of Pittsburgh declared, in an address in Washington, "These two colleges have been a greater power for good, in the region west of the Allegheny Mountains and in the eastern part of the great Mississippi Valley, than any other of which we know. I do not except the Christian Church, for the reason that the power and influence of the Christian Church have been largely exerted through these colleges."

It's high time such a book as Mrs. Coleman's should be written and it is to be hoped that the great debt owed to these colleges and this college will be acknowledged.

The book is beautifully printed and bound. The pictures and portraits are unusually attractive and quite important historically.

The inclusion of the Pennsylvania Acts and Charters together with the famous United States Supreme Court Decision make the volume, with its bibliographies and lists of Professors, Trustees and Administrators of the colleges, an extremely valuable source of history.

There are, necessarily, some omissions in the long story as well as some minor inaccuracies, but it is a valuable book and worthy of a place in all libraries.

Lewistown, Penna. 

HENRY A. RIDDLE


Perhaps the most serious charge that can be brought against any historian—except for the ubiquitous and unpardonable crime of being inexact—is that of being one-eyed.

This serious fault may often be present in two forms. The worst form is personal bias; but almost as damaging at times is unwillingness to consider all possible evidence.

James A. Kehl University of Pittsburgh history professor, is to be congratulated on both the breadth and the depth of his research for _ILL FEELING IN THE ERA OF GOOD FEELING_. Although he may have overlooked some possibly fruitful sources of material, he has tapped so many others that the book casts a great deal of new light on a much neglected topic: the growth of party politics in the early United States, and particularly that tendency as it was revealed in and reflected in Western Pennsylvania.

In such a field the old-time doctrine of "No documents, no his-
tory,” and its attendant mistrust of contemporary newspapers, and public opinion would have rendered this research project virtually worthless and barren of results. On the other hand, taking the voice of the press as the voice of fact could have led him down many a wrong path, but for his alert recognition of the pitfalls involved.

If it is true, as many of us believe, that the whole question of proper bases for historic judgment needs to be reopened for new examination, this study would make an excellent laboratory exercise in one phase of such an investigation.

Dr. Kehl aptly divides his study into three parts—not by time or place, but by the order in which even the expert may need to approach the subject to arrive at a proper understanding.

“The Battlefield” briefly but adequately sets the stage for the beginnings of organized party action in Western Pennsylvania of 1815-1825. “The Weapons of Battle” offers for the first time in any book the facts on the district’s political newspapers, committee systems and organizations useful in politics. “Major Campaigns” applies the two earlier parts of the study to a survey of how these factors actually worked.

The results will be startling to the average student of Western Pennsylvania history, although those who have delved deeply in its raw materials will have already come to suspect the facts.

If anyone is shocked that such formerly heroic figures as William Wilkins, Walter Forward, and Henry Baldwin come to view as often having acted from pure opportunism—well, Dr. Kehl only can and only need plead the great defense of truth. It is well in the final analysis, for Western Pennsylvania history to pass from worship of demigods to a recognition of men. This phase of study was well begun by Leland Baldwin and the late Russell J. Ferguson, whose work now bears fruit in the political history field. It is to be hoped that the same courage can be applied to other “sacred cows” of Western Pennsylvania history.

Of the comparatively few serious errors of the book, most are traceable to haste in publication, rather than to Dr. Kehl’s fault. Such errors as “Timothy” for “James” Flint on Page 44; “New Salem, Ohio,” (an impossibility in such a connection) for “New Salem, Pa.” and a few others appear to be certainly the slips of the printer and proofreader. Such, certainly, is the misnaming of those pictured in the plates.

Perhaps, however, Dr. Kehl has been guilty of the traditional fault of attributing too much to the Scotch-Irish and has taken too gullibly some biased statements about economic conditions. And once, (p. 185f)
he has been tricked into taking seriously a newspaper jest.

These minor faults, however, are far outweighed by his fine scholarship and his excellent writing, which actually scintillates now and then, without losing the least of its dignity or meaning. Here is a book which should have a wide effect on the future study of Western Pennsylvania history.

*Pittsburgh Press*

*George Swetnam*


"The distinction of this volume is that it represents the first comprehensive historical account of American technology and invention as a basic contribution to the nation's culture." One can hardly do better in opening a review of this volume than to quote the sentence above, the opening lines of Guy Stanton Ford's foreword to this pioneering volume by the former head of the University of Pittsburgh History Department and long-time vice-president of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Some-one has said that no ordinary driver today can hope to understand the mechanical workings of today's complex automobiles unless he has been tinkering with them since the days of the Model A or before. The same observation would be valid concerning the staggering amount of sheer knowledge necessary to produce this encyclopedic work. Technological knowledge, as Dr. Oliver shows, increases not by arithmetic but by geometric proportions, and nothing short of a lifetime of study, teaching, and overseeing and encouraging the research of scores of graduate students, could have produced this history. A generation hence, the job will be too much for any one scholar.

It is quite impossible to condense a story which goes from the technological level of the winnowing fan to the bathy-thermograph in a few generations. Perhaps the best generalization one can make is to say that here is captured, better than anywhere else, the meaning and story of that much bruited phrase, "American know-how." Pittsburghers, for example, will find a ready explanation of the technological bases for this region's greatness—exactly how George Westinghouse proposed to "stop a train with wind" through the use of high air-brake; the secret of Nikola Tesla's polyphase induction motor; the difference between a