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Book Reviews

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The Quiet Crisis. By Stewart Udall. Introduction by John F. Kennedy. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963. xiii, 209 pp. Foreword, photographs, index. $5.00.)

Here is probably the ablest presentation of the American conservation scene that has yet been written - and with an authority that forestalls dispute.

The author, who as the United States Secretary of the Interior is charged with assuring the best use of the nation's natural physical assets, broadly embraces his subject historically as well as in a forthright analysis of the relevancies of man's conduct in his stewardship of these resources.

Mr. Udall gives striking delineations of those who have played a leading part in despoliation as well as of those who have excelled at preservation and rehabilitation since the first confrontation of man with the riches of what was this continent's natural endowment.

This is neither a heavy nor a heady book, but each page is deep in its implications, its resourcefulness, and the strength of its research - a tribute to its syntax which is startlingly classical yet ruggedly frank and appealing. Its language matches the impact of its photographic illustrations. It is also a tribute to the courage of its author who wrote this book while occupying what may be regarded, because of the variations and the frequently ruthless pressures which intensely surround it, as the "hottest" post in the president's cabinet.

The Quiet Crisis recognizes an outstanding compellent in the conversion of a vandal: The discovery that protecting a natural asset can provide more satisfaction to an erstwhile destroyer than does his frequently inherent desire to destroy. Thus, Theodore Roosevelt, whose name shines brightly in conservation, once was an overgrazing North Dakota cattleman; John James Audubon once boasted of shooting enough birds in Florida to make a feathered pile the size of a ''small haycock" in a single day. Adroitly, yet factually, and understandingly, Mr. Udall urges a constructive course to save America's natural beauty - the product of eons of time, from its self-serving rapers.

JOHN D. PENNEKAMP

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Presbyterians in the South: Volume I, 1607-1861. By Ernest Trite Thompson. (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1963. 629 pp. Foreword, notes, bibliography, index. $9.75.)

Dr. Thompson makes an important contribution to southern history in this absorbing, clearly written, fascinating story of Presbyterian impact upon the frontier.

In a well-ordered discussion, the thesis of this book emerges immediately. The author is concerned with the place or position the Presbyterian church occupied in colonial times, and how the Presbyterians fostered education, liberty, toleration, and other colonial value systems. He flavors his story with color and vitality and tells us of patriotism, people, politics, preachers, and principles. Thompson handles these with compassion, humor, and skill. The book contains a wealth of information which is not readily available elsewhere.

The author embraces all aspects of religious life and reveals how various denominations sought to meet the needs of colonial society. The reader will be impressed with honesty, as controversy is not dodged and failure is fully faced. The author is loyal to his own but is fair to all. The North and the tidewater South were lost by the Presbyterians, but the back country gave them a beachhead and ultimate victory. The loyalty of the Irish Scots and the Scotch was stimulating. They mobilized their forces in the wilderness and called for their Presbyterian church. Here were a faithful people of great potential. Many colonial denominations sent the clergy in to gather the flock. The Presbyterians reversed this procedure.

We see the first Presbyterian church in Florida organized by an Irishman, William McWhir, in 1824, at St. Augustine. This preacher was also an educator. The Pensacola region received a church in 1828. Its members were Scots. Four years later Tallahassee organized a church. "The Presbytery of Florida had been set off from the Presbytery of Georgia in 1841," with seven ministers and five churches. In 1843, an evangelist was employed to work Florida.

Dr. Thompson reveals an abiding Presbyterian tradition which adapted to America but continued on in strength, changing more than being changed. This book is an able addition to historical literature of the South.

Mary Hardin-Baylor College JACK P. DALTON

Renaissance in the South: A Critical History of the Literature, 1920-1960. By John M. Bradbury. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963. vii, 222 pp. Introduction, appendix, index. $5.00.)

The usual point of view in the presentation of the subject of this book is correctly described by its author as "centric," "a high-level perspective" concentrated on "peaks and ranges." His own perspective he describes in opposite terms as "the panoramic view, with the observer moved back from the center to a post where he can observe mountains, hills, plains, and valleys as parts of a single landscape." Thus, in contrast to the ten authors considered by Louis Rubin in his new book on the same subject, *The Faraway Country,* the number of authors listed in the appendix of Bradbury's book is about 800, and most of these receive some attention in his text. Most of the familiar names are dealt with (along with many others) in five chapters occupying less than half the book. In the remaining chapters, bearing the titles "New Social Realism," "New Approaches: Youth, Region, and History," "The Later Traditionalists," "The Negro and the New South," "New Assessments: Town and Farm," and "Later Fiction: A Miscellany," there are literally hundreds of authors and works not to be found in the more "centric" studies. Truly this is panorama.

Such an approach almost inevitably tends more toward information than insight. There is simply no space for the probing analysis of a Warren on Faulkner or a Rubin on Styron. To the working teacher and scholar, however, information has its value as well as insight, and there is always need of the bird's eye view as well as of X-ray studies. The sheer volume of creditable work turned out in this "renaissance" is one of its most obvious and important aspects, and historian and public alike need to have its mass of print clearly described and manageably ordered. Such a service Bradbury has performed with care, skill, and good sense. Quite as commendable as the hardihood which took him through thousands of volumes of fiction, poetry, and drama are the sobriety and breadth with which he has judged his material and the lucidity and succinctness with which he has presented it.

Nor is the book without insights of its own. In his earlier book on *The Fugitives,* Bradbury showed that he could work on a different scale, and many of his necessarily brief descriptions

deserve good marks for both perception and independence, including a number of adjustments of reputations both upward and downward. To the historian, however, probably the most interesting judgment of the book will be its contention that the "renaissance" it describes has been less monolithic than has been commonly believed and that ''a strong and widespread liberal wing" has been too much ignored. Even in these judgments this book will not much flutter the critical dovecotes, but many students of southern history and culture will be glad to keep it within reach.

FREDERICK W. CONNER

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Nationalism in Latin America, Past and Present. By Arthur P. Whitaker. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1962. viii, 91 pp. Index, notes, bibliography. $3.50.)

This volume is the result of three lectures presented for the American Civilization Lectures at the University of Florida. It is a preliminary inspection of Latin American nationalism viewed through the eyes of a prominent historian, and this historical phenomenon is presented through the use of empirical historical data. The author does, however, recognize that the ''tools" of other social scientists may well be used to dissect nationalism.

Discussing briefly modern European and North American nationalism, Dr. Whitaker views nationalism since the eighteenth century in phases. The first began in the early decades of the nineteenth century and is closely identified with liberalism and the latter's association with popular sovereignty, representative and constitutional government, the rule of law, and the individual rights of free speech and assembly. This nascent nationalism was congruous with all aspects of the life of the rising middle class which was more cosmopolitan in outlook than the aristocracy The nation-state was looked upon by the sophisticated middle class as a panacea. It was during the first phase of European nationalism that the new nations of Latin America emerged and took shape.

The second phase began with the failure of the liberal revolu-

tions of 1848 in Europe. This failure proved nationalism more virile than liberalism. European nationalism assumed a new role when liberal leadership failed to produce national hopes. Nationalism and its isotonic views thus became unique and fluid in the European nation-states. Imperialism or authoritarianism, forcefulness or intolerance have been closely associated with nationalism since its rupture with nineteenth century liberalism to the present day.

Against this labyrinthian background, the narrative of Latin American nationalism is succinctly discussed by Whitaker with emphasis on the ''functional aspect of nationalism." He says that nationalism in a general sense finds its chief expression in Latin America serving as the ideological focus of the revolution of rising aspirations. This nationalism has strong economic coloration while fundamentally remaining a political concept. Latin American nationalism is also evident in the spread of the ''authoritarian, closed-society type" exemplified by Castro's Cuba. It likewise assumes the form of a decline in faith of the adequacy of conventional nationalism to the needs of the modern world. This form may be identified as "extended" or "regional" typified by Pan Latin Americanism. But, the current wave of Latin American nationalism bears close inspection. This is an almost global trend in response to a feeling of a need for better protection in the current world than is offered by the existing nation-states. "Populism" has also become widespread in present-day Latin America; its rise has reinforced nationalism by giving it a broader popular base in each country.

Since the late nineteenth century four important changes have taken place in the character of Latin American nationalism. The first began in the 1890's with the injection of an economic content. The second occurred about 1910, and was brought to focus by the centennial celebrations of independence through more effective leadership by an emergent middle class. During this period nationalism became cultural, more economic, political, military, and outward looking. The third change came about in the 1930's, and nationalism became involved with communist influence that resulted in the emergence of a new type that was negative, chauvinistic, sterile, and isolationist. Since the 1950's, Latin American nationalism has returned to the pre-1930 type which is positive, humanist, and Pan Latin American.

Professor Whitaker's terse reconnaissance of the tendrilous variety of Latin American nationalism can be considered a stimulant. This volume will be highly regarded by students of Latin American history and nationalism in general.

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