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
of the American Indians. It is an economical encyclopedia of useful information ranging from Abilene Trail to Zunis. At first glance it seems partisan to a troublesome degree, but that impression does not survive an open-minded reading. A fair test of the author's fidelity to historical principle is his discussion of the French and Indian War and subsequent conflicts involving Western Pennsylvania as a base if not otherwise. He also is appreciative of Indian writing as an art and reproduces many examples of aboriginal poetry and prose of convincing quality. As to the audiences available as listeners if not as readers, Mr. Peithmann reminds us that Powhatan was called "King" by the English for the very good reason that he "ruled over thirty tribes consisting of two hundred villages." The aggregate native population of North America in 1607 was about 800,000.

As to the character of the Indians when first approached by Europeans, it is on record that they "did not make docile slaves" and "fought back when mistreated." Mr. Peithmann quotes John Collier as saying of the Iroquois:

He believed in a forgiving spirit, preferring atonement to revengement in converting enemies into friends. He believed in peace. The sentiment of universal brotherhood was always his policy. Hospitality was a prime virtue among the Iroquois. No people were more generous. He did not believe in tyranny and he treated his wards with justice, tolerance and restraint. He had no caste system, believing in democracy, equality and brotherhood, and he practiced it.

Of course, there is another side to the story — the side which prompted State Historian William Henry Egle to refer to Indians as "copper-colored vipers." But that there was provocation cannot be denied. Mr. Peithmann concedes:

The Pilgrims were sure God was on their side because a plague had wiped out the Indians near Plymouth Rock prior to their arrival. The Pilgrims refused to purchase the land from other Indian claimants residing nearby. During the Pequot War of 1637, over 500 Indians were killed . . . The survivors including women and children were sold into slavery.

But Mr. Peithmann is not simply a propagandist or a special pleader. In the sense of being an expert and authoritative compiler of historic data he is, indeed, a sincere and a useful historian. His book is a reference work of worth as well as value.

Historical Society
of Western Pennsylvania

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT

of Western Pennsylvania