This volume is an English translation of an old eighteenth-century manuscript first published in Quebec by Abbé H. R. Casgrain, in 1887, which edition is used as the basis of the text. The volume contains a well organized and well stated foreword by Ross Pier Wright, chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Included are Casgrain's introduction and the preface of J. C. B. Footnotes by J. C. B., Casgrain and the present editors, properly distinguished in designation, are at the bottoms of pages in considerable number. Five illustrations are included, three of which, taken from Lafitau, *Moeurs des Sauvages Amériquains*, properly depict the situations described, but curiously enough are of French rather than Indian appearance. An index of slightly more than twelve pages adds value to the volume.

Francis Parkman and Abbé Casgrain long ago pointed out, what is obvious to one familiar with the data of the period of history covered, that J. C. B. lacked sound historical information and perspective but has furnished nevertheless valuable comments on North America from 1751 to 1761. Some of the comments are of especial value for the history of early western Pennsylvania. Historical scholars and local antiquarians have long used the French edition. This volume now makes these comments much more widely usable, by those not familiar with the original French. The twenty-five short chapters will furnish an interesting day's reading for anyone not oblivious to the significance of the past.

One curious interest in the book might well be that of an excellent evidence of the unreliability of reminiscences and recollections. Here is a marvelous revelation of how the passage of time distorts historical perspective and mental images. Largely as a result of this feature of the original manuscript, the work of editing the volume has proved difficult both for Abbé Casgrain and the present editors. Moreover, the translation of vague and technical French words of the eighteenth century was an added difficulty.

A perfect edition of the text, which this volume certainly is not, would be very difficult if not wholly impossible. Some of the matters involved are very indefinite. Others are more obvious, a few of which are pertinent as illustrations. Is not Gist's plantation indicated in the reference to Washington's camp (p. 61)? Certainly Braddock's council was held at Alexandria and not at Wil-
liamsburg (p. 75). Footnote 10, p. 106, seems erroneous, in that Captain Aubry went against Loyalhannon in October, just before his departure from Fort Duquesne.

On contemplation of the difficulty involved in this volume, it is, as published, a laudable enterprise and valuable contribution. It supplements many other volumes, prepared by the Pennsylvania Historical Survey and published by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and thereby increases the indebtedness of the citizens of Pennsylvania to these two bodies.

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**Alfred P. James**


In spite of heavy responsibilities of many kinds, Professor Gipson ploughs steadily onward in his plan to write his *The British Empire before the American Revolution* in many volumes. Volume V marks no falling off in skill, quality, and vision. Its scope is indicated by the subtitle and foreshadowed in a table of contents covering thirty-five pages. The ten chapters are merely subdivisions of the subtitle. The pages of the volume adhere faithfully to the subtitle and chapter headings.

The merits of this volume are many. As in the case of the previous volumes, so also here are manifest indications of enormous research, much of it in accessible printed documentary materials and secondary works, but no small part of it in archival materials from widely scattered depositories. It is realistically the product of a lifetime of historical study and research. In parts, the volume is unusually well written, notably where great models such as Charlevoix, Parkman, and others have been available. In many places Professor Gipson furnishes unusual insight and excellent interpretation (e.g. p. 108). Particularly valuable to inhabitants of western Pennsylvania are Chapter II, “The Great Lakes Frontier [Fur Trade],” and Chapter III, “The Six Confederated Nations.”

Two sentences in the publisher’s statement on the cover best picture the volume as a whole as follows: “The present volume carries the study forward with an examination of Franco-British relations and growing tensions in the