
Modernistic painting, partly to escape competition with the exactness of photography, has adopted creative design as its peculiar objective. In its retreat from reality it has fled into the sub-conscious. Some of modern music and modern poetry have shown a similar tendency. Very fortunately the nature of history makes historical writing something different, something less ultra-modern. Yet nevertheless the character of an historical work is greatly predetermined by its purpose. This is notably true of this book of Mr. Cleland.

Western Pennsylvania has long been proud of its role in the career of George Washington. Each of his seven trips to this area is a matter for bicentennial notice and celebration. Nothing more appropriate could be seen than a special publication on George Washington in the Ohio Valley. A complete and well edited edition of all the writings of Washington relating to the Ohio Valley was a remote possibility but such material was too voluminous and lacking in unity of perspective. The promoters and sponsors of the enterprise have properly sought to popularize the subject by selecting the major items from George Washington's relations with the Ohio Valley supplementing them with accounts or comments by his contemporaries and furnishing the necessary historical introduction to the various stages and events, as well as required footnotes.

Rarely is any book free from shortcomings and demerits. Though splendidly printed and bound this volume from place to place distracts from the attention of the reader to the subjects of importance and interest. Footnotes indicated on one page are found on the following page (e.g. pp. 73; 167; 177). The bibliography, mentioned on page 43 and needed for such a subject, was not included. Material is sometimes arbitrarily omitted (p. 77). Some irrelevant and distracting material is included (pp. 127-28). Some use is made of printed documents, when the original manuscripts could have been located and their location given. Some of the map discussion (p. 43-44) is confused and erroneous. A large, folded, detailed map might have been included. Some unfortunate but little important matters might have been different with more satisfactory proof-reading. Contrecoeur, elsewhere spelled cor-
rectly, is misspelled seven times on page 66. George Mercer (p. 79, footnote) was appointed in London lieutenant governor of North Carolina but never really served in that capacity in North Carolina. "Captn Stroads" (p. 278 and footnote 12) and "Captn Strodes" (p. 180) both refer to Captain John Strode. That the glaring repetition of Washington's journal (p. 291) was made by him should have been indicated.

Such minor defects should not detract greatly from the value of the publication, whose merits are adequate. The author-editor deserves praise for the painstaking geographical and historical work done on the volume.

Alfred P. James


Here is one of the most helpful publications for researchers and scholars interested in early Indiana History that has ever been published. The work was begun in an effort to "combine existing bibliographies of Indiana imprints and to extend the range of inquiry to cover the first fifty years of publishing in the state." Making use of Mary Alden Walker's The Beginnings of Printing in the State of Indiana . . . to 1850 (1934); Douglas C. McMurtrie's Indiana Imprints 1804-1849 (1937); and parts of John G. Rauch's and Nellie Armstrong's A Bibliography of the Laws of Indiana, 1788-1927 (1928), the editors have added titles "found in the unpublished records of the Historical Records Survey and those kept on file by the librarians of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana University Library"; and they carry the listing through the year 1853. Also, they added two new categories of imprints —broadsides and sheet music. As a result of this enlarged project, the editors have listed approximately 2000 Indiana imprints that appeared before 1854.

It is interesting also to note the material that was excluded, namely magazines, newspapers, documents comprising the Documentary Journals, a so called catch-all, beginning in 1835, and a bibliography of state documents; the documents, in the opinion of the editors, are numerous enough to justify a separate volume.

To readers of this magazine, one of the most interesting collection