

western Indiana, likewise prospered. The members shipped their surplus products to points up and down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. After ten prosperous years they again sold their possessions, this time to Robert Owen for \$190,000, and came back up the Ohio River and established a settlement, their third and last one, a few miles north of Pittsburgh, which they named, (in German Ockonomie) Economy. Here the society achieved its greatest economic, cultural, and spiritual success. For years they were a prosperous, peaceful people, and appeared to be approaching the Utopian Era. Then came the "wretched intrigue" of the counterfeit Count Maximilian de Leon in 1831. By holding out false promises, and preaching a system of morals and religion different from Father Rapp's, he won to his side several members. After some unpleasant years, marked by dissension, the "Count," accompanied by a few followers, departed, and the society settled down again to enjoy a period of peace and prosperity. The deaths of Father Rapp and his adopted son, Frederick, inflicted a terrible blow on the society's future. However, the elders and trustees who succeeded them carried on the society's affairs, spiritual and financial. The society was finally dissolved in 1905. In 1915 title to several of the buildings and land was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The property is now administered under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Interspersed throughout this little volume are numerous stories of people and events which the author has gathered from diaries, letters, old records; in some instances from personal interviews with Old-timers, and a few of which she writes from memory. There are a number of illustrations which catch the reader's attention. This book will do much to acquaint its readers with the life and times of the most successful communal society ever attempted in the New World.

University of Pittsburgh

JOHN W. OLIVER

The Beulah Romance. By George Taylor, Jr. (Printed privately. Obtainable through the author, 102 Richland Lane, Pgh. 8 Pa.) c1954. 124 p. \$3.00.

The author is a graduate of Western Theological Seminary; after four years in Mercer, Pa., he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilksburg, a large institution which he served with great success for thirty years; he retired in 1944 but in October, 1947, he was

invited by the Presbytery to become stated supply at the old Beulah Church in Churchill Borough, near Pittsburgh which, though old, was only a small church. With expanding suburban development and his inspiring leadership the church has shown phenomenal development. An outgrowth has been the painstaking research resulting in this fascinating little book which links the church with many old families of Pittsburgh.

The Beulah Romance is the history of an early church which looks back on many interesting years. The account is here but, unlike many such histories, it is not a dull and uninspired quotation from old church records. The author has handled it so deftly and with such literary skill that the reader is disposed to do nothing else until he has read the book through.

Dr. Taylor divides his account into nine chapters, the titles of which are intriguing in themselves: I. The Early Years, III. A Worthy Beginning, V. The Years of Testing, VII. The Strength of the Remnant, IX. The Lights and Shadows.

The "Early Years" is concerned with the beginnings of Western Pennsylvania History. Any student of history will be delighted with this chapter, some portions of which represent important new research, along with an appreciation of early settler life not always found in such works.

The beginnings of "Beulah" are inseparably woven into the lives of these early settlers. The brief but succinct account of early Presbyterianism in America prepares the way for the beginning of the Presbyterian Church west of the Alleghenies. An illuminating detail is provided in the definite location of the "Bullock Pens" of General Forbes army. This place of shelter for the beef cattle of this pioneer army gave the surrounding community and its Church, their first name, "Bullock Pens." Around 1785, the Bullock Pens Presbyterian Church is changed to the Pitt Township Presbyterian Church—which name the congregation bore until the coming of the Rev. James Graham and his bride in 1804, who gave this first place of their mutual labors the name "Beulah."

A vivid account is given in chapter III of the first permanent pastor, the Rev. Samuel Barr and his difficulties as pastor of the Pittsburgh First Presbyterian Church which he served along with the Pitt Township Church. I believe this is the first time that a full and unvarnished

account of Dr. Barr's difficulties in Pittsburgh appears in print. Pittsburgh of that day is described as "a town with smoking chimneys, halls lighted up with splendor, ladies and gentlemen assembled, various music, and the mazes of the dance," and one could see, "all sorts of wickedness were carried on to excess and there was no appearance of morality or regular order . . . no signs of religion." The Pitt Township Church remained loyal to its pastor even to the preparing of a statement in his defence but when the pastorate was dissolved at Pittsburgh, this congregation was unable to carry the full support of a pastor and was forced to concur in the dissolution.

Outstanding in the "Romance of Beulah" is the long and gracious ministry of the Reverend James Graham who served from 1803 until 1845—his tenure ending with his death due to a fall from his horse while returning from a pastoral call.

Significant during this period is the account of the Session meeting as "judges of the Court of Jesus Christ," hearing and settling many varied civil cases involving Beulah members. During this pastorate, Beulah saw two new churches organized, both of which received their nuclei members from the Beulah Church: The East Liberty Presbyterian Church and the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

The next period in Beulah's life is one of testing—where the congregation struggled to keep alive with many of its potential members being attracted to the larger and more affluent congregations in Wilkesburg. But through the years, a faithful remnant continued loyal and while at times the light may have flickered, Beulah's light never went out.

These faithful souls, devout and sincere in their love of Beulah, welcomed Dr. Taylor with open arms in 1947. But even their hopes and ambitions are not to be compared to the startling renaissance that followed—where the vision of this faithful "man of God" and his tactful and gracious wife captured the hearts and loyalties of the new families moving into "Beulah Land" in such great numbers. Thus a Church given up for as good as dead now shows a live and vital membership of young families totaling over seven hundred souls and the prospects never were so bright for Beulah as they would indicate in the near future—a Church perhaps of twelve to fifteen hundred members.

The book closes with a brief resume of past members of Beulah—

many of whom are buried in the neighboring church yard. Local historians will devour this chapter with voracious appetite—for in it are such well known names as:

William Sydney Miller, John McFarland, William G. Shand, John Reyburn Hamilton, Martha Graham, James Beatty, Col. Robert Cunningham, John Hughey, grandfather of Mrs. B. F. Jones; John Johnston, Secretary to George Washington; Captain John McMasters, great-grandfather of Mrs. Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt; Dr. John McDowell, Major Thomas A. Sampson, and many others.

Pittsburgh

CLARENCE E. DAVISON

African Hunt. By THOMAS S. ARBUTHNOT. (New York, W. W. Norton, Inc., 1954. x, 270 p. Many illustrations in text and on endpapers. 03.95.)

Dr. Arbuthnot is of an old and distinguished Pittsburgh family, and himself a gentleman of whom the city is proud. His creative work is to be seen in the Western Pennsylvania Hospital and in his long service as dean of the medical school of the University of Pittsburgh. He has been administrative head of the Carnegie Hero Fund for many years but that is in no way pertinent, except that it involves a service full of human interest. In this book, with a modesty that is natural he has eliminated everything which would indicate that his conduct was either courageous or heroic, but any imaginative reader will formulate his own ideas as to that.

The fact that one of our leading professional men has written such an interesting book would alone justify a review in this magazine, but as a member of our historical society we have also found his advice invaluable and have often profited by his judgment in matters affecting our activities. His mounted group of Grant's gazelles, one of the results of this hunt, is currently on exhibition in Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, and other specimens, as yet unmounted, may perhaps be seen in the future. It is probable also that the time is not far distant when hunting of this magnitude and character will become a thing of the past, well nigh legendary.

The Historical Society is pleased to call the attention of its readers to what a friend has engagingly set down as his impressions of the Dark Continent while in its glory as a ground for adventure and big game hunting (1927).