freedom and were shamefully left to die in their own blood by the West, may help us decide. The human race itself weighs in the balance: to fail morally now is tantamount to mankind's suicide. The choice is ours."

Pittsburgh

LORETTA P. BYRNE


The author has psychoanalyzed and dramatized this most controversial Pennsylvanian and at the same time turned back the clock of historical interpretation almost to the Radical Republican "Bloody Shirt" type of the Post-Civil War period. Born in Vermont with a clubfoot, with a father who had already sired a son with two clubfeet, a shiftless father who deserted his family, the adolescent Thaddeus Stevens was marked so deeply as never to recover. "He would punish 'the father'—the Southern white man—for branding the Negro, in a kind of symbolic punishment of his own father—or of God Himself—for branding and crippling him" (p. 306). Educated in New England, a graduate of Dartmouth College, he came to Pennsylvania to teach and remained to practise law and politics, engage in various business activities including land speculation and iron manufacture, and finally die and be buried, also with historical notice.

Stevens' life was marked throughout by sound and fury. It was featured by sensational criminal law practise, accusations of sharp business dealings, apparently false allegations in regard to an early Negro sweetheart, furious and persistent Anti-Masonic controversy, violent Abolitionist propaganda, the scourging of the South in his Reconstruction policy, and finally the unique impeachment of a President.

The author strives earnestly to like her subject but evidently finds it difficult. Her great admiration for his devotion to public schools and his obsessive sympathy for the underdog—she is not quite sure how much of it was hatred for the top dogs—seems to be counteracted by her feeling that he may have been guilty of "malignity, avarice, corroding lust, and uncontrollable ambition" (p. 351).
She accuses Professor Current of emphasizing the "tricky, unscrupulous, and demagogic" elements in Stevens' life (p. 9); but she seems more willing than other biographers to believe "the worst" concerning his relations with Mrs. Lydia Smith, his "Negro" or "mulatto" housekeeper during the last twenty years of his life. Stevens cancelled his original cemetery contract because of a restriction to white burials.

The author seems to give a summary approval of Stevens' Reconstruction policies in that "he pushed vigorously toward the centralization and consolidation of the federal power, and helped transform what was a sprawling, invertebrate country into a unified nation, responsive to strong central leadership" (pp. 370-71).

The author labors to minimize the differences of Lincoln and Stevens, and to magnify the differences between the policies of Lincoln and Johnson. There is excessive exaggeration of Lincoln's zeal for immediate and universal Negro suffrage, and the implications of his early enthusiasm for the Thirteenth Amendment. Her Andrew Johnson is hardly distinguishable from the portrait painted by the Vindictives. She brushes away the revisionism of Bowers, Milton, Current and many others with the greatest of ease. "Milton did his best to destroy the legend that Johnson was a drunkard, but . . . ." (221, n.15). To dismiss the Black Codes of 1866 as merely "legislation to impose injustice or inhumanity" (p. 372) is more serious than defective definition; with so much emphasis on them it might at least be noted that Lincoln himself had definitely recognized the necessity for special State legislation for the freedmen under his formula for Reconstruction.

Both the author and the publisher note the timeliness of this "re-interpretation" of Stevens and his work. The Supreme Court of the United States has apparently at long last confirmed the wisdom of Stevens and finally established the policies for which he fought so hard (p. 373).

Following the text we find fairly adequate trappings of scholarship and proof of industry. Forty-five pages of valuable reference and explanatory notes comprise a section following the text. Fourteen pages of rather fine print list the sources of information; an annoyance here is the lack of a systematic description of one of the most important bodies of material—the Macpherson Collection of Stevens Papers. A satisfactory index completes the work.
The general reader is offered here a drama of stormy human passions, the insoluble mystery of a man, with violence, slanders, scandals, murders, and a hearty portion of sex with racial tones. The relatively objective scholar will still probably not hasten to discard Current, et al.

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William J. Martin


As the title clearly indicates, this work of a political scientist is quite properly a subject for review in a historical magazine. In this magazine in a short essay entitled "History as Analysis and Guidance" the reviewer asserted briefly that in every field of study history is not only used but presented in exposition. Pennsylvania Constitutional Development illustrates this matter in a most convincing way. Fundamentally it is regional constitutional history, a basic matter in the understanding of republican government.

The authorship, scholarship and purport of the book meet the test of any reasonable evaluation.

In an excellent Introduction, the author frankly admits that emphasis is put upon the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1874, as yet in operation, and upon the desirability of a new one. On the latter point she almost departs from cool, objective, scholarship and becomes an eloquent pleader for better government under a more modern constitution which might clear up the issue of constitutional versus statutory law.

None too much attention is given to the Constitutions of 1776, 1790 and 1838. The book might have been enlarged and the treatment less summary, less encyclopedic. But it is noticeable that even in summary political science, such as pages 9-21 of this book, social history and historical writings are freely and properly drawn upon and woven into the account.

Clarification of data, through the device of classification of major