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## Book Reviews

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*Prelude to Yorktown: The Southern Campaign of Nathanael Greene, 1780-1781.* By M. F. Treacy. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, 1963. x, 276 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

This is a delightful book to read. The style is fresh, and there is much evidence that a deeply thoughtful mind is moving behind the words.

The book begins with a description of the physical setting. This is crucial for the contour of the land and flow of the rivers determined the nature of the fighting. Greene remained above the fall line, as long as he had to contend with Cornwallis, where he might find food for his ever-hungry troops. Many fights took place around mills, and many were avoided by crossing rivers. Greene's success depended upon food and boats. He was fortunate in persuading Edward Carrington to be quartermaster general of the southern army and William R. Davie to be commissary general. The work of these men is emphasized, although the fighting heroes are not neglected. The book is noteworthy for the sketches of Sumter with his "monumental pique," of the "dour and rock-steady" Pickens, of Morgan who had "the imagination to conceive the untried," and of William Washington who combined "the mobility of a centaur with the ferocity of a tiger."

Overshadowing all is the analysis of Greene's talents as a military commander. His genius lay in "an infinite capacity for taking pains in advance." Indeed his courage came from concentration, not from bravado. He could not rely on doing the militarily obvious because of the scarcity of food and boats. All plans had to be subject to change in order to deal with these always-pressing considerations—for example, his decision not to follow Cornwallis to Wilmington, but to move towards Camden. The author explains that Greene never won a clear-cut victory because of the tension within between his Quaker heart and the war-time need to kill. The role of general was alien to his nature; nor did he like the militia. Yet Greene's qualities were sufficient under the circumstances to keep Cornwallis "stripped, as it were, to his running shorts."

The author might have made use of the recent findings of Richard Maxwell Brown that the South Carolina Regulators did

not remain Loyalists. A greater omission was to leave the southern campaign of Greene unfinished. The story of Greene from March 1781, to December 1782, when he rode into Charleston is not given. The book is so well done that it is a great pity that we do not get the whole story. Perhaps the fault is due to the Institute of Early American History and Culture which seems to demand thin books from its authors.

GEORGE C. ROGERS, JR.

*University of South Carolina*

*Dawn Like Thunder: The Barbary Wars and the Birth of the U. S. Navy.* By Glenn Tucker. (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1963. 487 pp. Maps, bibliography, index. \$6.95.)

Until the publication of this volume no one had attempted to write a full history of the Barbary Wars from American independence to Stephen Decatur's pacification of the pirate states in 1815. The only other book that tells the story of the wars and battles off the African shores is Gardner W. Allen's *Our Navy and the Barbary Corsairs*, a brief study published in 1905, based on the limited sources then available. Since that time, from 1934 to 1944, the Office of Naval Records and the Navy Department Library published *Naval Documents Related to the United States Wars with the Barbary Powers*, seven volumes of invaluable reports and official correspondence. These sources provided the foundation for the present study.

Mr. Tucker has made good use of the naval sources and has embellished them with information from European histories, diplomatic sources, biographies, and personal investigations in North Africa. The result is a gracefully written history filled with interesting detail, exciting accounts of naval battles, and fascinating sketches of young heroes and some villains. The chapter which describes Stephen Decatur's daring attack in Tripoli harbor to burn the frigate *Philadelphia*, captured by the Tripolitans, offers splendid adventure, as do those which recount William Eaton's overland march from Alexandria to Derna and the assault of his small motley army on the Mohammedan stronghold. All

this, plus gossip, stories of duels, and other details should be pleasing to any reader interested in history as adventure.

For the close student of history interested in new information, insights, and revealing interpretation, Tucker's account is not quite so satisfactory. His story gives the impression at times of stressing the colorful at the expense of the significant, and his interesting details are frequently extraneous and detract from the central narrative. There is, moreover, nothing basically new in this essentially descriptive account that would change or add to our knowledge of the Barbary Wars. Perhaps investigation in a broader range of primary and unprinted sources as well as into the political background of the wars in the United States might have given this study deeper historical significance.

Nonetheless, this is now the most satisfactory account of the naval wars with the Barbary powers. Historical synthesis requires skill, knowledge, and intelligence, and frequently can be a more important contribution to knowledge than a limited monograph. Mr. Tucker has written a first-rate historical synthesis, one that is a pleasure to read.

ALEXANDER DECONDE

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

*The Leaven of Democracy: The Growth of the Democratic Spirit in the Time of Jackson.* Edited by Clement Eaton. (New York: George Braziller, 1963. xvi, 490 pp. Preface, introduction, notes: \$8.50.)

Few techniques of shifting coin from the pocket of the student to that of the publisher have been as brilliantly successful as the books of "Readings" that have recently reached such glut proportions in the academic market place that they bid fair to replace college libraries as a way of life. At first glance this is another. But a relaxed evening or two with Professor Eaton's new volume will convince even the most hardened critic of the "readings" approach to educational salvation that this is a distinguished representative of the breed. It is social history at its best.

Designed as much for the "general reader" (whoever he is) as for the specialist and student, this skillfully edited collection

of reminiscences, observations, and vignettes captures the kaleidoscopic complexity of the Jackson Era with the fidelity of a camera. Seen through many lenses and against many backgrounds, the eighty-nine selections portray both the charm and the rawness of the 1822-1857 period in American history. Fully one-third of the selections are the observations of foreign visitors in America. Underlying all of them is the brawling, halting, patriotic, parochial, puritanical, confused, slave-ridden thrust toward democracy which Andrew Jackson both stimulated and symbolized. All have been chosen in an attempt to portray life in the United States as it was lived in every section of the country by all sorts and conditions of Americans. Many reflect Professor Eaton's sure eye for the humorous. George Combe's delightful phrenological analysis of Henry Clay is alone worth the price of the book. "He seems to have large Acquisitiveness and considerable Ideality," wrote Combe in 1840. "In him also Self-Esteem and Firmness are large. The coronal region rises moderately high about Cautiousness and Causality." The accuracy of this judgment would seem to suggest a long second look at the scholarly possibilities of a phrenological interpretation of history. Think of the new doctoral dissertations that might be written.

Floridians old and new will appreciate this conversation, overheard in a Columbia, S.C., hotel in 1828, by an English traveler:

"Why, where are you going!" asked one foot-loose American of another.

"I am going to Florida, to be sure."

"To Florida! What on earth takes you there?"

"Oh," the drifter replied, "it is the finest country in the world - a delightful climate - rich soil - plenty of room."

"Have you been there?" pressed the questioner.

"No, not yet; but I know all about it."

"What, then, possesses you to go seeking for a fresh place in such a country as Florida, where you must be content to take up your quarters amongst tadpoles and mosquitoes?"

The final question was not answered.

In a succinct introductory essay, Eaton notes some of the recent trends in Jackson Era historiography and evaluates the personality and policies of the president who gave his name to an age. The Hero was, the author concludes, "a strange mixture of littleness and greatness . . . a man of violent hates and loyalties"

whose life remains "rightly associated with the wave of democracy . . . of the 1820s and 1830s." This excellent collection measures the height and the direction of the wave.

ROBERT SEAGER II

*United States Naval Academy*

*Terrible Swift Sword.* By Bruce Catton. (New York: Doubleday and Company, 1963. xi, 559 pp. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

This book, another excellent effort from the tireless Mr. Catton, is the second volume in the Centennial History of the Civil War. It deals with events between the summer of 1861, and the fall of 1862. During this period both North and South realized that this was to be no short limited war but rather one that could well consume the nation and one that would certainly shape the future of that nation. Catton attempts to find in the changing character of the war a source for an impulse toward freedom that he regards as an essential part of the American ethos. It may well be that the altered nature, goals, and aims of the war did sharpen and make more evident such an impulse, but it remains too diffused a cultural phenomenon to be particularized in this way.

This is essentially military history. It is a splendid work which effectively describes events affecting soldiers of both high and low rank. It does not do justice as a consequence to the social, economic, and political factors of the war. The style is remarkable, every device to make the struggle dramatic has been used and used effectively. Catton's judgments are difficult to fault, he is devastating in his treatment of McClellan, and he has clearly gotten inside the military aspects of the war. He has a discernible northern bias but one could expect little else given his search for the freedom *mystique* mentioned above. The book did not cause this reviewer to be transfixed as did *A Stillness at Appomattox*, but it can certainly be recommended wholeheartedly.

GEORGE ELLIOTT WOLFF

University of Florida

*The Civil War in Louisiana.* By John B. Winters. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963. xiv, 534 pp. Illustrations, maps. \$10.00.)

For the last several years a veritable avalanche of books, articles, memoirs, and other items about the Civil War have been published. This, of course, is a product of the national celebration of the Civil War Centennial. *The Civil War in Louisiana* will be one of the lasting scholarly products of the centennial period. Professor Winters' book is thorough, exhaustive, and exceedingly well done. The book begins with the secession of Louisiana in January 1861, and carries the intricate story through to the final surrender of the feeble military units of the state's Confederate forces in 1865. It is important to note from the beginning that the book is properly titled. This is not a study of "Louisiana in the Confederacy" or "Louisiana During the Civil War;" it is a military history of the Civil War in Louisiana. For this reason the book does not wander and digress into long and involved discussions of social, economic, and political conditions during these tragic years. From the early efforts to develop an armed force until the final collapse of the Confederate forces Louisiana was divided. It was divided in sentiment at the beginning of the war, and it was divided by control during most of the war.

The important events of the Civil War in Louisiana, such as the fall of New Orleans, the Vicksburg campaign, the affairs at Port Hudson and along the Red River are covered with complete presentation of what was happening on both sides. Minor skirmishes and the long periods of boredom are also brought in and carefully and adequately handled. The two real strengths of this book lie in the prodigious research that preceded it and the care and caution that was exerted in pulling together all the facts into a compact and easily understood main stream of action. It is a carefully written and beautifully edited book and will stand for many years as the authoritative work on the Civil War in Louisiana.

WILLIAM E. HIGHSMITH

*Asheville-Biltmore College*

*The Nation Transformed: The Creation of an Industrial Society.*

Edited by Sigmund Diamond. (New York: George Braziller, 1963. xiv, 528 pp. Introduction, bibliography. \$8.50.)

The American Epoch Series, edited by Frank Freidel, has been an ambitious financial undertaking for the publisher. This large fifth volume contains forty extracts selected by a Columbia University Professor of Historical Sociology. In a succinct twenty page introduction, Diamond surveys the main currents of economic, social, and cultural trends for students being introduced to the period 1876-1904. There are eight major topics, but these vary considerably in length. Part I, "The Transforming Influences," presents selections dealing with the factory, railroads, trusts, and management. Part II, "The Businessman," consists of three selections by E. L. Godkin, Edward Atkinson, and H. D. Lloyd. Part III, "The City and the Factory" - the longest section - contains fifteen selections, ranging from accounts about men and women workers, debates for and against organized labor, to reports on sweat shops and the *padrone* system. This part also contains extracts on ward politics, gangs, newsboys in New York, high society, and nervousness. Mary Antin's "The Public School: Maker of Americans" might have been relocated in Part VI, dealing with Education.

In Part IV, "Farmers in an Industrial Society," journalist E. V. Smalley pointed to the evils of social isolation. A case study of a Nebraska township by political scientist A. F. Bentley is presented as an example of methodology as well as for his conclusions. The need for political action and the decline of the Populists were discussed by Senator W. A. Peffer and Frank Tracy. This section should not be used as a substitute for John Hicks' *The Populist Revolt*. Part V, "The Negro in American Life," contains only two selections of protest literature but nothing from Booker T. Washington or N. Wright Cuney. Part VI deals with "Education for Modern Society." Charles Thurber complained that high school teachers were trying to make professional men of all graduates rather than point them to careers in "commerce." Jane Adam's observations on teaching methods used with immigrants in primary schools should be better known by all teachers. Part VII, "The Outward Reach," has selections from John Fiske and Samuel Clemens which do little to explain foreign policies. Part VIII,

"Interpretations of an Age," contains fifty pages divided between five selections, ranging from sociologists W. G. Sumner and Lester Ward to economist Henry George and philosopher William James.

College libraries which do not have the contemporary magazines from which much of the material was extracted will find the American Epoch Series helpful. This volume would have been strengthened by annotations. The brief five page bibliography is spotty and does not follow the book's plan of organization. Fortunately, *The Gilded Age: A Reappraisal*, edited by H. Wayne Morgan, may be used to fill in many of the gaps.

ROBERT C. COTNER

*University of Texas*

*Black Utopia: Negro Communal Experiments in America.* By William H. Pease and Jane H. Pease. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963. ix, 204 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$4.00.)

*Black Utopia*, a small book of modest aims, is a worthwhile contribution to the history of the Negro in America. It reveals a hitherto unexplored facet of that history and, in the process, throws additional light upon the period from 1830 to 1863, and the persistent problem of racial relations.

The authors are to be commended for keeping their subject in proper perspective. The organized Negro communities were of minor importance because only a relatively small number of Negroes ever participated in them and also because almost all of them were failures, some virtually fiascos.

Even of the best of the organized Negro communities, the Elgin community in Canada, the authors note that its temporary success was a long-run failure because as an isolated community it could not possibly provide an answer to the problem of the Negro in American society. That point was repeatedly emphasized by the writers, and in their final page they conclude: "The adjustment of the Negro to white society and, indeed the adjustment of white society to the equal presence and participation of the Negro could not, by any logic, be achieved by a conscious segregation of Negro from white. The organized Negro communities,

although they made the most ambitious attempt to grapple with the problem, did little in the long run but tinker in a vacuum."

The failure of most of the organized Negro communities was due in large measure to poor leadership, grandiose schemes, inadequate financial support, or plain rascality. There was often too much factionalism, "criminations and recriminations," as a result of the poor leadership. Their preachers were usually of little learning but much ambition who produced more strife and discord than Christian harmony.

*Black Utopia* is obviously the product of extensive research and is supported by abundant documentation. The authors have exercised commendable discrimination in assessing both the encomiastic testimony of the contemporary advocates and the vehement criticism of the detractors of the Negro communities. In fact, their care to weigh and present both sides of the evidence sometimes leads to an impression of inconstancy, although, in the main, their judgment is as forthright as it is clearly substantiated.

There are a few instances where the narration is somewhat tedious or repetitious, but on the whole the book is well written. Historians or laymen interested in the history of the Negro and in race relations in America, past or present, should find *Black Utopia* pleasant, worthwhile reading.

THEODORE B. WILSON

*Miami-Dade Junior College*

*Before the Mayflower: A History of the Negro in America, 1619-1962.* By Lerone Bennett, Jr. (Chicago: Johnson Publishing Company, 1962. xii, 404 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$6.95.)

This is a popularization of American Negro history based on a considerable reading of scholarly literature. It does not pretend to be an original piece of work. Nor will the reader find here any new interpretations to help him understand the background to today's "Negro revolution." The author has simply surveyed the straight facts, already published elsewhere, of his people's history in the United States, and as far as the relation of facts goes he has done an adequate job. One wishes, though, that he had found

some other means to make his material readable than the "dramatic" style in which the book is cast; the author reads at times like the narrator of "Death Valley Days."

The book is marred, too, by occasional special pleading. The natural temptation in minority group literature is to make the accomplishments of the group and its members more important than they actually were. But this is a minor fault and one that is easily forgiven the historian of a people who, of all peoples, can hardly be expected to be dispassionate about their past.

*Before the Mayflower* was chosen as title in order to suggest that, if priority of domesticity in these continental limits is the criterion by which one establishes purity of national line, then the Negro can lord it over the Puritans, who came to our shores a full year after twenty Negro slaves made their home (under duress, to be sure) at Jamestown. Negroes were among the Minute Men at Lexington and Concord; they were with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, and with Ulysses S. Grant at Petersburg. Here, too, is the whole miserable slavery story and the agony of Reconstruction. The famous names are here: Nat Turner, Dred Scott, Booker T. Washington, *et al*; as well as many that are not so famous, but deserve to be, e.g., Benjamin Banneker, Denmark Vesey, Sojourner Truth, Phillis Wheatley. Not surprisingly, Martin Luther King, Jr. comes to center stage at the end and takes his place, along with A. Philip Randolph and Thurgood Marshall, as an equal of the giants of the past.

The author is senior editor of *Ebony*, a national Negro magazine, in whose pages the core of this book first appeared. His profession shows clearly in his book. Still, it is worth a reading as history, particularly if one has never read a survey of the whole course of the American Negro. The most valuable part of the book is a fifty-one page summary of "Landmarks and Milestones." There is an error, however, in the first entry of that summary (p. 331): Menendez de Aviles did not, as claimed here, bring Negroes with him to St. Augustine.

The lead sentence of Chapter Five makes one wonder if it was the source for a certain now-familiar expression. The sentence reads: "It was a long hot summer."

FATHER MICHAEL V. GANNON

*St. Augustine, Florida*

*A History of Cuba and its Relations with the United States, Volume II: 1845-1895.* By Philip S. Foner. (New York: International Publishers, 1963. 384 pp. Preface, notes, index. \$5.00.)

In the second volume of his study of Cuba with special reference to its relations with the United States, Philip S. Foner carries the story through the period 1845-1895. He stresses the influence the expansionist policy of the United States had on Cuban affairs during the period when southern Democrats dominated the government. Uncertainty of purpose in both the White House and the state department at times fostered the growth of interventionism while, at other times, the vigorous opposition of President Taylor, in spite of his southern sympathies, to this policy and his orders to enforce the Neutrality Law of 1818, foiled carefully laid plans. Unfortunately, or so the author seems to feel, the period prior to 1860 was dominated by men like President Polk who wanted Cuba, by Treasury Secretary Robert J. Walker who wanted to annex all of Mexico, and by President Buchanan who feared that the British might gain a foothold on the island.

The termination of slavery and the rapid economic development of the United States after 1865, appeared to change the direction of American policy in spite of grandiose efforts of some Grant-era Republicans to make Caribbean conquests. With the rapid development of American interest in the Cuban sugar industry it became obvious that peace on the island was an economic necessity. It will be of interest to see how the author handles the rapid change of attitude in the United States in the three years after 1895.

Some may question whether there was an "heroic struggle" of the Cuban people during the nineteenth century against United States annexation for it is difficult to ascertain just who were the "Cuban people" and who really spoke for them. In looking backward from the present, it is always tempting to read present events into the past. Regardless of point of view, there is no question that Foner is bringing much unusual original material to the attention of students of Cuban and American history and that his volumes throw a new light on many half-understood issues.

RICHARD K. MURDOCH

*University of Georgia*