cerns which would later occupy so much of his correspondence with Congress during the Revolutionary War: soldier's pay, supplies, and questions of desertion.

The concerns of a planter such as the division of slaves, the lease of Mount Vernon, and other concerns of plantation life are contained within the volume. There are also numerous letters that attest to the friendship of Washington and the Fairfaxes.

Both volumes are welcome additions to the scholarship of the colonial era.

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John Dickinson: Conservative Revolutionary. By MILTON E. FLOWER. (Charlottesville: The Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion by the University Press of Virginia, 1983. Pp. xii, 338. Preface, selected bibliography, index. $27.50.)

John Dickinson was one of the most important and influential political figures of the entire Revolutionary era. Without question he properly belongs, along with such better-known public-spirited individuals as Samuel Adams, James Otis, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry, on any list of men who played significant and conspicuous roles in the exciting pre-Revolutionary period, 1763-1775. It is strange, therefore, that this prominent Pennsylvania and Delaware statesman is not today well-known, greatly admired, or widely written about.


Happily this neglect has now been remedied. Milton E. Flower (retired professor of political science at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania) has written an engaging and well-researched full-
length biography which goes far to fill the need of an up-to-date scholarly yet readable narrative on John Dickinson.

As the subtitle suggests, the thesis of this generally well-written volume is that John Dickinson reluctantly and belatedly embraced the idea of political independence from England. Frequently a person is judged by the enemies acquired. For his essential conservatism and for his refusal to sign the Declaration of Independence, Dickinson acquired a prominent list of political enemies among the more radical leaders in Congress in the period 1774-1776. Thus he gained, to the detriment of his historical reputation, the everlasting enmity of the dominant Adams-Lee faction in Congress. It was John Adams who characterized Dickinson as "a certain great Fortune and piddling genius, whose fame has been trumpeted so loudly, has given a silly cast to our whole doings" (p. 137). At the time and ever since John Dickinson has been criticized for this failure to gain political immortality by embracing the idea of independence and signing Jefferson's Declaration.

However, Professor Flower has done much to resurrect Dickinson's historical reputation. In a largely narrative fashion, Flower deals with John Dickinson's activities as a state politician (in both Delaware and Pennsylvania); his attendance and activities at the so-called Stamp Act Congress, and his drafting of the Articles of Confederation are all related in sufficient detail to buttress the author's claim that his subject was indeed a major political figure. As one of the older "Founding Fathers" (although the same age as Washington, he was three years older than John Adams, four older than Patrick Henry, nine older than Jefferson, nineteen older than James Madison, and twenty-three older than Alexander Hamilton), Dickinson's most significant contributions took place before 1776.

It was in fact John Dickinson's "Letters of a Farmer in Pennsylvania" which brought him instant, far-reaching, but not long-lasting fame. These cogently written newspaper articles seemed to capture and reflect the mood of the time. Aimed against the hated Townshend Duties of 1767, these twelve letters gained for their author a deserved reputation as a political polemicist of great force and persuasion and an undeserved one as a radical colonial leader. If read carefully, these "Letters" urged reform within the existing English imperial system, not drastic modification or political separation.

After serving in Congress off and on until 1780, he was elected governor of Delaware and a year later Pennsylvania elected him to a similar position. Much to the chagrin of his Delaware constituents,
Dickinson resigned as governor of Delaware to serve in that capacity in Pennsylvania. After three stormy years as chief executive of the "Keystone State," Dickinson eagerly moved back to Delaware, which later sent him as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. After signing the Constitution, Dickinson wrote the widely-read "Letters of Fabius" supporting ratification of the 1787 document. As if to emphasize that he was among the older "Founding Fathers," Dickinson did not hold any major public office after 1787. His death in 1808 was widely noticed and greatly lamented.

The publication of what is now the definitive biography of John Dickinson will go far to gain for the "Farmer" the admiration and esteem strangely withheld during his lifetime. A selected bibliography, index, and several illustrations (including the famous 1770 Charles Willson Peale portrait of John Dickinson) all enhance the value of this volume for scholar and layman alike. Professor Flower is to be commended for making available this readable biography of the heretofore neglected "Farmer" and the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion are to be commended for encouraging and supporting this publication and for helping to restore and maintain the beautiful ancestral Dickinson home near Dover, Delaware.

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Professor James C. Mohr has found a distinctive pair of Civil War diaries, one by Rachel Bowman, kept from 1858 to 1865, and the other by Samuel Cormany, kept from 1859 to 1865. Mohr alternates sections of the two accounts. First we read Rachel's words, then Samuel's; we watch them meet in college, part, meet again and marry, move to Canada, then return to the Cumberland Valley, where Samuel enlists in the Sixteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry in 1862. Rachel then keeps her diary from the home front in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, while Samuel writes from the frontlines at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Appomattox. Finally, the diarists come back together at the end of the war.

The editing is excellent. In an opening glossary Mohr identifies