“Pitzburg, the oldest and, I believe the largest city of the western states, is admirably situated.” He then describes shipbuilding, boats that reach the Atlantic, barges, and flat boats; the city’s commerce; and in considerable detail, the manufacture of iron products and cut glass “that for finish and delicacy are almost the equal of those I have seen in Europe.” To him the city had “a rather gloomy air” but the plan of the city was ingenious. “The streets are straight and perpendicular to the two rivers, without being so in relation to one another.”

Leaving “Pitzburg,” Montulé crossed the “Alleghany” and took the course of the Perry Highway (Route 19). At Harmony he found a “settlement beyond a doubt the finest of its kind that I have seen in the interior of America, the only one in which individual enterprise has been directed toward the common good.” Passing through “delightful groves” he reached Mercer where he had “the finest view that I have ever beheld.” Through swampy ground he made his way on horseback, alone, with little knowledge of English, past maple-sugar groves, along French Creek to Meadville, where the people “seemed much gayer” than elsewhere; on through Waterford over a “Suberb” turnpike to Erie, where he reviewed Presque Isle, the “Blok-House” (which he sketched), and Lake Erie, where he “admired the sunset on the lovely horizon.”

From Erie Montulé traveled along the lake shore to “Buffaloe” and Niagara Falls, meeting many Indians. His description and drawings of the Falls are accurate and detailed. From Buffalo he rode on to Albany, sailed down to New York, and embarked for Leghorn on October 6, 1817.

Anyone interested in the development of the Ohio-Mississippi valley and especially of Western Pennsylvania will enjoy this charming translation made by Edward D. Seeber, professor of French at Indiana University.

Pittsburgh

CORTLANDT W. W. ELKIN


Professor Tinkcom’s study traces the development of early political parties in the Keystone State during the crucial decade following the year 1790. The well documented, compact volume may appropriately
be described as a combination of period history and monographic work.

The author quickly brings the reader through the period prior to 1790, setting the stage and identifying the opposing political groups within the state. Thereafter, in detail and with thoroughness, he recounts the political battles in Pennsylvania, gives portraits of the leaders and delves into the issues with the general thesis that events, leaders, and issues were affected and, in some instances, determined by national action. That a part of the recently founded Union would be swayed by the political action and thought of the whole was to be expected, and particularly so since the national capital was in Pennsylvania.

Professor Tinkcom found that loosely affiliated "groups," including "Conservatives," "Republicans," "Westerners," and others with even more local sobriquets, struggled for state control, with the "Conservatives" holding the ascendancy, though at times tenuously, until about 1796. The Conservatives were dominant in the ratification of the Federal Constitution, in making the State Constitution of 1790, in the founding of the United States Bank, in the enforcement of the tax on spirituous liquor, and in the angry dispute between the pro-English and pro-French elements, including the Genet Affair and the Jay Treaty. Sturdy opposition, however, was furnished by the opposition referred to as Democrats, Republicans, or radicals.

The opposing groups began to fall into more clearly defined and more conscious adversaries about 1796. Thereafter, increased discipline was sought with the emerging Republican Party the more astute and more successful. Republican leaders, Gallatin, Thomas Cooper, A. J. Dallas, Joseph Priestley, and many other local leaders not emphasized by the author, were particularly effective as party organizers. They were superior to Federalist leaders in "translating public opinion into political action" and in the employment of practical politics on the local area. They were quick to take advantage of Federalist mistakes in the state and nation. The author concludes that by 1798 the American political party had been born. The Republican Party with its superior organization in Pennsylvania was able to press home Federalist mistakes so effectively that by 1801 it had captured the state.

The study is scholarly, based upon a veritable mountain of original sources and well organized. The purpose of the author in presenting Pennsylvania politics as operating in the orbit of national politics is well substantiated. The reader may wonder at times, however, if that ap-
approach does not obscure the fact that Pennsylvanians in isolated communities were motivated equally as much or more by local controversies and their personal economic interest as they were by national issues. The account is presented in concise, clear language and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has adopted an admirable format for the scholarly works that it publishes. Pennsylvanians, western as well as eastern, will find Professor Tinkcom’s contribution valuable for the political history of the state during the formative years of the nation.

University of Pittsburgh

RUSSELL J. FERGUSON

The Old Northwest; Pioneer Period, 1815-1840, in two volumes. By R. CARLYLE BULEY. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1950. xvi, 632, x, 686 p. Illustrations, maps.)

Professor Buley in this triumph of scholarship has drawn aside the curtain of obscurity on that pivotal region of the United States, the Old Northwest, leaving no privacy to the men and women in their struggles to hew out of a pioneer land a society that provided both material, social and cultural sufficiency. The publication was sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and was given a format worthy of the contents.

The author, with an intimate knowledge of the region acquired by nativity and by nearly a score of years of research in the documents, deals, in the first volume, with the establishment of political boundaries and political agencies, including the completion of statehood for Indiana and Illinois; he relates the coming of the people and their procuring of land; he gives an account of their problems in building homes and their struggles to hold them against Indians, indebtedness, inflation, and the diseases of the frontier. He portrays vividly the everyday life of the farmers, their wives and children, and that of the town and city dwellers at work, at home, and in their social and cultural activities. The reader requires but little imagination to visualize the picture that is so clearly and so understandably drawn. Less fascinatingly, but no less thoroughly, done are the last two sections on trade, travel, transportation, and finance.

The second volume, losing none of the excellence of the first, carries the progress of the people on through to 1840, bearing out the well-known thesis that many successive frontiers have swept across the United States. The evolution of political activities, from poorly organ-