The author acknowledges the difficulty of locating post molds under the prevailing soil conditions, but there is no indication that attempts were made to highlight such features by wetting the soil. More important, soil samples were not floated to obtain plant and seed remains. This could result in undue reliance on faunal remains for dietary reconstructions, skewing the analysis away from plants and cultigens as food resources. The attribution of log molds outside the fort walls to the hospital, while indeed possible, is based upon scanty and inconclusive evidence. The interpretation of the circular feature (number 38) as a granary appears to be largely conjectural; flotation of soil from this feature might have substantiated or disproved this conclusion. These criticisms are relatively minor, however; the book is informative and is recommended to the general public and to students of frontier history and Revolutionary war archeology in the Old Northwest.

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At long last a definitive biography of the somewhat obscure Tench Coxe is possible. Previous to the publication of this well-researched monograph, anyone desiring information on Alexander Hamilton's able and energetic treasury assistant had to consult either general histories of the Federalist period or biographies of Hamilton himself or read Harold Hutcheson's biography (Tench Coxe: A Study in American Economic Development. Baltimore, 1938), which is now outdated and published without benefit of access to the voluminous Coxe Papers. Now Professor Jacob E. Cooke, given exclusive access to the heretofore unavailable Tench Coxe Papers, has produced a first-rate study of this important early American political economist and treasury aide. Formerly an associate editor of The Papers of Alexander Hamilton and the author of a thoughtful and well-received article on the relationship of Hamilton and Coxe ("Tench Coxe, Alexander Hamilton, and the Encouragement of American Manufactures," The William and Mary Quarterly Third Series, 32 (July
Professor Cooke is particularly well qualified to write this long-needed, definitive biography of Tench Coxe.

The author covers with clarity and understanding the more familiar topics of Coxe's tenure as the assistant secretary of the treasury under Alexander Hamilton and his numerous published articles which show Coxe to have been at least a prolific if not always lucid writer and pamphleteer. It is here that Tench Coxe is depicted correctly as an economic nationalist, an advocate of a balanced national economy, and a conservative businessman. In addition, however, Cooke, as a result of his access to privately-owned Coxe family papers, is able to include interesting and historically valuable information on topics hitherto not well known, such as Coxe's aristocratic upbringing, his activities as a prominent Philadelphia merchant, his lukewarm loyalty during the American Revolution, his land speculations, his partisan political activities, and most interestingly his defection to the party of Thomas Jefferson.

However, Tench Coxe is historically significant primarily because of his official association with, and possible influence in economic matters over, President Washington's brilliant secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Dr. Cooke is persuasive when he asserts that many of the ideas and recommendations contained in Hamilton's famous reports of 1790 and 1791 to the Congress were in part those of Coxe. Thus credit for the far-reaching proposals regarding funding of the national debt, assumption by the national government of state debts, creation of a national bank, and the excise tax of 1791 must be shared by Hamilton with his aristocratic assistant. Cooke is most emphatic in assigning an important role for Coxe in the famous Report on Manufactures. This does not in any way diminish Hamilton's importance as the architect of fiscal and economic stability in the early Republic, but it does increase Coxe's subordinate role as a political economist of vision and competence. There is, as the author would readily agree, enough credit for both Coxe and Hamilton.

Of particular interest if less historical significance was Coxe's relationship with Hamilton and Jefferson. Early in the 1790s, Coxe was a lieutenant of Hamilton. Later in the decade, Coxe broke away from his earlier Federalism and embraced the Republicanism and commercialism of Thomas Jefferson. Thus he seemed to some to be a political and economic opportunist rather than a man of deep convictions and principles.

Whether opportunist or not, Tench Coxe has been, with the long-awaited publication of this biography based upon access to the Coxe
Papers, resurrected from undeserved historical obscurity. This volume should stand as the definitive biography of an important historical figure.

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For more than two decades historians have been freely partaking of social science methodology. Economics, sociology, and political science have stimulated new approaches which have brought a fuller understanding of historical problems than more traditional research techniques could have provided. Yet there also seems to be in recent years a trend among social scientists to borrow from the discipline of history that which will enhance their own studies. Historical archeologists, for instance, have been dirtying their hands in manuscript repositories, searching for clues to answer questions which cannot be explained by artifacts alone. Anthony F. C. Wallace, a professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, has done much the same thing in this book. Taking an area along Chester Creek in southeastern Pennsylvania, Wallace has used documentary evidence to provide a comprehensive picture of cultural and economic change over the course of a generation in the early nineteenth century.

Rockdale during the years 1820 to 1860 was a cotton manufacturing district comprised of seven small villages. Beginning in 1825, William Martin, Jr., converted an old paper mill to cotton spinning, and within five years at least six other industrialists followed suit. A sharp fall in Chester Creek made the area ideal for such enterprise, because in the presteam era large-scale factories depended almost solely on water power. Wallace carefully traces how the mills were built, the development of the complex machinery that went into them, day-to-day business transactions, and the gradual integration of the industry as the spinning and weaving activities came together under one roof. One could not wish for a more thorough or clear explanation of nineteenth-century cotton textile manufacturing.

But all this is really incidental. The main thrust of the book is