which was disavowed by his superiors because of its leniency. The second was concluded by Colonel Henry Bouquet, and it ended the hostilities and established the supremacy of the English.

The letters are carefully introduced and have explanatory footnotes. The work includes a complete bibliography and an index, which make it all the more valuable to the student. The editors made some changes in the text of the sources where misunderstanding might occur, but nothing is done that would invalidate the material. The editors make no claim as to the finality of this work but suggest the possibility that records not available at present may change some of their conclusions. Regardless of such an eventuality, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Kent are to be congratulated for producing a historical contribution that will appeal to both the student and the general reader.

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Robert Dinwiddie has been known to most of us only vaguely, as lieutenant governor of Virginia (1751–1758), considerably and perhaps amorally (in view of his official position) interested in the Ohio Company and western expansion generally, “employer” of George Washington, and one who later became an obstacle to the young leader’s ambitions. Not much else. Some of us have ventured into the yellowed pages of Robert Alonzo Brock’s two volumes of Dinwiddie records, to confirm or “discover” minutiae from that incomplete assembling of his official correspondence. Curiously, but in this penultimate event very happily, close acquaintance with Dinwiddie and his works has been almost the private preserve of Professor Koontz. His monograph on The Virginia Frontier was a lodestone; there followed his article on Dinwiddie in the Pacific Historical Review, December, 1936, of which I can only wish that more had been incorporated in the concluding chapter, or in the introduction, of this volume. Howbeit, for the first time Dinwiddie emerges from the haze; emerges as an important influence on our destiny, as our destiny was shaped and defined in the crucial years of the Seven Years’ War and its undeclared preliminaries.
The word "penultimate" crept into the paragraph above inasmuch as a forthcoming volume of hitherto unpublished Dinwiddie-ana is promised. Professor Koontz has also shown that curiosities of abbreviation and other eccentricities in the Brock volumes are attributable not to Dinwiddie but to the semi-stenographic whims and conventions of his secretary.

This excellent monograph so narrowly misses the preëminence of an archetype that I must mention the three niches whereat, the cleats and the pick imbedded and the rope taut, the ascent lapses: (1) The author assumes that the reader is about as well acquainted with the environs, geographical and historical, of his subject, as he himself is. Occasional paragraphs of backgrounding or orienting nature would have been welcome. (2) In a definitive biography of one who has been a controversial figure, some attention to the weeds which critics have planted on his grave seems needful, even though the examination results in an eradication of those weeds and the roots thereof. (3) In these times, by courtesy of the WPA a number of semiskilled and conscientious workers have assisted in historiographic projects; to the degree that, among other happy results, now one almost never sees that deadly line of old prefaxes: "And lastly I wish to acknowledge the aid of my wife in the mechanical details of this book." But these diligent assistants cannot be depended upon to check footnotes against repetitiveness in other footnotes or perhaps in the text; cannot, in compiling an index from their card-index systems, at the last moment remember those references and cross-references which occur—not by any system, but by the grace of the ghost of Cadmus—to the author alone. The errata and omissions on these scores are in Koontz's book very few; but when one assays a near-Jonkers he must have a lens for flaws.

For this book's accounts of the William Trent expedition and of Washington's first forays into the disputed region of "our" Forks, members of this society should be particularly appreciative. For this reviewer, and perhaps for many of his colleagues, the chapter on Dinwiddie's pistole fee dispute and on the embargoes of 1756-1757 are definite accretions. For the general reader this book was not intended; so probably a second-hand writer will discover it and paraphrase it into a novel entitled The Misunderstood Robert.

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