proudly displayed fire engine. All these, and many dwellings and outbuildings, are graphically illustrated and described in detail. The author's evident enthusiasm for his subject shines through to illuminate the imagination of the reader.

But this tract is not a history of Economy or of the Harmony Society. It is, after all, a story of restoration, a story told by an expert, by a dedicated enthusiast. We are led through the pitfalls, difficulties, and heartaches of government-financed restoration projects. We become aware of disheartening procrastination and share in the taste of the sweet fruits of persistent perseverance. It is the story of the Old Economy Memorial and its completion, almost brick by brick, grapevine by grapevine. This is a story of twenty-seven years of restoration work told by the architect, who, to say the least, gave it tender loving care, and whose perseverance and zeal now lets us all enjoy the only truly homogeneous early nineteenth-century community remaining in Western Pennsylvania, if not in the nation.

Pittsburgh

Alfred D. Reid, A.I.A.


This is a reprint of a series of anecdotes about famous Americans from the days of William Penn to those of President Grant. Unfortunately, Da Capo Press fails to provide the reader with an introduction which could serve to orient him to the book, why its republication is significant, and the background of the author. Anecdotes of Public Men is in no sense a scholarly work but rather a mixture of tales, told haphazardly, as the author found time and inclination to write down a particular recollection or story regarding a prominent figure in American history.

Most of the anecdotes relate to people who lived during the lifetime of Forney, who was a newspaperman, editor, and minor political figure between the 1840s and the 1870s. Some of these anecdotes are firsthand accounts, but most seem to be gossipy stories about people of the time. Some stories relate to people who lived long before Forney's time, such as George Washington or William Penn, and are of the patriotic hero-worshiping variety. In fact, Forney seems to write more to praise than to analyze the men of his time, the excep-
tions to this rule being those who sided with the Confederacy in the Civil War. His heroes are Sumner and Stevens. Words of condemnation are reserved for the likes of John Slidell and other Southerners.

Forney was associated at various times in his life with the *Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal*, the *Washington Chronicle*, the *Washington Union*, and the *Philadelphia Press*. The *Washington Union* was the official organ of the Democratic party during the administrations of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. Forney also served as secretary of the Senate during the critical period December 1860 to March 1861 when the question of loyalty to the Union became more important than party loyalty. This proved to be a traumatic experience for Forney, who switched allegiance to the Republican party, though still holding a high regard for Stephen A. Douglas.

Forney is at his best when discussing men of his own time such as James Buchanan, Lewis Cass, Charles Sumner, and John Slidell. He possessed an excellent capacity for story telling. His style of writing is clear and direct and makes his *Anecdotes* enjoyable reading despite the author's annoying habit of jumping around in time, place, personality, and topics.

One anecdote, which particularly illustrates Forney's storytelling abilities, relates an experience of his friend James Buchanan with the myth-enshrouded Andrew Jackson. Buchanan had recently arrived from Russia with an English lady friend whom he took to visit President Jackson. Leaving the lady in the reception room, Buchanan ascended to the president's private quarters where he found Jackson "unshaved, unkempt, in his dressing gown, with his slippered feet on the fender before a blazing wood fire, smoking a corn cob pipe of the old southern school." When Buchanan, who was always conscious of his clothing, asked if Jackson "did not intend to change his attire," Jackson responded, "Buchanan, I want to give you a little advice, which I hope you will remember. I knew a man once who made his fortune by attending to his own business. Tell the lady I will see her presently." Buchanan felt more humiliated than at any other time in his life. He went downstairs, and a short time later Jackson entered "dressed in a full suit of black, cleanly shaved, with his stubborn white hair forced back from his remarkable face, and advancing to the beautiful Britisher, saluted her with almost kingly grace. As she left the White House she exclaimed to her escort, "Your republican President is the royal model of a gentleman." This episode, though told secondhand, rings true as typical of the folklore surrounding Jackson.
The general reader will find Forney's *Anecdotes* entertaining. The scholar will find this book useful more for what it tells about the thinking of the Gilded Age than for the stories it relates about historic personages.

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**Kenneth R. Nodyne**


"We have met the enemy and they are ours — two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and a sloop," wrote Commander Oliver Hazard Perry to General William Henry Harrison on September 10, 1813. Perry was referring to his signal victory over the British fleet on Lake Erie, one of the few bright spots for the United States during the frustrating War of 1812. John K. Mahon now provides a definitive history of that conflict, tracing in detail the significant battles on land and on water in *The War of 1812*.

Mahon does not deal with the causes of the war beyond noting a multiplicity of motives on the part of those favoring the contest, but he does insert a prologue wherein he recounts the events leading to war. Here the battle of Tippecanoe is detailed, a battle which Mahon regards as the opening battle of the war. Following the prologue, Mahon organizes his material topically by year. Thus, in the section for 1812 one finds such topics as "Reaction to the War," "William Hull," and "Naval Action on the Oceans." Also included is a final chapter on the negotiation of the Treaty of Ghent.

It should be noted that this book is more than a mere sterile treatment of military campaigns, for the operations of the war are placed within the context of politics and culture. In addition, Mahon's research is exhaustive, and his descriptions of battlefield maneuvers are superb and are easily understood. His narrations of naval battles are particularly outstanding. Whenever it is necessary for the author to use naval terms such as yaw, wear, or kedge, he provides a definition of the word at the bottom of the page. Another of the book's virtues is its balance. British sources are used, and the English point of view is given ample treatment. Moreover, proper proportion is allocated to the