

reviews

american character

THE DISTORTED IMAGE: CHANGING CONCEPTIONS OF THE AMERICAN CHARACTER. By Thomas L. Hartshorne. Cleveland: Case Western Reserve University. 1968. \$6.95.

One of the author's main conclusions is that American intellectuals until the very recent past have been unable to get out from under the elongated shadow of Frederick Jackson Turner. The frontier as a conceptual framework is so ingrained in American thinking that it is almost impossible for American intellectuals to deal with the American character without taking this concept into consideration. "Perhaps the most striking fact that emerges from the study of American conceptions of the American character during the twentieth century," Hartshorne suggests, "is the remarkable similarity among them." The fact that studies of the American character have consisted of variations on a limited range of themes, he contends, is not because the facts are self evident, but because of the willingness of the analysts (up until the last two decades) to avoid the complex problems involved in making a precise determination of the central character of the American. They have, he says, taken the concept of American character as given and gone on from there.

One of the most important factors Hartshorne describes is that most people who have written about the subject have not been concerned primarily with the American character itself; they have been interested in other things—attacking immigration, defending immigrants, attacking the establishment, proposing social reforms and so forth. Most of the writers that he deals with were willing to accept the traditional interpretations because they could use these interpretations as a saddle for their own hobby horse.

The other factor that he feels is crucial to understanding writings about the American character is the profound distrust of industrialism that has characterized the majority of the commentators. Until recently, most of these authors have refused to come to terms with modern industrial realities. Even those who wish to defend the American character have been influenced by the commentaries of foreign travelers such as Tocqueville, Bryce, Dickens and Mrs. Trollope, all of whom reinforced the agrarian bias of the native American. The defenders of the American character, therefore, have had to demonstrate that the United States is not really an industrial nation. He feels that this is especially true of American liberals who wish to defend the United States as a sanctuary of democracy and liberalism. American liberalism, he suggests, has been an agrarian philosophy, while American conservatism—gaining its natural allies from among the wealthy industrial class—has found its political home on the side of the industrialism which produced most of the wealth in this country. The classical European pattern has been reversed in the United States.

It is only in the past two decades that there are signs the situation is changing. More and more American writers are accepting industrialism. One of the reasons for this that Hartshorne cites is that during World War II the United States became the famous arsenal of democracy that preserved the freedom of the world. They have discovered that political democracy is difficult to establish (and even more difficult to preserve) unless the minimum standards of prosperity can be maintained.

The earlier section of Mr. Hartshorne's book, where he is dealing with racism and nativism as predominant influence upon interpretations of American character, will appear to the informed reader as rather superficial. The later sections, where he deals primarily with social scientists in the period from 1930 to the 1960's, are full of insight

and suggestive comments. The writing is clear and easily readable, although the book is chopped up into entirely too many sections and chapters.

RWS

VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE: A REVIEW OF CURRENT LITERATURE. By Henry Bienen. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1968. \$4.50.

From a cursory inspection, this book impresses one as being of peripheral interest to analysts of American society. Its focus is on the relationship between violence and social change, particularly modernization. Moreover, only one of the four chapters is directly relevant to American society—"violence in the ghetto." The remaining chapters focus on such apparently "foreign" topics as guerrilla war, revolution and totalitarianism. Upon closer examination, however, the reader discovers that Professor Bienen's treatment of these topics provides numerous insights which aid in understanding contemporary and past violence in the United States and elsewhere. These insights, hopefully, will encourage more analysts of American society to do comparative studies.

This monograph reviews the literature pertinent to violence and social change. The author skillfully pulls together the diverse strands in these areas. His approach is that of the critic. He questions assumptions and findings. He assesses what have been the promising as well as the sterile paths of inquiry. Moreover, he notes the neglected paths which must be explored if theory formulation is to be accomplished in this complex area.

Researchers and potential researchers in the areas of violence and change will find this book to be invaluable as a source of fruitful hypotheses to explore. It is disappointing only in its brevity.

University of Kansas

D. Stanley Eitzen

INDIVIDUALISM: PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND THE OPEN SOCIETY. By David L. Miller. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1967. \$6.00.

Professor Miller's sturdy affirmation of individualism expresses in contemporary terms Dewey's social philosophy and Meade's social psychology, as well as Miller's own mature pragmatism and philosophy of science. It is strongest in its analytic and hortatory passages, especially in describing the ideal balance between society's formation of the individual and the individual's creative contribution to society, though one wishes that certain concepts were pushed further. E.g., what are the constituents of the "better image of himself" which each individual supposedly seeks? Is it true that all determinisms are incompatible with individualism? The book is weakest in history and social commentary. Is the United States as close to being an open society as Professor Miller suggests?

University of Missouri, Columbia

J. H. Kultgen

the history of intellectuals

JONATHAN EDWARDS: THE NARRATIVE OF A PURITAN MIND. By Edward H. Davidson. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1968. \$6.00.

Professor Davidson's tightly packed slim volume on Edwards is just what the subtitle implies: an "inner history" of the great Puritan in terms of the development of his thought. A basic strength of the book is the writer's essential empathy with his subject's awesome mentality and world-view. Davidson rightly includes Edwards' intense and exhaustive analyses of the human self within an infinite cosmos along with those of Pascal and Kierkegaard as part of an introspective religious heritage with which modern existentialism and neo-orthodoxy have made us familiar.

On the whole, however, I cannot recommend the book as an introduction to Edwards, but only as perhaps a source of some fresh insights into certain matters for the person who already possesses some knowledge of the theologian. It is marked by an indirection, an elusiveness and a rhetoric which cause it frequently to lapse into obscurity; the general effect is unevenness and a certain lack of clarity. Furthermore, as a rigorously "inner" history, Professor Davidson's study does not really look much at Edwards as a distinctively American phenomenon, against his seventeenth-century New England background and eighteenth-century milieu or in terms of his later influence in American religious thought.

University of Kansas

James W. Woelfel

JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS: HISTORIAN OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. By Allan Nevins. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1968. \$6.95.

To the recent autobiographical accounts of A. M. Schlesinger, Sr., John Hicks and Roy F. Nichols, Allan Nevins has added a one hundred-page memoir of James Truslow Adams, followed by two hundred pages of letters by Adams relating to his concerns as a writing historian.

As both the memoir and the correspondence emphasize, Adams was very much the gentlemanly amateur historian in his own mind, even though in time he became increasingly dependent upon the income from his historical writings. It is this contrast between Adams and the academic historians of his day that gives the book its chief interest and significance.

Nevin's memoir is affectionately written but with a good measure of critical detachment. It is a model of what such a memoir ought to be.
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Gilman M. Ostrander

ROUSSEAU IN AMERICA, 1760-1809. By Paul M. Spurlin. University of Alabama Press. 1969. \$5.50.

This little book tries to assess the impact on Rousseau on America, not by tracing the impact of his ideas, but by studying the holdings of libraries and checking the book advertisements in newspapers. The author concludes that although Rousseau was known in this country, he had virtually no influence on the founding fathers and none on Jefferson. It was not until the French Revolution that his works were readily available in this country and then he was more important as a symbol than for the influence of his political or educational thought. This book is badly written and traditional in its approach, yet interesting in a limited way.

Temple University

Allen F. Davis

TWENTIETH CENTURY PILGRIMAGE: WALTER LIPPMANN AND THE PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY. By Charles Wellborn. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1969. \$6.50.

This is the best book to appear on what one observer has called "the most important political thinker of the twentieth century." It is not a biography, but rather a study of his political thought concerning "the nature of man, the malady of democracy, the meaning and function of law, and the relevance of religion." Analyzing *A Prefare to Politics*, *A Preface to Morals*, *The Good Society* and *The Public Philosophy*, Wellborn, unlike some critics, finds a consistency in Lippmann's thought. "His concern has been above all else for the effective functioning under modern conditions of the liberal democratic system of government in such a way to preserve the most valuable possession of each individual human being—the integrity of his own priesthood."

Temple University

Allen F. Davis

legislative history

BLUEPRINT FOR MODERN AMERICA: NONMILITARY LEGISLATION OF THE FIRST CIVIL WAR CONGRESS. By Leonard P. Curry. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press. 1968. \$8.50.

This is an impressively-researched account of the domestic legislation of the Thirty-Seventh Congress. Among the achievements of that enormously productive body were the Homestead Act, the Morrill Act, the Pacific Railroad Act and the National Banking Act, and scholars should be grateful to Curry for assembling this guide to that Congress' activities. But he has undertaken so detailed an account of the evolution of legislation and of the shifting alignments of congressmen on issues that one wishes, for the sake of enhanced clarity, that he had used some of the quantitative analytic techniques that he explicitly disavows. Statistical studies of the Thirty-Seventh Congress now in progress should bring this work that Curry has begun to a much fuller maturity.

Knox College

Rodney O. Davis

THE UPPER HOUSE IN REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA 1763-1788. By Jackson Turner Main. Madison, Milwaukee and London: University of Wisconsin Press. 1967. \$7.50.

With each passing publishing season the ephemerality of the recent effort to demonstrate the conservative character of the American Revolution becomes more apparent. Professor Main's detailed analysis of the impact of the Revolution on the structure, function, membership and theory of the upper houses of assemblies is an important addition to the growing list of new studies defending the Progressive historians' seminal insight that basic internal alterations accompanied the secession from the British Empire. Conceding that continuity from the late colonial to the early republic periods marked American political thought regarding the role of the upper houses, Main argues that, in fact, the senates of the new nation ceased to serve as the institution embodying the aristocratic balance to the democratic lower houses. Main documents, as well, the same decline in the proportion of places in the upper

houses occupied by the elite after 1766 as he described in an earlier article on the composition of the lower houses.

University of Missouri, Columbia

John C. Rainbolt

nineteenth-century politics

THREE CARPETBAG GOVERNORS. By Richard N. Current. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1967. \$3.75.

Richard N. Current's 1966 Fleming Lectures, published here virtually as they were delivered at Louisiana State University, are a welcome addition to the growing body of revisionist literature on Reconstruction. The contrasting careers of the three governors he examines, Harrison Reed of Florida, a "conservative," Henry Clay Warmoth of Louisiana, a "corruptionist," and Adelbert Ames of Mississippi, a "man of conscience," suggest to Professor Current that the old charge that all carpetbaggers were uncouth and unabashed boodlers needs to be dismissed. Some, like Warmoth, resembled the stereotype, but what the carpetbaggers shared in common was not an insatiable lust for greed. "After the war, these men viewed the South . . . as a new frontier, a place of individual opportunity and at the same time an area to be civilized, to be refashioned in the image of the victorious North," he concludes. Strangely enough, the so-called "Dunning school" of Reconstruction historians said much the same thing, but with a pejorative intent that is clearly absent from the present analysis.

University of Missouri, Columbia

Charles B. Dew

COTTON VERSUS CONSCIENCE: MASSACHUSETTS WHIG POLITICS AND SOUTHWESTERN EXPANSION, 1843-1848. By Kinley J. Brauer. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press. 1967. \$7.50.

The terms "Conscience" and "Cotton" Whig are familiar ones to students of the Middle Period. Excellent biographies of Charles Sumner, Charles Francis Adams and John Gorham Palfrey afford insight into the Conscience men. Therefore, Mr. Brauer must move over familiar ground. However, he has brought disparate strands into a well-written synthesis.

Brauer contends that the Cotton and Conscience Whigs both perceived the problem of slavery in the same manner, but differed over what course of action should be taken. The Conscience men desired a stand to be taken upon principle while the Cotton men wished to remain strictly within a legal and constitutional framework.

The part of the book with the greatest potential is, unfortunately, also the weakest. Brauer has adopted David Donald's status revolution thesis to explain the motivation of the Conscience Whigs. He offers no substantiation. Since Donald himself came under such heavy fire, this would have been an excellent opportunity for the author to illuminate a historiographical problem. Instead he chose to avoid analysis of this issue in order to present a narrative of the problems of the Whig party in Massachusetts. This he has done extremely well. The book transcends Massachusetts and allows the reader to see that the agonies of the Whig party in that state are those of ante-bellum America in microcosm.

University of Oklahoma

Robert E. Shalhope

IMMIGRANTS AND POLITICS: THE GERMANS OF NEBRASKA, 1880-1900. By Frederick C. Luebke. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1969. \$7.95.

In this small volume, Professor Carl Luebke effectively demonstrates that ethnicity, especially church affiliation, rather than such socioeconomic factors as occupation and wealth, influenced the voting patterns of Nebraska's Germans between 1880 and 1900. Fulfilling Samuel Hays's call for a social analysis of political history, Luebke has shown that local issues, such as prohibition, women's suffrage and compulsory school attendance—which Germans thought would undermine their way of life—generated far more concern among Germans than tariff and monetary reform.

While the author's use of quantification and his social analysis of politics should be valuable to political historians, students of American society will find Luebke's discussions of the influence of immigrant institutions, particularly the church and the press, relevant to their own studies. Luebke effectively uses Ole Rolvaag's archetypal characters from *Giants in the Earth*, the "rapid assimilator" Per Hansa and his antithesis Beret Holm, to illuminate the two fundamentally different types of German immigrants in Nebraska.

Sir George Williams University

Peter Romanofsky

JOHN MARSHALL'S DEFENSE OF McCULLOCH v. MARYLAND. Edited with an introduction by Gerald Gunther. Stanford University Press. 1969. \$7.50.

In the late spring and early summer of 1819 the Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall, debated the meaning of national power with two able defenders of

state sovereignty. Elicited by the Decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the argument dealt with more substantial issues than the constitutionality of the Bank of the United States. On Marshall's part it was a call to encourage the forces of nationalism whose strength seemed to be waning. To his opponents the issue raised the spectre of a central power equipped to weaken and perhaps destroy local control of local institutions. This volume contains that debate along with an excellent introduction by the editor, Gerald Gunther, who describes the environment of the argument and clarifies the questions at hand for the future of federalism in America. Understanding of the mind and talent of Marshall and of the unending debate over the uses and limits of power in America are all provided by this most useful work.

Phillip S. Paludan

twentieth-century politics

DEMAGOGUES IN THE DEPRESSION. AMERICAN RADICALS AND THE UNION PARTY, 1932-36. By David H. Bennett. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 1969. \$10.00.

The author of this book presents both an analysis and a narrative history of the four men who attempted to join their diverse followers into the Union Party in 1936. Unfortunately, the four men—Father Charles E. Coughlin, Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, Dr. Francis E. Townsend and Representative William Lemke—had little in common. Each of them supported some form of monetary panacea; each of them joined (in varying degrees) in the effort to defeat Roosevelt in 1936; each of them was, in the author's opinion, a demagogue. But the diversity of their characters and programs was so great that the author had to deal with each man separately in nearly all of his twenty-two chapters. The result of this form of construction is that the narrative, which occupies most of the book, moves slowly and seems repetitious.

The author concludes his work with an epilogue in which he attempts to show the differences and similarities among the various radical groups that have appeared on the American scene between 1890 and the 1960's. Here he deals with ethnic and psychological problems as well as political, sociological and economic issues. His conclusion clearly places him in the conservative wing of the consensus school of American historians. "Certainly the forces molding the mind of the extremist would not pass from the American scene," he states, but "there are built-in safeguards in the great democracy against a successful bid for power by any combination of radicals. . . ."

RWS

AMERICAN CATHOLICS & THE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENCY 1932-1936. By George Q. Flynn. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press. 1968. \$7.50.

Flynn's purpose is to illustrate that in the first years of the New Deal there was a significant change in the tolerance-at-a-distance which traditionally had characterized the relationship between American Catholics and the government. For Roosevelt, there was "the Catholic vote" and a rich source of advisors; for American Catholics, unprecedented recognition. The fortuitous similarity between New Deal programs and the social and economic teachings of the Church, plus Roosevelt's political acumen in capitalizing on the social consciousness of urban Catholics which Al Smith had awakened, largely accounted for the new reality. Flynn's arguments are persuasive and based on impressive research. Readers will discern, in addition, a competent portrait of Church leadership and an insight into Roosevelt's methods for handling interest groups.

University of Missouri, Kansas City

Richard D. McKinzie

WOODROW WILSON: THE EARLY YEARS. By George C. Osborn. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 1968. \$10.00.

Osborn has written a more complete account of Wilson's life to 1902 than have Link, Walworth and other recent biographers, a more accurate, contemporary and objective one than Ray Stannard Baker's and a more palatable one than Bullitt and Freud's. He also discusses Wilson's early writings more fully than earlier biographers. The author presents his subject as a very successful, exceedingly ambitious scholar, but one who believed that his true destiny was to participate in politics. The book's weakness lies in Osborn's unwillingness to relate these early years to the later, more significant period in Wilson's life. A study of the man's early life is justified only by his later prominence, and the implications of Osborn's findings for the post-1902 period should have been made explicit. Those who will be attracted to this well-researched volume are capable of modifying or rejecting Osborn's interpretations if necessary, but they would welcome the opportunity to benefit from them. Students of Wilson who are primarily interested in an interpretation-free presentation of Wilson's

early life would be well-advised to turn first to the Link edition of Wilson's papers, and to use Osborn's study as a supplement to it.

Alan Havig

THE SHADOW OF BLOOMING GROVE: WARREN G. HARDING IN HIS TIMES. By Francis Russell. New York: McGraw-Hill Company. 1968. \$12.50.

Francis Russell has provided an exceptionally well-written, adequately researched and lively biography of one of our worst Presidents. The Harding-Carrie Phillips love letters enabled him to prove that Harding did have an illicit affair with at least one woman. As the title suggests, Russell is also absorbed with the psychological effects that an assumed Negro-blood heritage might have had on Harding.

On the debit side, Russell neglected to cite his sources fully. Too many factual errors also characterize the book. On Harry Daugherty alone, this reviewer counted seven misstatements contained on three pages. Finally, Russell seemed too preoccupied with the scandals of the 1920's to furnish a fresh and meaningful analysis of the Harding Administration.

Southwest Missouri State College

James N. Giglio

foreign affairs

THE POLITICS OF INTERVENTION: THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CUBA 1906-1909. By Allan R. Millett. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. 1968. \$6.50.

Given present American frustrations over Vietnam and the Alliance for Progress, it is no surprise to find historians now turning their attention to studying earlier instances of American intervention. Allan Millett's exhaustive research into American archival and private manuscript collections here treats the first military action allowed by the Platt Amendment of 1901 and its subsequent incorporation into Cuban-American treaty law. Fully one third of the book summarizes the background in Cuba before the intervention, thus putting America's governmental decision-making into a meaningful context. Throughout, emphasis is placed on the rationale of President Roosevelt, Secretaries Root and Taft, and their civil-military advisers, to the extent that the story often takes on a narrowly official cast. Millett's failure to provide some over-all analysis of the occupation by appraising its procedures as well as substantive accomplishments and pitfalls is a serious omission to this otherwise valuable study. I trust that Millett will continue his researches into other problems of American military-diplomatic intervention. His experience with this first book will prove valuable.

Lawrence E. Gelfand

NAZI GERMANY AND THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE: 1933-1941. By Alton Frye. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1967. \$6.75.

Frye attempts to demonstrate that, contrary to the claims of the neo-revisionists, Nazi Germany sufficiently jeopardized the security of the Western Hemisphere to warrant American intervention in the European war. Basing his evidence primarily on captured files of the German Foreign Ministry, the author portrays a Nazi propaganda network in the Americas of menacing proportions. Nevertheless he also makes clear that the various German agencies involved in the politico-propaganda blitzkrieg were clumsy, ineffective and often in conflict. Nazi subversion failed, but Frye, concerned with "what might have been," concludes that America had to respond as and when it did; otherwise it would have been too late.

University of Missouri, Columbia

Winfield J. Burggraaff

CASUALTIES OF WAR. By Daniel Lang. New York: McGraw-Hill. 1969. \$1.50.

This is the extraordinary account, first published in *The New Yorker*, of the squad whose sergeant decided to enliven an extended patrol by kidnapping a young Vietnamese girl to be raped and then murdered so that there would be no witness. The episode is reconstructed through an interview with the one member of the squad who would not go along with the plan, and who risked his life in an attempt to bring the others to justice. It is one of those pieces so painful to read that one has to force oneself to continue. The horror of the kidnap, rape and murder is matched by the horror of the moral, social and bureaucratic situations which, on the one hand, made them possible, and on the other impeded the judicial process. Lang reports in sufficient detail (though he changes the names of all the parties involved) so that a social scientist could make very educated guesses about the forces involved. A dramatist who borrowed the plot would be accused of propagandizing, of inventing episodes too telling to be entirely credible.

A single example will have to suffice: when the young Minnesota farm boy who

would not go along with the plan reports the episode to his black lieutenant, the lieutenant, who had gone through hell himself in his one attempt to buck the system, feels that he must advise Private "Eriksson" to protect himself by not pressing charges. The lieutenant tells "Eriksson" how, in an American city, his wife had gone into labor with only a white hospital nearby, and had had their baby in its lobby because hospital authorities would not admit her to a ward. The lieutenant's rage at the injustice done to his own family had had no effect on the system, and had only gotten him in trouble personally. There is nothing more terrifying in the book than the fact that the lieutenant, in advising "Eriksson" to transfer to another unit and forget the kidnap, rape and murder, means well.

It is probably worth mentioning that in this writer's opinion, *The New Yorker* has consistently given us the best reporting on the subject of the war in Vietnam which we have had.

SGL

labor and business

BIG BILL HAYWOOD AND THE RADICAL UNION MOVEMENT. By Joseph R. Conlin. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1969. \$6.95.

This biography of William Haywood spans his entire career as a radical and leader of the Industrial Workers of the World. Conlin presents new material and interpretive insights. Like most analysts he argues that IWW militancy emerged from the western mining experience of its founders, but Conlin adds that it resulted from a loss of status as miners moved from small entrepreneurs to industrial laborers. Conlin also points out that the more conservative leadership of the Western Federation of Miners forced Haywood out of the union. He did not simply turn to the IWW as the preferable organization. In addition the book provides new information concerning Haywood's years in the USSR and a lengthy analysis of his speeches, rhetoric, articles and books. Irrespective of Haywood's intellectual productivity Conlin still considers him a practical, uncorrupted frontier type. Conlin also mistakenly dates the Mesabi Iron Range strike of 1916, and erroneously believes that Haywood had an organizational role there. Such shortcomings, however, are minor.

Neil Betten

CLASS, RACE, AND LABOR: WORKING-CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS IN DETROIT. By John C. Leggett. New York: Oxford University Press. 1968. \$7.50.

Leggett argues that the American worker develops significant class consciousness if he migrates to an industrial area from an agrarian one, belongs to a racial or ethnic group conscious of facing effective discrimination, is a union member and lives in a neighborhood where unemployment and housing are major concerns. He supports his contention with an empirical study of Detroit based primarily on sociological surveys done in 1960. Leggett concludes that class consciousness is still a significant factor in urban America and that race consciousness is a manifestation of class consciousness. He predicts that the neighborhood will be more important than the industrial plant in fostering future programs attempting to change American society.

This is an important book. It seriously questions supposed industrial white American satisfaction with a status quo, and provides insight into the roots of black militancy.

Indiana University, Northwest

Neil Betten

CHARLES MORGAN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN TRANSPORTATION. By James P. Baughman. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press. 1968. \$10.00.

An Easterner who invested his capital and his energy in the development of Southern transportation, Charles Morgan concentrated his efforts in the Gulf region first in steamboats and then in railroads. In this fine business biography, Professor Baughman shows how Morgan weathered fierce competition, adapted to technological change and adjusted to the political turmoil of the Civil War era. The Morgan lines eventually disappeared as a separate corporate entity when they became part of the transcontinental railroad, but by this time (1885) Morgan had made an invaluable contribution to the Gulf region's transportation network. Although the lack of extensive personal correspondence prevented him from giving much of the intimate life of his subject, Professor Baughman has presented an admirable portrait of the business life of a nineteenth-century entrepreneur and has added to our understanding of the role of business in American economic history.

University of Missouri, Columbia

Harold D. Woodman

ROGER SHERMAN AND THE INDEPENDENT OIL MEN. By Chester M. Destler. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 1967. \$8.75.

Based largely on the previously neglected papers of Roger Sherman, a Titusville lawyer who served as legal counsel for the producers of Pennsylvania crude oil, this book is intended both as a biography and as a history of the struggle against the Standard combination. In neither role does it measure up to Destler's other work. As a biography, it suffers from lack of balance, irrelevant trivia, weak characterization and too little concern with why Sherman deserves such a study. As economic history, its context is undesirably narrow, its conceptual content virtually nil, and its basic approach that of a morality play with Standard as the villain and the independents, despite much evidence to the contrary, as the champions of virtue. Treated differently, this might have made a fascinating study in clashing values and the pragmatic use of power. But as written, it is basically an extended footnote to existing works, one that fills in some details and reinforces the anti-Standard interpretation, but contributes little to any larger understanding.

University of Iowa

Ellis W. Hawley

education

JOHN MILTON GREGORY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS. By Harry A. Kersey, Jr. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1968. \$7.95.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 1867-1894: AN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY. By Winton U. Solberg. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1968. \$12.50.

The University of Illinois has enriched the history of higher education through its publication program that was planned and carried out at the time of its Centennial. These two scholarly books are both superior ones, and Solberg's is an excellent study of the internal struggle that shaped the institution in its formative years.

Kersey's biography of John Milton Gregory, the first Regent (President) of Illinois Industrial University, is a carefully researched and well-written study of this very effective executive. Gregory, a product of Union College, a philosopher and a Baptist preacher, seemed to be an unlikely candidate as the chief administrator of a new and revolutionary type of institution yet to be designed, shaped, built and unified. He had made a notable contribution to public education in Michigan. His initial plans for a curriculum were viciously attacked by influential newspapers and by some of the political leaders who had shaped the legislation that organized the University. Gregory not only was the object of abuse by his critics, but his institution was neglected by the state officials and scorned by farmers and the masses to whom it was supposed to minister. Gregory took his cause to the people in many eloquent speeches in all parts of the state. Furthermore, he convinced reluctant board members to support a program that was foreign to their commitment to vocational education and was counter to their prejudices against liberal education. Generally, his appointments to the faculty were good men with acceptable academic backgrounds. He fought to hold them when they were enticed by richer institutions and built the library even when money was scarce.

Gregory made three visits to Europe and came home with a new appreciation of agricultural science as well as a very good art collection for a small university lost in the prairie of eastern Illinois. However, his biography paints him as heroic with a mantle of greatness. On the record, he does not seem to merit this evaluation. He was innovative, vigorous, brave, sometimes imaginative, loyal and humane. Illinois was fortunate to have him for nearly a decade and a half.

Solberg's volume, based on careful research, is an excellent internal dissection of the situations and issues that plagued the University through its first twenty-seven years. The time span covers the administrations of John Milton Gregory (1867-1880), of Selim Hobart Peabody (1880-1891), and the interregnum of Thomas J. Burrill (1891-1894). The author's method is to assess the issues from the standpoint of the advocates and the opponents. It is a story of triumph neither for the scholars nor for those who would build an institution "for the people." His evaluation of the first three chief executives seems to be fair. Illinois was fortunate to have the eloquent and dedicated Gregory, unfortunate to have had the narrow and unimaginative Peabody, and did not know it had a solid and statesmanlike leader when it had the colorless but dedicated and skillful Burrill.

University of Missouri, Columbia

W. Francis English

THE PLACE OF REASON IN EDUCATION. By Bertram Bandman. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. 1967. \$5.00.

Professor Bandman is concerned with the kinds of arguments used in philosophies of education. Using the results of recent discussions by philosophers in the analytic

movement, he attempts to show that arguments in the philosophy of education cannot fit the formerly deductive pattern of arguments in logic. Neither can the arguments be entirely arbitrary and loose. Thus conclusions as to what ought to be taught cannot be logically derived from either metaphysical or moral premises, but such premises are relevant to educational arguments. How metaphysical and moral statements can count as "good reasons" for educational conclusions is the main constructive task of the book. As such, its insights and its importance lie in the clearing up of some of the foginess of educational arguments and in the use of rigorous analysis in a field too often given over to rhetoric.

University of Missouri, Columbia

William B. Bondeson

journalism

THE MAN WHO MADE NASBY, DAVID ROSS LOCKE. By John M. Harrison. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1969. \$8.75.

David Ross Locke is best known to the student of American Studies as the creator of Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby, one of those crude literary comedians of mid-nineteenth century whose humor was often effected through ridiculous misspellings rather than through genuine wit. John M. Harrison offers in this able biography a David Rose Locke who also was a newspaper editor who made effective criticisms of his society and times.

Locke was especially able in his commentaries on slavery and American attitudes toward the Negro. In particular he saw through the narrow bigotry of his Ohio neighbors who, Locke demonstrated in one effective piece of satire, appeared to believe that the fourteen black men in their town of a little more than three thousand would be able to take over—by force—the entire community. Northern Ohio was the chief setting for Locke's journalistic work, but Murat Halstead of Cincinnati bought Locke's Nasby letters and helped him obtain a national audience, and as editor, publisher and owner of the powerful *Toledo Blade* he became even more a national figure.

One of his great admirers was Abraham Lincoln, though there is reason to doubt that Lincoln would have admired the staunch radicalism of Locke during the Reconstruction period, especially during the radicals' efforts to impeach President Johnson. Harrison includes many of Locke's editorials, dwells on his career as Chautauqua orator and happily does not include too much of "Petroleum V. Nasby, Pastor uv the Church uv the Noo Dispensashun," who does not seem very funny in 1969.

University of Kansas

Calder M. Pickett

TO PRINT THE NEWS AND RAISE HELL. By Justin E. Walsh. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1968.

When the giants of personal journalism are listed, the name of Wilbur F. Storey usually is not up there with Greeley, Dana and Watterson. And for good reason. Storey was editor and owner of the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Chicago Times* in the latter part of the nineteenth century, but he was mainly a common scold, a scoundrel, the only editor I know of who was horsewhipped by a burlesque dancer (come to think of it that's an honor that comes to few of us). His most famous newspaper headline, over the story of a hanging, was "JERKED TO JESUS." That is the item for which Wilbur Storey may be best remembered by posterity.

University of Kansas

Calder M. Pickett

ED HOWE: COUNTRY TOWN PHILOSOPHER. By Calder M. Pickett. Lawrence: The University Press of Kansas. \$10.00.

This volume is welcomed because it adds significantly to our knowledge of Kansas history, invalidates the notion that Kansas produced only one editor who was known outside the boundaries of the state and challenges other writers to make similar in-depth studies of editors like Dan R. Anthony, Charles M. Harger, Will T. Beck and Charles F. Scott. To pursue a single topic through thirty years of a daily newspaper is a formidable task. To analyze an entire file plus a considerable number of books, articles and columns and to add some thirty years of a monthly magazine is a *tour de force* that only a few would undertake. Finally, the author has familiarized himself with what a considerable number of Howe's contemporaries had to say about Howe. That Calder Pickett has surmounted all of these formidable tasks is evidenced by the formal recognition of the American Association for State and Local History and by a number of favorable reviews already in print.

The reader must keep very clearly in mind the sub-title of the book, *Country Town Philosopher*. Although it has some of the characteristics of a biography, it is largely Howe according to Howe. The subject is allowed to speak for himself to a considerable degree. The connective tissue is well seasoned with some rather strongly

worded value judgments and broad generalizations. Among the latter there are several references to middle western isolationism and to the Kansas inferiority complex. The career of Ed Howe is almost a refutation of the isolationism syndrome unless it is defined narrowly as non-participation in foreign war. Howe the world traveller and Howe the commentator on international events seems to have been the very antithesis of an isolationist.

The inferiority complex notion is harder to analyze. The author tacitly admits the difficulty of psycho-analyzing an individual in terms of his father's religious and marital problems although he is tempted into trying it. If such a process of analysis is difficult when only one individual is involved, how can more than a million people through decades of time be subjected to the analyst's couch? What has been called the Kansas inferiority complex may not be anything more than a normal response to the problems of adaptation to a new and unfamiliar environment.

In spite of a bibliography that is tremendously impressive, some facets of Ed Howe's career are not completely explained. The most important of these is the simple one of survival. How an editor with strong anti-religious views and a jaundiced opinion of the female sex could have survived in a community that had at least three major Roman Catholic institutions and a Lutheran college and was the home of a good many talented women is a source of wonderment to this reviewer. But it is not required that an author should answer all the questions that readers ask. It is enough that he should stimulate the asking of questions. This the author has done exceptionally well. The author has also exhibited once again in the sections devoted to Howe's books his special talent for writing book reviews. On the whole Howe does not come off very well as a writer of fiction. Even the *Story of a Country Town* does not escape entirely free of negative judgments.

It is entirely possible that somewhere in the mountainous heap of editorials, "one-liners," news items, travel accounts, magazine articles and books there lurks another Howe, but it is extremely doubtful that another Calder Pickett will appear within the foreseeable future to portray him. Until then *Small Town Philosopher* will remain the definitive study.

The University of Kansas

George L. Anderson

literary history

FRANK NORRIS: INSTINCT AND ART. By William B. Dillingham. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 1969. \$5.95.

This well-written book perceptively traces *fin-du-siècle* notion in Norris' fiction. As a would-be-painter Norris learned from French academics like Bouguereau to prize realistic detail and dramatic story. The hereditary determinism of Nietzsche, Taine, Lombroso and Le Conte shaped Norris' belief that instinct, not environment as stressed by Crane and Sinclair, is the basic destructive or creative force. Hence Norris depicted instinct as destroying degenerates like Vandover or McTeague, but in *The Octopus* as saving Presley who finally harmonizes his drives with regenerative nature—according to Dillingham the primary message of the novel. Especially well-treated is the impact on Norris of social Darwinism, America's Manifest Destiny and fears of emasculating aestheticism as the frontier vanished. In Norris' "real" world men and strong women like Moran battle *epically*; the sham world of escapist femininity destroys. The author rightly observes that Norris' style is often amateurish; that his symbols sometimes are obvious or confusing as in *The Pit*, although gold in *McTeague* and wheat in *The Octopus* are richly suggestive; that Norris' facts are authoritative, his visual imagery and atmosphere good, his pace generally accelerative. Appended to this incisive study is a valuable annotated bibliography.

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

G. C. Drake

THE AMERICAN 1890s. By Larzer Ziff. New York: The Viking Press. 1968. \$1.95.

Larzer Ziff's *The American 1890s* offers a broad, yet incisive analysis of American literature written during the time of a "wholesale commercialization of life." Ziff shows how a national desire to idealize reality enabled certain magazines, newspapers and writers (such as Owen Wister and F. Marion Crawford) to achieve popular success. Using such figures as William Dean Howells and Mark Twain, Ziff outlines the failure of many serious writers to understand their time's social upheaval and its consequences. However, other writers, including Stephen Crane, Frank Norris and Harold Frederic, did try to cope with "the difference in texture between rural life and urban life, and with the resulting difference in morality." Finally, Ziff discusses the artistically successful works of Edwin Arlington Robinson and Theodore Dreiser, but points out that this whole generation of writers was "cut off before its time because it had started before its time."

Suffolk University

Kenneth Johnson

THE REVOLT FROM THE VILLAGE 1915-1930. By Anthony Channell Hilfer. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 1969. \$8.50.

Anthony Channell Hilfer's *The Revolt from the Village 1915-1930* analyzes many American writings attacking the myth that the small town was—in Carl Van Doren's words—"a rural paradise exempt from the vices, complexities, and irremediable tragedies of the city." Hilfer designates the first wave of the attack as occurring between 1871 and 1899 and the second, major wave between 1915 and 1930. Discussing such writers as Van Wyck Brooks, H. L. Mencken, Sherwood Anderson and Sinclair Lewis, Hilfer finds that these writers aimed at two main targets, a "narrow religious fundamentalism and a simplistic and puritanical social code," and that their main themes were the "Buried Life" and non-conformity. He also points out that, during the 1915-1930 period, these writers' primary mood was one of revolt; later, nostalgia dominated their outlook. Although much of this literature is not highly regarded at present, Hilfer shows it is of continued importance, for it scrutinizes concepts and values still influential in today's world.

Suffolk University

Kenneth Johnson

books received

(The Journal does not, as a general rule, review paperback reprints, anthologies or collections of scholarly essays.)

BLACK AMERICA: ACCOMMODATION AND CONFRONTATION IN THE 20TH CENTURY. Edited by Richard Resh. D. C. Heath & Company. 1969.

BRICKS WITHOUT STRAWS. By Albion W. Tourgee. Louisiana State University Press. 1969. \$10.00.

BUCKSKIN AND BLANKET DAYS. By Thomas H. Tibbles. University of Nebraska Press. 1969. \$1.95.

CALDWELL AND COMPANY: A SOUTHERN FINANCIAL EMPIRE. By John B. McFerrin. Vanderbilt University Press. 1969. \$7.50.

THE CITY IN AMERICAN HISTORY. By Blake McKelvey. Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1969. \$5.75.

THE CREEK WAR OF 1813 AND 1814. By H. S. Halbert and T. H. Ball. University of Alabama Press. 1969. \$8.00.

DEMOCRACY IN THE OLD SOUTH AND OTHER ESSAYS, BY FLETCHER GREEN. By J. Isaac Copeland. Vanderbilt University Press. 1969. \$8.50.

FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER'S UNPUBLISHED ESSAYS. Edited by Wilbur R. Jacobs. University of Nebraska Press. 1969. \$1.95.

HOMAGE TO WALT WHITMAN. By Tisdell Jaen Didier. University of Alabama Press. 1969. \$5.00.

THE LETTERS OF A. BRONSON ALCOTT. Edited by Richard L. Herrstadt. Iowa State University Press. 1970. \$19.50.

LOVE BOY: THE LETTERS OF MAC HYMAN. Edited by William Blackburn. Louisiana State University Press. 1969. \$5.95.

MELVILLE AND AUTHORITY. By Nicholas Canaday, Jr. University of Florida Press. 1968.

THE MERRILL STUDIES IN MOBY-DICK. Edited by Howard P. Vincent. Charles E. Merrill, Co. 1969.

THE MUSCONETCONG VALLEY OF NEW JERSEY. By Peter O. Wacker. Rutgers University Press. 1968. \$10.00.

THE OHIO CANALS. By Frank N. Wilcox. Kent State University Press. 1969. \$15.00.

POETS, CRITICS, MYSTICS: A SELECTION OF CRITICISMS, 1919-1955. By John M. Murray. Southern Illinois University Press. 1970. \$4.95.

THE POLITICS OF RECONSTRUCTION, 1863-1867. By David Donald. Louisiana State University Press. 1968. \$1.45.

POWER PARTICIPANTS AND IDEOLOGY. By Calvin J. Larson and Phils C. Washburn. David McKay Company, Inc. 1969. \$7.95.

PRAIRIE FARMER AND THE WLS. By James F. Evans. University of Illinois Press. 1969. \$8.50.

RUSSIAN STUDIES OF AMERICAN LITERATURE. Edited by Clarence Gohdes. University of North Carolina Press. 1969.

THE SOCIAL REALITY OF SCIENTIFIC MYTH: INTERACTIONS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY. By Kalman H. Silvert. The American Universities Field Staff, Inc. 1969. \$7.50.

THE VARIETY OF FICTION: A CRITICAL ANTHOLOGY. By Edward and Lillian Bloom. Odyssey Press. 1968.

WITH THE EARS OF STRANGERS: THE MEXICAN IN AMERICAN LITERATURE. By Cecil Robinson. University of Arizona Press. 1969. \$4.95.