It is regrettable that one finds in this George Washington a number of inaccuracies, vaguenesses and omissions. Involved as such, are statements about Ohio Company surveys, the naming of Fort Pitt, advice to Braddock, and the letters to Sally Fairfax.

The merits of this publication outweigh its demerits. It is, in some respects, a considerable contribution to the subject. It has both professional and popular value. And it is well worth the modest price put upon it.

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General von Riedesel commanded the Brunswick mercenaries who served under the British against the Colonists in the war for American independence. The Baroness, his wife, with her little daughters, followed him to Canada to share the fortunes of war. As the title suggests, the journal and letters in this volume give a running account of her experiences on this tour of duty.

The present translation by Marvin L. Brown with the assistance of Martha Huth is the first English translation in a hundred years. It is evidently more exact and more nearly complete than the previous editions. Mrs. Huth visited the owner of the original Riedesel papers at Schloss Neuenhof and was given permission to transcribe the manuscripts including letters and passages that had been omitted from previous editions. The footnotes — usually such a bore to the lay reader — are interesting and stimulating because they give so many cross references from passages in the Journal to appropriate spots in the letters.

The volume itself is beautiful. The reproductions of the family portraits increase the charm. Maps tracing the route of the Convention army are attractive as well as useful.

The book opens with an introductory chapter by Professor Brown. This gives a chronological account of the events described in the
documents and puts them into proper perspective. Part I is the *Journal* itself; Part II, the *Correspondence*.

The account of the tour of duty began with the Baroness's journey from Brunswick to Bristol. Unfortunately there was a long delay in England before she could set sail for Canada. After many disappointments, the family was united just before General Burgoyne's advance down Lake Champlain and the Hudson.

As a result of Burgoyne's defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, the royal troops accepted the terms of the Saratoga Convention. There is a vivid description of the battle. The *Journal* records in great detail the progress of the troops from Massachusetts to Virginia to New York and back to Quebec. Nowhere can we find a more complete picture of the daily life of Americans, their manners or lack of them, their dress and their food as seen by a foreigner. However, the experiences of the Baroness are in no way representative of the lives of American patriots and their families. Life was pleasant for the Riedesels, food was usually plentiful, housing was good. The Baroness always traveled in state with at least three carriages — one for herself and her children, a second for the three servants who had accompanied her from Brunswick, and a third for food and wines.

The treatment of the Convention troops by the Americans is a revelation. After Saratoga, General Schuyler lent them his summer home; in Virginia a house was built for the Riedesels and separate shelters for the soldiers. Each man had his individual garden plot. The General planted not only a garden but an orchard as well. At Berkeley Springs where they spent some time while the General recuperated from sunstroke, they enjoyed the company of some of General Washington's relatives. The Baroness and her entourage were guests of the Carrolls at Carrollton. In New York elegant furniture confiscated from the rebels was placed at their disposal. In bitter winter weather, while the natives were shivering, the Baroness was given so generous a supply of firewood that she had thirty cords to give away when the order came to move on to Quebec.

One wonders about all this in the light of Washington's ragged army and the sacrifices of the wives and mothers of his men. Women, as gently reared as the Baroness, were taking over farm duties; and, lacking completely her concern for the latest fashions, were patching worn garments to keep their children warm.

In the *Journal* a great deal of attention is given to food and to money. With very few exceptions the General's household was well and even sumptuously fed. In spite of the necessary expenditures —
and the haggling which invariably accompanied payment — the General was of "so economical turn of mind that he is said to have saved 15,000 thalers."

Samuel Johnson said, "No man was ever written down but by himself." No — nor woman. To this reviewer, a really intriguing part of the study has been the unconscious revelation of the personality of the Baroness. Internal evidence shows that she "arranged" the documents before the first printing. Passages from the letters which she evidently omitted have been restored by Martha Huth. She certainly was not above "editing," too. She hoped, no doubt, to leave to posterity the image of a woman courageous, virtuous and of surpassing charm. Certainly the amount of adulation given her by important Americans and recorded by her, bears this out.

She was the lady of quality accustomed to attention. She was much in demand at balls, dinners and other functions. Gentlemen in high places did her honor. Above all she was the exemplary wife and mother, the good housewife, the tender nurse. All other women were held suspect. Several times she told us that this or that acquaintance permitted the gentlemen to take "liberties." She never defines "liberties." The innuendo is unmistakable. In Virginia where she was so well treated she reports, "The morals of Virginians did not make a favorable picture." While she had no first-hand knowledge, she does not hesitate to repeat stories of incest and adultery.

In one of his letters the General warned her to curb her sharp tongue. It was a warning easily forgotten. A good example is her appraisal of the Carrolls whose guest she was. She speaks of Mrs. Carroll as "a very enthusiastic but reasonable patriot" and of the great signer of the Declaration of Independence as "brusque and stingy." It never occurs to her that the invasion of his privacy by the wife of an enemy general, her three children and her servants might make even the best tempered man testy. Had he known she thought Carroll patriotism "reasonable" he would have been more than brusque.

There is no doubt that these papers are a valuable contribution to the understanding of one facet of life in this period of our history. They present an entirely different view from the one most of us have of the embattled farmers who put the Red Coats to rout. However, any woman who is annoyed by the Baroness is amply revenged when she compares the portrait of the lady as a sixteen-year-old bride, so delicate and flowerlike, with the fifty-year-old matron, so like an overblown cabbage rose.

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Loretta P. Byrne