

Recently retired from active teaching, Miller now offers up a matured synthesis of his own study of the prerevolutionary American experience. Well written and moving at a leisurely pace, the book, nevertheless, tends to focus upon decisive critical events, such as the failure of the Virginia Company, the threats of Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson to New England Puritanism, or the impact of the Glorious Revolution on the American colonies. Miller correctly seeks to redress the profession's long neglect of the role of Indians and black Americans in the nation's history. Some will take exception to his finding of "Fundamentalists" leading the First Great Awakening. But Miller's work is enriched by his careful reading of the best recent scholarship and the errors of judgment are few. *This New Man, The American* is recommended reading for a bicentennial recollection of our heritage.

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*"War Is Hell!" William T. Sherman's Personal Narrative of His March Through Georgia.* Edited by MILLS LANE. (Savannah, Georgia: The Beehive Press, 1974. Pp. xxvi, 196. Introduction, illustrations. \$20.60.)

This reviewer must in all honesty ask bluntly: why was this book published? What justification is there in this day of inflation and shortages to bring out a book consisting of excerpts from the nineteenth century Sherman memoirs, a smattering of his letters to his wife, some eye-catching photographs, and an introduction almost exclusively based on secondary accounts? One can only surmise from the composition of this work that, despite the publisher's claim that this book is part of its "proud library of regional history . . .," it is in reality an expensive, attractively printed, addition for the coffee table.

The part of this book of most interest to historians is the introduction. Here, the editor, Mills Lane, argues that Sherman's movement through Georgia was "really the pivot point for an era which brought the industrial revolution to Georgia and which gave political power to the middle class for the first time." While citing some figures to buttress his point, editor Lane is not specific enough to make his case convincing. For example, in saying that the middle class ad-

vanced while the rich declined, he cites no names or statistics to prove his point. He concludes by saying that in Georgia: "The lesson of defeat seemed to be that tangible success mattered more than philosophical principles," but he does not mention how this squares with the South's postwar "Lost Cause" syndrome.

Editor Lane, in *"War Is Hell!"*, does make several points that bear repeating. Despite mythology, Sherman's movement through Georgia affected only a portion of the state, and other parts never experienced war either before or at that time. South Carolina endured more at the hands of Sherman's army than did Georgia. During the difficult days of Sherman's march, civilians suffered not only at the hands of the Northerners but were even more disillusioned to see their own troops plunder and steal from them.

In 1881, when the International Cotton Exposition was held in Atlanta, the most famous stockholder present and the one most lionized was William T. Sherman. "At last," says editor Lane, "the forces of economic and social change had produced this happy, if ironic, reconciliation." Sherman, intimates Lane, was the maker of modern industrial Georgia. Perhaps he was, but Lane does not show it conclusively. And even if true, how does the publication of these Sherman writings throw any new historical light on this assertion?

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*Early Daze in Oil.* By ERNEST C. MILLER. (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1974. Pp. 85. Foreword, illustrations, notes, and sources. \$5.95.)

Humor and history are often estranged, but Ernest Miller has bound them together in a slender volume on petroleum history called *Early Daze in Oil*. The author is blessed with a fascination for the funny as well as practical aspects of the history of early oil. Basically, Dr. Miller presents, in episodic form, the inane and only too human parts of existence in the nineteenth century oil boom towns of northwestern Pennsylvania. If you are amused by swindlers, fast women, and early photography, this book might interest you. The author's enthusiasm and raucous humor permeate this study and make his treatment of the Pennsylvania oil fields unique.