

proach 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.

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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 understandingly 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-

ized local and personal groups to the more carefully disciplined party of Jackson and to the eventual success of the Whigs, suggests a familiar pattern in American political life. Furthermore, the tendency of the people to express their preference for what seemed to them to be their economic interests is a familiar story. The account of the progress of the people in the areas of education, religion, morality, literature, science, and reform is thoroughly revealed in this work on the "Winning of the Northwest."

Professor Buley has fully justified his reputation for scholarship in these volumes. His treatment of the various phases of the Old Northwest is thorough, well-balanced, and well-rounded. He has based his account on long, mature, and tireless research in the documents and has documented his work adequately. There is a critical rather than a complete bibliography, adequate, however, for either the scholar or the general reader. The style is fascinating and the author was imaginative. Again, this work represents a triumph of tireless, patient, mature scholarship and is a definitive study of the Old Northwest.

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