis-
appointed. William Penn, a curious combination of realist and idealist, attempted to establish a colony that would serve not only as a refuge for his oppressed Quaker friends, but also as a community in which a political structure based on "truth, justice, and righteousness" could be tried. The author shows that the cultural pattern that developed in the Quaker colony, and in Delaware, was the result of many factors. Penn's philosophy of government and of life; the religious ideals of the Quakers and their customs; the national groups, including the English, Germans, Scotch, Irish, and Scotch-Irish and their cultural patterns—all these contributed to the basic social structure of colonial Pennsylvania.

Professor Wertenbaker has performed his task exceedingly well in this book. The work is limited in its scope to the middle colonies and even omits some phases pertinent to the cultural growth of those colonies, but the author's reasons for the delimitation and omissions are valid despite the reader's desire for the complete picture. The book lacks a bibliography but nothing else is wanting: thorough research, judicious conclusions, experienced literary ability, an abundance of illustrations, and a good index all combine to make it one of the finest contributions to American historiography.

_Home of Pittsburgh_  
_Russell J. Ferguson_


As meritorious as it is interesting, this book has one heel undipped in the Styx. The flaw (pp. 30–31) may be noted first and hurriedly, in deference to the strength of the other 181 pages. The Great Bathtub Hoax gulls another author. Again the Philadelphia common council of 1853 tries to pass an ordinance prohibiting tub-bathing between the last of October and the fifteenth of March; again Millard Fillmore installs the first bathtub in the White House; in simple, the accurate history (as yet unborn to print) of laving-basins weeps at the thousandth triumph of H. L. Mencken's jest. One should be resigned to seeing its one-and-thousandth recrudescence in some magazine or book next month; but one isn't.

_Not So Long Ago_ offers the reader a vivid, authentic acquaintance with eighteenth-century folk in their sick beds, at their sanitations, aggravating or