repeat for our great-grandchildren what had been provided by nature for our great-grandparents.

This book is a valuable historical collection which provides source material for much further and more detailed study and research.

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_The French and British in the Old Northwest: A Bibliographic Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources._ By _Henry Putney Beers._  

This book raises a purely academic yet very important question—if only because it illustrates the common phenomenon of human folly. There never was any valid reason why England and France should not have peopled and managed North America to the profit of all concerned, even the Indians. Human material available was competent enough. Leadership was present in such men as Samuel de Champlain and John Smith. The expansion of Europe in the Western Hemisphere already was in the hands of representatives of the heirs of Alfred the Great and Charlemagne. Why not? Despite all the contention, all the conflict, that is the way it worked out. The Pilgrims and the Huguenots, in 1781, bore away the victory.

But here again we have the duty to ask ourselves: What reason was there for not anticipating the inevitable? If we have sense enough to cooperate in the end, why do we lack intelligence enough to work together to the same purpose in the beginning? The answer is: Everything is an adventurous experiment. Columbus and Frontenac, Henry Hudson and Peter Stuyvesant, De Soto and Walter Raleigh, the Jesuit Fathers and John Wesley, LaSalle and William Penn, Count Zinzendorf and the Muhlenbergs: Who else are they if not Europeans taking chances, desperate chances? Since fate was to merge them in a single inclusive folk-movement, one vast and long-continued migration, despite their differences, why could it not have been visioned efficiently enough to make the fighting unnecessary?

The explanation is the natural tendency of people to pull apart as well as to pull together. We humans are compact of minus values almost as much as of plus values. This book proves it.
We have in these 298 thought-provoking pages a practical guide to the documentation of the conquest of North America by Western Europeans. What strikes even a casual reviewer is the great quantity of material that has survived. Even when we remember that much has been lost, it still is surprising to see how much has not disappeared. Further, additions constantly are being made by amateurs as well as by accredited historical scholars. Current events are responsible, as Robert D. Christie, Director of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, recently pointed out to the Board of Commissioners of Allegheny County, for continued popular interest in Anglo-French, Canadian-American relations.

Some of the details involved are fascinating almost beyond belief. Here, for instance, on page 53 of Dr. Beers' compilation, is the Bishop of St. Malo claiming jurisdiction over Canadian Catholics. Why? Well, it was from St. Malo that the Breton-French sailed to establish Quebec and Montreal.

More dramatically demanding to Western Pennsylvanians are such paragraphs as this on page 106:

The experienced and able George Croghan, Indian trader and occasional Indian agent for the colony of Pennsylvania, was chosen in 1756 as deputy for the tribes in Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. To fulfill his important mission, Croghan established his headquarters at Fort Pitt after its occupation by the British. Here he built Croghan Hall, from which he carried on his official duties and his trade and land speculating activities. On his immediate staff were two assistants, Edward Ward, his half-brother, and Thomas McKee, an old Susquehanna River Indian trader. The latter's son, Alexander McKee, acted as deputy during Croghan's absence in 1763 and 1764. Both Detroit and Michilimackinac were at first under Croghan's jurisdiction.

To demonstrate the relation between Dr. Beers' work and that of many writers for the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine it is required only to glance at page 113 of the Index compiled and edited by Dr. Alfred Procter James in 1963, where George Croghan enjoys an immortality positively Olympian.

The principle involved, of course, is that of the unfailing pervasiveness of history as an aid — a help — in living. Open Dr. Beers' volume at random, check any of his entries with those of Dr. James in our WPHM Index and notice how beautifully they fit together: companion books, to stand on the same shelf, to be taken down and used together.

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT