leaves little to be desired. The illustrations are numerous and well chosen, and
the minor criticism that no source is given for any of the illustrations will be
unnoticed by most readers. With one exception no credit is given for any of
the seven maps, although the first two of them appeared in a 1937 publication
on the history of Pittsburgh. The lack of an index is a serious defect if the
volume is to be useful for reference; and the fact that the first reference to the
actual date of the establishment of the county appears on page 63 may irritate
some readers.

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Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
of the Catholic University of America in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By Sister M.
Theophane Geary, M. A., Sisters of Charity, Seton Hill, Greens-
burg, Pennsylvania. (Washington, D. C., The Catholic University
of America, 1938. xi, 274 p.)

This study is an ambitious attempt to portray the complicated picture of the
Liberty, Native American, Free-soil, Know-nothing, and Republican parties
in Pennsylvania politics for the period 1840 to 1860. It is presented in an
interesting style that helps the reader to overlook a number of limitations and
defects.

To begin with, it is unfortunate that so broad a study had to be presented in
one volume. It would have been much more valuable as a serious contribution to
historical knowledge if the author had chosen one of these parties and developed
it fully. As it is, much more work remains to be done if a complete understand-
ing of these movements is to be gained.

The study begins with a summary account of the history of the Antimasonic
party in the 1830's, of the events that brought about its downfall, and of the
gradual dispersion of its members. The main discussion is then undertaken with
the rise of the Liberty party followed by the development of the Native Ameri-
can. The trends developed in these parties are carried over and included in
the Free-soil and Know-nothing organizations. In turn, the objectives and aims
of the members of these groups are then joined together to create the Republi-
can party, which the author labels uncritically "The Triumph of the Liberty
Movement."
This organization is both interesting and logical, and if the nature of political parties were such as to permit a simplification, the reviewer would hesitate to offer criticism. But the factors involved are products of human ingenuity and expediency, consequently they become exceedingly complex.

There is a decided tendency on the part of the author to overemphasize national affairs at the expense of state conditions. In the discussion of the Anti-masonic and Liberty parties mention is made of international conditions that have no immediate importance to politics in Pennsylvania. Again, too much stress is placed on the political affairs of Philadelphia and its environs. While it is true that this eastern city played an important part in the political history of the commonwealth, other districts were not without significance in these movements. It is true, also, that mention is made of other counties, but not in proportion to their influence.

So far as Western Pennsylvania is concerned the politics of Allegheny County are considered, but not in proportion to their importance. The influence exerted by the various counties in the western part of the state on these movements cannot be discounted too lightly if the conclusions drawn from the study are to be valid.

A more critical attitude toward the opinions of certain newspaper editors and their local correspondents would have permitted fairer conclusions. It was but natural for these men to present their own views with the hope of convincing others that any idea but their own was contrary to the facts. To malign anyone opposed to their views was the customary procedure in the partisan papers of that period. For example, a Democratic editor’s condemnation of Simon Cameron, for his efforts to secure election to the United States Senate in 1855, was not written without bias, for Mr. Cameron, an “astute politician” without doubt, had thwarted the Democrats in their effort to have their own man elected.

Again, to attribute the defeat of Governor William Bigler for re-election in 1854 to his support of the School Administration Act of that year and his support of the Nebraska bill of the national administration does not account for the various other reasons given by the papers of that period.

Another example might be cited by referring to the election of 1848 in which the Whigs and Nativists were accused of “influencing foreigners to become naturalized.” The question immediately arises, did not the Democrats use similar methods and continue to use them throughout the period? At least
opposition papers indicate this to be case. Other incidents could be given, all of which suggest the need for more careful analysis.

The author is at her best in giving the backgrounds of the various movements and in her discussion of the problems involving religious controversies. However, more facts supporting her interpretations would have been of value.

The short biographies given in the footnotes enhance the usefulness of the dissertation. The bibliography is rather extensive, but some critical comment on the different sources, especially the newspapers, would have been worth while. Then, too, the documents available in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and a number of other places in Pennsylvania were apparently neglected.

For an interpretation of this period this study will be of most interest to the general reader who is satisfied with an incomplete picture of the factors that were to be found in these political movements.

Jeannette, Pennsylvania C. Maxwell Myers


Few prominent figures in American history have earned and received more opprobrium than General James Wilkinson. His activities extended over a wide area of the national territory and through the most critical half-century of national existence. He served with Arnold, Gates, and St. Clair during the Revolution and arranged for the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. After a short period as clothier-general of the army (1779-81), Wilkinson resigned and served as representative from Bucks County in the Pennsylvania Assembly. In 1783 he turned from an apparently promising political career and sought his fortune as a land speculator and merchant in Kentucky. While playing an active part in the various Kentucky assemblies which sought separation from Virginia, Wilkinson became a Spanish informer and pensioner. In 1791 he was once more in the army, stationed at Fort Washington, Cincinnati, where he helped Wayne to pacify the Indians in the Northwest Territory. Wayne's death in 1796 left Wilkinson the ranking officer in the army, and he showed considerable ability as an administrator of the posts scattered from Detroit to Natchez. He was one of the American commissioners to receive Louisiana from the French in 1803. Although he was a failure as governor of Louisiana Territory