

Here indeed is *multum in parvo*. The book is a distinct contribution to the literature of our early history in the country west of the mountains.

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

CLARENCE EDWARD MACARTNEY

*Meadville: Its Past and Present*. Sesqui-Centennial Edition of the *Tribune-Republican*. (Meadville, Pennsylvania, Tribune Publishing Company, May 12, 1938. 280 p. Illustrations.)

*In French Creek Valley*. By JOHN EARLE REYNOLDS. (Meadville, Crawford County Historical Society, 1938. 352 p. Illustrations, maps.)

MEADVILLE, "a cultural oasis in northernwestern Pennsylvania," is the subject of two recent additions to library shelves fast filling, these days, with works of western Pennsylvania history and lore—political, social, economic, and cultural.

The anniversary edition of the *Tribune-Republican*, marking Meadville's one hundred fiftieth year, leaves little to be desired in variety of subject material. Historical background, industry, transportation, trade, politics, labor, religion, professional and business life, and "miscellaneous" information are offered for the benefit of the historian or casual reader. The untutored genealogical research worker, seeking a great-grandfather of Revolutionary or War-of-1812 fame, will delight in the detailed chronicles of Crawford County pioneers and their descendants. The casual reader, leafing through this folio-size volume will find innumerable well-written items to catch and hold his attention. He may, for instance, have speculated as to the origin of the Hookless Fastener, commonly known as the "zipper," on his tobacco pouch, golf bag, clothing, or countless other articles in daily use. In an article as interesting as it is instructive he will find an account of "its development as Meadville's no. 1 industry, leader in world trade," a "saga of determination." And the historian, be he dilettante or scholar, will find material of merit and value. To the reference librarian, however, the work is of greatest value. A single source such as this relieves much of the pressure of "hurry-up" calls, and a detailed index still further enhances its usefulness.

Treating of the same subject and drawing on some of the same material, but in a different vein, is *In French Creek Valley*, by John Earle Reynolds, a descendant of a pioneer Meadville family and president of the Crawford County Historical Society. The author had at his command the Reynolds Collection, a wealth of manuscript material that John Reynolds the pioneer, and his de-

scendants after him, collected. Beginning with George Washington's oft-chronicled journey to the French Fort Le Boëuf, the author carries the reader through the early settlement of Meadville, its prominent settlers, the activities of the Holland Land Company, pioneer farm life, and town development and progress. Extensive excerpts from contemporary diaries and memoirs has materially increased the work's historical value. Chapter seven, for example, is devoted entirely to the "Reminiscences" of John Reynolds, who came to Meadville in 1805. He depicts with realism the life of the pioneer farmer and his wife. Once again are recalled the rude plowshare, the sickle and scythe, the tinder box and spinning wheel. Pleasant hours spent at relaxation and social intercourse enliven this brief account. *In French Creek Valley*, though not without defects of organization, is a distinct contribution to "western Pennsylvania."

*Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania*

FRANK B. SESSA

*Our Fathers Have Told Us: The Story of the Founding of Methodism in Western Pennsylvania.* By JACOB SIMPSON PAYTON. (Cincinnati, The Ruter Press, 1938. 141 p.)

THIS little book is a history of the coming of Methodism to western Pennsylvania and of its development within the territory of the Pittsburgh region up until 1800.

The volume is appropriately dedicated to the memory of William Francis Conner, who, through a long life of eminence in Pittsburgh Conference Methodism, was always interested in preserving the record of the historic past. The author is the greatest living authority on the story of Methodism in the territory with which this volume deals. Through the years he has collected a large personal library touching Methodist history in general, and western Pennsylvania Methodist history in particular. The wealth of his general reading and information in this field gives breadth of scope and intimacy of detail to the story as told here.

The occasion for this volume is described in an introduction written by Adna Wright Leonard, resident bishop of the Pittsburgh Area of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From July 22 to July 25, 1788, American Methodism's heroic pioneer bishop, Francis Asbury, held the first Methodist Conference of this transmontane region at Uniontown. The sesquicentennial of that event was celebrated at the annual session of the Pittsburgh Conference, also held at Uniontown, from September 27 to October 2, 1938. This volume was