that Poverty soon overtakes him," and "Early to Bed, and early to rise, makes a Man healthy, wealthy, and wise," Franklin weaved a practical philosophy well-suited to the rustic American environment.

From the variety of sources so painstakingly collected for this important period of his life, the Franklin of historical tradition emerges to take his place as one of the giants of his age. The editors are to be commended for their meticulous scholarship, their elucidating commentary, and most importantly for making available the writings and correspondence of the fascinating and universally respected Mr. Franklin. An extensive index, a chronology, and numerous and, when necessary, lengthy explanatory footnotes greatly enhance the value of this attractive volume for the specialist and layman alike.

_Northeastern Illinois State College_  
Joseph C. Morton

_Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Secretary of War: A Political Biography_.  

It is remarkable that a politician of Simon Cameron's stature and prolonged public activity should have no full-length scholarly biography until the publication of the volume under review. Lee Crippen, of course, wrote the story very fully up to the outbreak of the Civil War, but unhappily did not live to complete the second volume. Professor Bradley has produced a book which enables us to follow the whole course of Cameron's career.

It takes some courage to prepare a book on Cameron, for many of the essential papers relating to the man still remain out of the reach of historians; scholars cannot be sure whether they have been destroyed or are extant but inaccessible for research. Bradley has had recourse to the standard manuscript collections, has consulted all the major ones, and also had entrée to Lee Crippen's notes. His main advantage in preparing the biography arose not from source materials to which he had exclusive access, but rather from his prior study of and familiarity with Pennsylvania politics in the era of Cameron's lifetime. From 1830 to 1880, Simon Cameron exercised a continuing and powerful influence on the party politics of Pennsylvania; and Bradley's intimate knowledge of the involved story of local politics gives him special qualifications to interpret Cameron and place him in perspective.
Bradley's chief contribution has been to make available to students and general readers a judicious and well-balanced story. He writes clearly and with snap. The book has been pared down to the minimum length and thus is tightly organized and succinctly phrased. Many of the long-standing questions about Cameron remain unanswered, but the author presents all the currently available data, makes his judgment, and permits the reader to sense that the evidence remains incomplete but that the conclusions are fair on the basis of data now at hand. While Bradley draws most of his material from manuscript and newspaper sources, this reviewer feels he might have more thoroughly canvassed articles and monographs of the past ten years to gain additional insights.

This biography does not greatly alter former estimates of Cameron, who appears as a man of ambition — mainly for success rather than power or money — who played the political game by tactics he found in common practice. He used rather than believed in issues, and built his strength on a personal following, offering rewards for loyalty and always providing for the faithful. But he was a pragmatist and could readily work with any man or any party, regardless of apparent inconsistencies, so long as the immediate connection promised political advantage. The fact that Cameron could, at various times, work in double harness with Buchanan, Lincoln, Thad Stevens, Andrew Johnson and U. S. Grant illustrates the point.

Although no book on Cameron in the present state of the sources could be considered final, we are indebted to Dr. Bradley for providing a very full, fair and useful study of the man and of the political practices common to the times in which he lived.

*Pennsylvania State University*  
**Philip S. Klein**


This volume is one in a large series on the *Histories of the American Frontier*, edited by Ray Allen Billington. The twelve chapters included in this volume give a good idea of the contents discussed. They deal specifically with the colonization of the unknown wilderness, the coastal pioneers of Plymouth and New Netherland, the tidal wave of the English (1630-1675), the English-French