left the convention or refused to sign the convention report.

For the young scholar this book presents a lesson in the value of original documentary sources, of diaries and letters not only for documentation but to add depth and color, and to transform historical characters from lifeless wax figure museum pieces into flesh-and-blood human beings. For the scholar who is familiar with the records of the convention, with the philosophical beliefs of the convention leaders, with the literature of social and economic interpretation of their motivations and with critiques of the balance of interests on which the success of the new framework of government rested, there are no new insights. But, this was not the purpose of the author. For the laymen it is an old story that has been made refreshingly new.

University of Pittsburgh

Rosalind L. Branning


In authorship, organization, content, sponsorship and typography, this book is a distinct success. It has excellence of many kinds.

Lengthy comment could be made on the type of history exemplified by this "Study." It is but one of many volumes on the political history of Pennsylvania. There is in such volumes much variety. Generally they are narrowly restricted in the period of time taken as the limit of consideration and treatment; and within the area covered, the temptation to indulge in detail is sometimes irresistible. The names of individuals, parties, conventions, meetings and other items overrule not only the common man but the common historian. When, as is often the case, political history is tied up tightly with party politics, the situation is aggravated.

Fortunately the trained historiographer gives politics some and often much of the old Greek conception of politics as inclusive, as involving the whole circumstances and society of an era.

That Dr. Evans has the broad concept of politics, is evidenced in several ways. It appears, though faintly, in the title, it crops out in the preface, it is indicated in the dozen chapter headings. It is seen clearly in the bibliography and footnotes, it shows up in the index, and is obvious in the context. The author has, indeed, consulted a vast
mass of data bearing on the years 1872-1877, and much outside and beyond the limits assigned. His context is merely a selection and arrangement of significant matters from a veritable mountain of material drawn from many sources, much of which is not in print. A list of items from the index shows this. Such things as agriculture, banking, Bloody Shirt, civil rights, Civil War, coal industry, corporations, corruption in government, currency, depression, industry and manufacturing, labor, temperance, newspapers, schools, the tariff issue, are important parts of not only politics but also of political party history.

In historiography of this type the matter of literary style is important. Strangely enough, the best style is that which distracts no attention from the facts and their organization and interpretation. And the real merit of famous historians such as Gibbon, Macaulay, George Bancroft, and Parkman is found in their scholarship rather than in matters of vocabulary, sentence structure, phraseology, metaphors and rhetoric. Excessive literary flair merely places such writers in the field of belles-lettres rather than on the ladder of historiography.

At no point in this volume was the reviewer's attention distracted from the facts and their interpretation. Presumably this was the great objective of the author and of his sponsors and proofreaders.

A minor defect of this "Study" could be that Western Pennsylvania is given less than its due share of attention. Personalities, events and materials are somewhat neglected in comparison with central and eastern Pennsylvania.

The reviewer is pleased to report that at no point did he find any error of grammar, rhetoric, organization or typography. Errata were not found, certainly not conspicuous as is the case of many otherwise scholarly historical publications.

The price of this volume is almost unbelievable. In view of its size and quality the book may be said to be subsidized by its publisher. Without scruple the reviewer recommends the publication. It deserves wide circulation. It cannot fail to enhance the credit of all connected with it.

Professor Emeritus
University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James