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
rivalry, the Dutch colonization, the expanding frontier, the early land speculation, the rivalry in the fur trade, and Christianity on the northern frontier. In addition to the purely historical facts involved in the early colonization of the northeastern group of states, there is a most interesting story of the customs of the peoples involved in the early settlements of the American wilderness. The author discusses such subjects as Puritan expansionism, the upsurge of religious controversy in the Bay Colony, the pursuit of the lucrative fur trade, the groping for an Indian policy that would be effective, the Puritan claims of justification for their occupation of land and the various manners of dealing with the Indians and their land occupations. The bold thrusts by individuals and groups in planting new towns such as the "proprietors" and "commoners" in these towns, the functions of the town meetings in laying-out roads, the formulation of rights and covenants such as the Mayflower Compact and the Dover Agreement of 1640 are also related by the author.

In spite of the many difficulties faced by the pioneers in the wilderness and Indian hostilities, some of the Colonies, like that of the Penns, were able to continue their explorations with greater prospects of peace and progress. In other localities, relations with the Indians were not so good, as demonstrated by King Philip's War in 1675, the Pequot War in 1637, and at times competition among the Dutch, the Swedish and the English produced friction and ill-feeling.

A more pleasant feature of the volume is the story of the pioneers, their mode of living, their occupations, their pleasures, the making of clothing, their modes of travel by land and water, and the re-shaping of their mode of living in a new world. Included in the story of the early pioneers are several maps locating the different national settlements and many illustrations of early homes, block-houses, pioneer tools, etc., which clarify the story for the reader.

Pittsburgh

C. W. W. ELKIN, M.D.


Here is a volume that properly might be called a World Almanac