

description of the available source material relating to the life of Andrew Carnegie.

All in all, this volume does well with the life and times of a man who was telegrapher, railroad superintendent, financier, master money man, salesman par excellence, entrepreneur, and builder of the world's largest steel complex. The author has captured in words Carnegie's great genius, namely, the ability to sense the tremendous potential of a new service, such as the telegraph, the railroad, and iron and steel with all its vast and important developments. Unlike so many men, Carnegie not only saw the potential but knew how to act once he had seen it.

Pittsburgh

JOSEPH G. SMITH

A Mirror for Greatness: Six Americans. By BRUCE BLIVEN. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975. Pp. 251. Acknowledgments, preface, epilogue. \$7.95.)

Bruce Bliven, journalist, professor, and lecturer, arbitrarily selects six Americans in order to draw a composite picture of what he considers to be the magnitude of this nation. He selects Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Sojourner Truth, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau as epitomizing what America means to him. His thesis is that these six people incontrovertibly made the nation and set it upon the journey it continues to travel.

He views Franklin as a self-made genius in intellectual, political, and journalistic matters, who was instrumental in dissolving the barriers between class distinctions. Actually it seems quite appropriate for a man who was first a journalist to begin his *A Mirror for Greatness* with a famous man who began his academic life as a printer and a journalist. Franklin really had the inquiring type of mind necessary for innovative achievement.

Bliven's next great American is John Adams, who lived and practiced what came to be known as the Protestant Work Ethic. Somehow Adams is portrayed as a man with whom every American, as well as every other nationality, can identify. Although he tried hard all of his life, and sacrificed much, he always was the recipient of much criticism.

Thomas Jefferson was considered the perfect man, a genius in all he attempted — and there was not much he did not attempt, from architecture to philosophy. Throughout his life he was a practicing humanitarian.

The only woman in Bliven's list is also the only black person, Sojourner Truth — not the name given to her at birth, but one she chose for herself. Born a slave, she earned her own freedom and then proceeded to fight to free other slaves of color or sex. This woman was also concerned with publication. She may not have been very literate, but she was vocally articulate and dictated her thoughts distinctly to others.

Ralph Waldo Emerson is given credit for beginning a definite and separate American intellectualism, distinct from that of Europe. Bliven closes his book with a prose ode to Thoreau's individualism. Even he is unable to decide whether to depict Henry David as more lazy than individualistic or more conservatively inclined than revolutionary in a static world.

To be certain, many people will disagree with any one or all of these choices. America is a many-faceted nation full of diverse people who may feel their land and culture have been shaped by someone other than those who Bliven feels guided America's destiny. Whoever each reader thinks had the most to do with influencing America as he may view it, there is much information to support his choice within these pages. However, the reader will be disappointed to find no footnoting or bibliography.

Richmond, Virginia

HELEN COLLINS