Mr. Shetler's contribution to Civil War research will be consulted gratefully by scholars and librarians everywhere.

Gettysburg College Library  Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  Nancy C. Scott

Book Notes


Seventh in a series of scholarly studies of the science of government as distinct from the art of government, this volume is not unique. But it certainly is distinctive as a contribution to the modern discussion of maladministration of public affairs. The author frankly undertakes to support the complaint that only a few governors are "actually equipped to govern." It is evident, too, that he believes the generality of elected officials lack "the structure, tools [and] authority for executive leadership and control." His book, moreover, indicates that he thinks the voting and tax-paying public lacks qualification for effective participation in the democratic process. He rejects the notion that federal and municipal governments are less deserving of criticism than state governments. His examination of the "administrative revolution" in Pennsylvania under Governor George M. Leader is well worth careful reading by average citizens in quest of improvement in management and administrative business wherever it may be needed. Mr. Smith himself is neither an optimist nor a cynic.


Oliver Otis Howard (1830-1909) was a man of many and varied interests, and it follows that he is in no special danger of being forgotten. But his first all-inclusive biographer has more than a little
reason for wishing to bring him into clear focus for readers of the times to which he did not specifically belong. This volume presents him as a Union officer at Chancellorsville, where he lost his right hand, and Gettysburg; commissioner of the Freedman’s Bureau; pacifier of the Apaches and the Nez Percé Indians; founder of Howard University in Washington, D. C.; superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y.; and principal sponsor of Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee. But each of the activities emphasized brought Howard into difficulties, with the result that this biography is a fascinating story of a man involved in controversy throughout his entire career. In a word, Mr. Carpenter’s hero is a scrapper. As such he qualifies for a position among the important American “independents” of the 19th century—John Brown, Thoreau, Whitman, Horace Greeley, Mark Twain, Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Howard’s autobiography, published in 1907, is not nearly as interesting reading.


Here is a bringing together of antiquarian material of the sort which, received by word of mouth from an aged family retainer, inspired Sir Walter Scott as a boy. The background of it naturally is native to the British Isles. Parallels could be drawn to relate it with Shakespeare and the King James Bible. Young people who read it never will forget. The story of Cynthia Cartwright on pages 234-235, for instance — the overturned wagon, the tree burned through and falling, the people nearby who refused to help: proof of how much more memorable is truth distinct from fiction. Anecdotes about Lafayette, Lincoln, Ann Rutledge, Ingersoll, Bryan, Borah, Pontiac, Tecumseh; pioneer settlements, trails and roads, farms, churches, inns, schools, forts, battlefields, rivers, boats, lost towns, random stories, flying impressions, every page is crowded with narrative values. Mr. Allen is native to the whole scene as farmer, logger, teacher, U.S. Marine in France and Germany, student in the University of London, professor at Southern Illinois University, historical columnist, museum curator, past president of the Illinois State Historical Society. A philosophy of human quality, friendship and fellowship runs through