Long Island, Fort Washington, Trenton, Brandywine, and Germantown — but also the operations against Indians on Pennsylvania's northern and western frontiers. The latter narratives include several which should be of particular value to anyone interested in the history of Western Pennsylvania.

In brief, this book may well prove to be the most broadly appealing of all the Clements Library series. Dann has made a significant addition to Revolutionary War literature. Perhaps even more important, the sampling he has offered will spread awareness of the vast quantities of comparable narratives which can provide the basis for further research along a wide diversity of lines. In both respects, he has rendered an extremely valuable service.

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This volume of The Diaries is primarily a record of farm management, continuing the daily statements begun in January 1785. Unlike the pre-Revolutionary diary entries, Washington no longer dwells introspectively on "where & how my time was spent." Each day includes three temperature recordings. Washington's rides from Mount Vernon to his five nearby plantations form the main theme of almost every entry. Details of planting, cultivation, and harvest are laid out, although there are no references to the business success or failure of the operation as a whole. Washington's penchant for agricultural experiments is conspicuous. Breeding stock, seeds, skilled laborers, treatises, and letters of advice flow to Mount Vernon from Europe. One has the impression that Washington believed that he was gradually improving his land. Details of crop rotation and planting methods appear often, in a technical but abridged style. Undoubtedly these were intended for reference in later years. Construction of fences, building maintenance, and arboreta arrangement were faithfully recorded. Weather and moisture played a critical role in the annual farming cycle along the Potomac. During these years the mercury
never rose to ninety degrees; in January and February there were always a few days when it fell below the lowest point the thermometer would record (apparently fourteen degrees). Although 1785 had been so dry that crops suffered, 1786 was very damp. Plowing was delayed because fields now became too wet, and in September Washington developed ague fever. The daily descriptions are interspersed with a certain amount of statistical information including inventories of livestock and estimates of the yields of particular crops. Although informative these are not broad enough to produce a conclusion about the productivity of the six plantations.

In the preceding volume the entry of February 18, 1786, had listed Washington's 219 slaves. The slaves most frequently mentioned in Volume V are the field hands. Their work assignments were sometimes recorded, but not their living conditions. The women, who outnumbered the men on all plantations except Mount Vernon, worked in gangs, often fencing or grubbing the land even in the coldest weather. The specific assignments of the men were not mentioned on a daily basis, except indirectly when Washington stated how many plows were working. (There are two references to women working plows, but these must have been exceptional situations.) Washington had one white overseer, living at the Ferry farm, and black overseers at the other four crop plantations. Often he accepted statements and opinions concerning farm conditions from black slaves. The Diaries do not suggest that anybody — master, slave, or hired white laborer — was in any way discontent. It would not have been consistent with the bland style of Washington's writing, however, to have touched on discord.

Attitude and volition cannot, in my opinion, be discerned in The Diaries. Washington's letters and other papers reveal far more. There is neither a sense of pessimism nor a concern for the direction his life was leading, in these daily records. It has been said that in all his writings Washington seldom dwelt upon the past. By its very nature, however, this volume of The Diaries may be said to express a confidence in the future.

The reader learns exactly who Mount Vernon's guests were and how long they stayed, but the diarist seldom mentioned why they came. Except at gatherings provoked by the Potomac Canal venture, conversations with guests are never mentioned. We learn nothing of Martha Washington's life at Mount Vernon, although major incidents in the lives of close relatives and friends sometimes appear. Fox hunting and fishing did not occupy as much of Washin-
ton's time as they had before the Revolution. He was no longer a regular church attendant and seldom broke his work routine on Sunday. When national responsibilities at last drew him from Mount Vernon his daily horseback rides ceased, and diary entries began to suggest a deliberate attempt to preserve health through physical exercise.

Only a small portion of this volume is concerned with public affairs. The privacy rule of the Constitutional Convention prevented its president from recording daily sessions, if he ever had intended to do so. Except for listing the arrivals of state delegates, the Convention period entries are merely a record of where Washington dined and visited. Although only two diary entries have been preserved for the earliest weeks of the presidential household in New York, these with the regular record for November and December 1789 explain much about the emerging executive routine. The account of the New England tour, however, was entered in greater detail. Fittingly, he stopped to observe farm crops as often as he could.

The editors and sponsors of The Diaries are to be commended for providing such a reliable edition of this precious fragment of our early national past. Their literal editorial method is especially noteworthy. Annotation has been kept to a minimum. The book's only flaw may be said to lie in the apparent inconsistency in choice of who and what should be annotated, matters that lie within the judgment of the editors. Puzzling, too, is the assignment in the table of contents of 260 printed pages — all of 1787 — to the Constitutional Convention. Only forty-six pages involve the Convention period.

It is always inspiring to remember that the individual whose life forms the center of our early national history left such a unique documentary record.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Louis M. Waddell

The Homestead Strike of 1892. By ARTHUR G. BURGOYNE, with an afterword by DAVID P. DEMAREST, JR. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1979. Pp. viii, 320. Author's introduction, afterword, acknowledgments, textual note, other readings about steel. $12.95, cloth; $5.95, paper.)

The Homestead Strike of 1892 by Arthur G. Burgoyne is cur-