our nation was receiving most of its soda alkalis from Europe, where they were being produced by a process discovered by the distinguished French chemist, Leblanc, in the late eighteenth century. The organizers of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company believed they could, in time, supply this country with home produced sodas, salts, alkalis, bleaching powder, and other chemicals. They built a plant at Natrona, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

By careful management, wise business methods, and a willingness to pioneer in new allied industries, the company prospered. In the midst of the Civil War, 1863, the company paid its first dividend, and, according to the author, it has the longest record among industrial companies on the New York Stock Exchange for payment of dividends on common stock (23). This company pioneered in other directions; notably in establishing a retirement pension plan; giving free medical service to employees; inaugurating a safety program; setting up library reading rooms for its employees; and in providing a number of other services that later became uniform practice by large corporations.

Here is one of the few industrial organizations of the United States which for one hundred years has maintained a rather remarkable growth. It typifies the manner in which a small company is organized, grows, finds its place in our nation's history, and serves scores of corporations that make America the strongest industrial power of the world.

*University of Pittsburgh*

*John W. Oliver*

*Map Maker and Indian Traders: An Account of John Patten, Trader, Arctic Explorer, and Map Maker; Charles Swaine, Author, Trader, Public Official and Arctic Explorer; Theodorus Swaine Drage, Clerk, Trader, and Anglican Priest.* By Howard N. Eavenson. (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1949. xvii, 275 p. Maps, appendix, bibliography, index.)

Historical research, whether intensive or extensive, often becomes fascinating. Sometimes it intrigues the reader. Frequently it grips the researcher. It evolves from work into a hobby and eventually into the type of avocational activity which gives life an unusual zest and interest. This development is apparent in the case of our author, How-
ارد N. Eavenson. A coal mining engineer, he became interested in the history of coal and coal mining. This interest took him into the field of maps, travels, and voyages, with important results. The most important was his excellent and well-known history of the coal industry. Other results were a series of studies emanating from his deep reading and extensive investigations of the subject of coal and its use.

This elegantly printed and bound volume embodies some of the results of Mr. Eavenson's studies and extensive researches. In a manner, it is a report on such research and some of its findings. As both the title and the sub-title well indicate the volume is not and was not intended to be one well-rounded monograph. But it is also not merely the haphazard gleaning of an antiquarian. Such work as is found in this volume has been happily described by a friend of the reviewer as "crumbs." The word "pieces" is equally applicable. Crumbs of cake may be particularly sweet and pieces of a beef roast may be most appetizing.

Much time and expense have been involved in the gathering of the ingredients and in the cookery of the crumbs or pieces found in this volume. Few minor characters of the past have had such exhausting research done upon them as is found on John Patten, Charles Swaine and Theodorus Swaine Drage in this volume. It is a pity that the surviving records of these men were not more abundant and available for the craftsman of their story.

A feature of the volume is thirty-four appendices, most of them documents, sometimes hitherto unprinted, but in any case usually here based on new reproductions of the originals. The extensive bibliography of eleven pages contains a list of twenty-five collections, fifty-four maps and atlases, twenty-two newspapers, and three hundred and eighty items, some specific and others general, under the caption "General Bibliography."

While interesting to the general reader and more particularly to the specialist, the ultimate destiny of the volume is likely to be that of a rare book for the collector. But such it was expected to be, for of the limited edition of three hundred volumes printed, copies were presented by the author to the various libraries which had been of assistance in his research.

University of Pittsburgh  Alfred P. James