
An historical treatise which deals mainly with local and regional matters is microcosmic, not unlike a single star in the universe, or an atom in physics, and somewhat like the individual cell in a biological organization. As compared with universal or national history, local history is small, with a greatly limited perspective. Yet it is an essential component part of the ideal total and greatly illustrates the larger whole.

The first seven chapters of this small volume are an excellent example of the above aspect of local and regional history. They make a definite contribution to the full picture of the history of the United States. Research and scholarship are clearly manifest. Use is made of genealogical and biographical materials. The footnotes and bibliography indicate the expenditure of much time and energy on the project.

Unfortunately, in the last six chapters, drama, romance and episode engross too much of the story; and the main theme, involved in the well-chosen title, loses emphasis. Some of this might have been put in appendixes rather than used as chapters in an exposition or thesis.

There are unimportant shortcomings in this little treatise, such as some bad mimeographing. And many of the excerpts are too long for all but the specialized reader.

The reviewer is inclined to disagree with the abolitionist laudation of the author. Abolitionism, in recent terminology, was a bad case of extremism, almost a psychological explosion. The many problems involved are not clearly revealed and certainly not fully developed.

The people of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, are to be congratulated on their historical interest and activity. It is to be hoped that other regions or localities may be inspired to similar interest in their past.

This publication is of value, not only to Indiana County folks, but to a wide historical fraternity. Well bound and adequately printed, it is well worth the price, not only to libraries but to many individuals.

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