volumes before us, dealing with Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania's part in the affairs of the Indiana Territory from 1800 to 1816.

University of Pittsburgh

John Wm. Oliver


Professor Bailey has produced in 767 pages of text a comprehensive textbook that may well be described as an introduction to American diplomatic history. It is one of the best texts yet written on American diplomacy, and its literary quality makes it eminently satisfactory for the lay reader in these days of unusual anxiety concerning American foreign affairs. The workmanship is competent in all respects except for the lack of a comprehensive bibliography. The author has followed the more common textbook form of citing selective readings at the end of each chapter.

The work is more than the annals of diplomatic exchanges between governments. A distinct and successful effort was made to interpret the main trends of American diplomacy in their relation to social, economic, and political conditions within the United States. Such treatment necessitated the elimination of many diplomatic details. The loss in that respect, however, is more than compensated for in the more complete interpretation of the main policies in the conduct of foreign affairs in the United States.

The student of Western Pennsylvania history will find a minimum of information on the region, although the chapters dealing with the navigation of the Mississippi and the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory are of interest in that connection. Any western Pennsylvanian, however, who is interested in the international problems of the United States will find this good, general work highly enlightening.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson


A sturdy and luxuriant plant, this. Its pulsant upward arching toward excellence is a higher arc than any local gardener in the field of imagination has described. Its strength (as was recorded in the Enquiry into Plants some two thousand years ago, "It is the nature of trees firstly to grow downward") is in
its firm roots, fastened in the rich earth of experience: history, personality, and spirit. The Delectable Country is a flowering of three nourishments—possible fact, Baldwin, and faith. Residents of western Pennsylvania will read it with vicarious pride, but primarily as will novel-readers elsewhere: for satisfying hours with the story's unlocalized merits.

The novel begins in about 1790, as young David Braddee, nineteen, steers his keelboat toward the scattered cabins of Pittsburgh; and spans years of turbulence, defeat, triumph, adventure, fun, love, tragedy, until its protagonist—now a hoarded evangelist—stumbles toward the ultimate home. In the wealth of dramatis personae are some historical figures, notably the elder Brackenridge, for whom the author's affection glows. The reader will remember that noble gentleman well; and a jovial, boisterous Mike Fink; and a sloe-eyed girl who is the beguilesome Lilith of the story. The Whiskey Insurrection is described with zest. Pittsburgh, Louisville, Natchez, and New Orleans are locales made vividly distinctive.

The "delectable country" is a dual symbol—the goal of David's journeyings into the wilderness, and of his striving toward that "delectable country of the soul" which Bunyan so happily christened. These meanings are interwoven; as young David hears a Methodist preacher exhort his flock, "As we set our plows to its flower-strewn meadows to raise corn for our children, and as we build our homes beneath its graceful elms and spreading maples, may we not forget Thee and Thy bountiful mercies to us." There is more of Pilgrim's Progress in this story than merely its title; sometimes events seem grouped into an allegory, in frontier setting, of the dangers and doubts which beset that earlier Pilgrim. But the primary interest which Mr. Baldwin's book creates is—as should be with a novel—in its flowing, lively narrative.

University of Pittsburgh

E. Douglas Branch