World of Europe did in 1854 and that of Frederik H. Wines, Punishment and Reformation, in 1910.

Dr. Baldi has made a real contribution to our attempts to deal with such problems as capital punishment, juvenile delinquency, mental defective offenders, administration of prisons, and the return of prison population to normal society. His material has been presented in readable style, and is a relief from the excessive use of tables of figures and attempts to reduce all to mathematical equations. The book is worthy of careful reading.

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The early economic lures which drew white men to North America were gold, fish, and furs. North of Mexico, the hope of gold soon proved to be illusory. The fishing industry rapidly grew to great importance in coastal waters, but it was the fur trade which first made European ventures to the new continent profitable. The fur trade brought the white men to the land to establish trading posts and to deal with the Indians. Even after settlement began and farming provided sustenance for the colonists, the fur trade remained an important element in the economic life of various colonies down to the American Revolution, and it was among the causes of the conflict between France and Great Britain for control of North America.

This significant element in early American history is the subject of this entertaining, popularly written book by Colonel Hale, who does not aim at "a comprehensive study," but merely "to illustrate in narrative form" the effects of the fur trade on America's beginnings. He succeeds very well in carrying out his announced purpose. His story moves rapidly from topic to topic, the uses and sources of furs in the Old World, the almost fabled voyages of the Vikings who seem to have been the first to acquire furs from America, the French fur trading operations which extended up the St. Lawrence River into the interior of the continent, the early English colonies and the importance of the fur trade in their founding and
development, the Dutch and Swedish ventures in the Middle Atlantic region, and intercolonial and international rivalry in the fur trade.

After the Duke of York seized New Netherlands for the English in 1664, rivalry in the fur trade was concentrated between the English colonies and the empire of New France which spread westward to the Ohio River and the Mississippi. Western Pennsylvanians will regret that this last phase of the story, from the conquest of New Netherlands to the French and Indian War, is covered only in a rapid summary of seventeen pages. In justice to the author, he is perfectly aware of the importance of the struggle for the fur trade in the interior of the continent, but it is the earlier period with which he is chiefly concerned.

There seem to be relatively few errors of fact or interpretation, considering the scope of the narrative. It brings together countless details from printed sources and secondary works, and weaves them into an engaging and breezy story which holds attention by interesting anecdote, clever turn of phrase, and apt quotation. Although documentation is lacking, the bibliography is a good basis for further study. One might suggest the addition of Charles H. McIlwain's masterly hundred-page introduction on the early fur trade in his edition of *Wraxall's Abridgment of the Indian Affairs* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1915). Colonel Hale's engaging narrative will certainly stimulate readers to seek more information about an important aspect of colonial history.

*Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*  
Donald H. Kent


In his *Poor Richard's Almanac* for 1741 Benjamin Franklin wrote "Be always asham'd to catch thyself idle." From the material included in this second of a proposed forty volume edition of his papers, it is clear that Franklin was seldom ashamed.

The period 1735-1744, which this volume covers, sees Franklin working hard to develop his business as a printer, publisher and bookseller, and the beginning of his service as postmaster of Phila-