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Indian and Spanish Selected Writings. By John M. Goggin. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1964. 329 pp. Illustrations, preface, references, bibliography. $5.50.)

This publication, edited by Charles H. Fairbanks, Irving Rouse, and William C. Sturtevant, is a memorial volume to Dr. John M. Goggin that "was prepared to emphasize the importance of his career as an anthropologist and to make a representative selection from his publications more easily accessible." The introduction gives a background to Goggin-the man, how his work developed, and the orientation of the papers.

Because of his many and varied interests, the articles have a wide geographical range, although over half of the book deals with Florida. Since Professor Goggin was the first to organize and synthesize much of the anthropological materials of Florida and other areas, this volume is an excellent source-book. Its value will grow over the years.

The diversified articles in the first part reflect the broad anthropological approach of the author. It includes a "Calendar of Eastern Pueblo Ceremonies," "A Note on Cheyenne Peyote," and "Plaited Basketry in the New World." Of special interest to Floridians are two articles: "The Indians and History of Matecumbe Region" and "Beaded Shoulder Pouches of the Florida Seminole." "Style Areas in Historic Southeastern Art" concludes this part. The collection of articles that have served as the basis for the development of Florida archaeological areas and periods makes up the second part of this volume. Historically, the two most important are "A Preliminary Definition of Archaeological Areas and Periods in Florida" and "Cultural Traditions in Florida Prehistory." Part Three deals with archaeological areas of study including Spanish olive jars, underwater archaeology, and an archaeological survey in Michoacan Mexico. It also has papers on the Seminole Negroes of Andros Island, Bahamas, and the Mexican Kickapoo Indians.

HALE G. SMITH

Florida State University

The Yankee Peddlers of Early America. By J. R. Dolan. (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1964. 270 pp. Illustrations, bibliography. $7.50.)

Dolan's "affectionate history" is obviously a labor of love. Perhaps from experience in collecting antiques, Dolan developed an interest in the peddler and his relation to the growth of American commerce, industry, and transportation. Pursuing his curiosity through a modest list of printed volumes-fifty-one are cited in the bibliography-, the author has collected a wide assortment of facts and anecdotes, which he relates with relish and delight. He tells how the peddler traveled and how he lived upon the road, what the peddler sold both as to wares and as to skills, and how some peddlers climbed the economic ladder into the ranks of major business leadership. Dolan's manuscript has been translated into a fine example of bookmaking art, beautifully designed and attractively illustrated.

But this book is in no sense a work of scholarship. The research is casual and shallow. The generalizations are sweeping and impressionistic. To judge by the section on patent medicines, in which the reviewer is most competent, the facts are often very wrong. There are neither notes nor index. The style is rambling and undisciplined, with many excursions into topics of only the most indirect relevance to the book's main theme. The tone, indeed, is rather like that of an extended one-way conversation, with many personal asides. So, despite the author's pleasure in his task and despite the handsome bookmanship, neither the student seeking sober narrative and analysis, nor the general reader seeking a sound popularization of the peddler's progress, will find this book of value.

JAMES HARVEY YOUNG

Emory University

Loyalists and Redcoats: A Study in British Revolutionary Policy. By Paul H. Smith. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture. 1964. xii, 199 pp. Preface, appendix, bibliography, index. $5.00.)

It is a disappointment to find a mediocre book published by the Institute of Early American History and Culture. There are several things wrong with this book, but the basic one seems to be that the author never made up his mind what the book should be about. Granted that the basic military outline of the war is necessary as a framework to hang the Loyalists participation on, this book goes too far with the military and not far enough with the Loyalists. It seems to this reviewer that the book would be much better if it concentrated on Loyalists and their place in the war. Policy at best is a nebulous thing, and guide lines of what is to be included need to be much better drawn than they were for this book, which is a strange mixture of policy and military operations.

The easiest way to sum up the place of Loyalists in British policy is to say that they were never very important. They never occupied a fixed, well-understood place. Imagined Loyalist strength led the British to underestimate their task, and plans for the use of Loyalists often dissipated military resources to no avail. The most consistent use of Loyalists by the British seems to have been to furnish arguments to the ministry as to why the American War could not be abandoned.

In the early years of the war the initiative in the use of Loyalists was always taken by the Loyalists. The British military apparently believed that Loyalists were not needed by the army. Military commanders did not become interested in Loyalists until after Saratoga, by which time it was obvious the necessary troops to win the war would not come from Europe. There were always insurmountable "technical" problems in the way of using Loyalists, the greatest problem seemed to be the unwillingness of regular officers to allow provincials equal status. This helps to explain why so few Loyalists went into the army and why so few good field officers could be found.

Once the British army showed more interest in Loyalists, fewer of them were interested. This came because of their doubt that the British could win the war and the fact that Loyalists who had rallied to the king's colors (together with their families and property) had often been abandoned for purely military purposes. The British never seemed to understand that Loyalists were Americans and had a stake in the area.

Several campaigns were ostensibly planned upon the idea that once the area was captured, the Loyalists there could take over and the British troops would be relieved for operations elsewhere. The final southern campaign was planned on this basis. The South was supposed to have more Loyalists than the other colonies. After the fall of Charleston, Clinton forced Southerners to take sides in the war, the worst thing which he could have done. Any hopes of success in the South depended upon actions in the back country. With Clinton's action and the failure of British militia units, the die was cast. There were not, and probably never had been, enough Loyalists in the South to do what was contemplated.

The book, despite its lack of a clear organizational pattern, makes clear the British failure in inadequate use of Loyalists and the whole attempt to fight a limited war-no easier in the eighteenth century than in the twentieth.

KENNETH COLEMAN

University of Georgia

Castlereagh and Adams: England and the United States, 1812-1823. By Bradford Perkins. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1964. x, 364 pp. Illustration, preface, notes, index. $7.95.)

Bradford Perkins, in the preface to this final volume "of a trilogy devoted to Anglo-American relations for three decades after 1795," states that he has "not attempted either an entirely American, purely diplomatic, or all encompassing history." Instead he has written what could be called an essay in social Freudianism that "tells the story of America's search for true independence and recognition as a sovereign power, with the political, economic, and psychological implications that accompany independence and sovereignty."

This search began in 1775, with "the rattle of musketry at Lexington," and ended in 1823, when, "in the dialogue preceding promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine, . . . the administration decided to proclaim isolation from Europe and at the same time to act independently of Great Britain in facing the challenge of Latin America." Monroe's message to the Congress on December

2, 1823, according to Mr. Perkins, "completed the work of the Declaration of Independence," for until this event Americans did not believe they were "an independent people capable of following their own destiny without European assistance." They were weak, cautious and lacking confidence"; they "leaned first upon France and then upon England to preserve a precarious existence"; and "no European power considered . . . [them] more than an upstart, perhaps transitory nation."

The author himself does not fully accept this neat, precise psychological portrait of an adolescent, dependent nation becoming a mature adult in a period of fifty years. In his earlier volumes he carefully distinguishes between the intelligence and realism of Federalist policy as demonstrated by the negotiation of the Jay Treaty and "the nearly ruinous . . . assertion of unattainable rights" by Jefferson and Madison, and also, at the beginning of this final study, he correctly states that the Republicans, "baffled by their own incompetence and by foreign intransigence," were "forced to commit the United States to war in 1812." These are adult judgments about adult actions, and if Mr. Perkins had been willing to concentrate his attention on events at this level he would have written a more valuable and convincing book.

THOMAS P. GOVAN

New York University

The Civil War: A Narrative: Fredericksburg to Meridian. By Shelby Foote. (New York: Random House, 1963. 988 pp. Maps, bibliographical note, index. $12.50.)

The Civil War: A Narrative: Fredericksburg to Meridian is volume two of Shelby Foote's projected trilogy on the bloody conflict of the sixties. It covers the period from December 1862 to March 1864 when Grant was brought east to take command of all the Union armies. During this sixteen-month period some of the great battles of the war took place: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Murfreesboro, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge.

Although accounts of these various engagements number in the hundreds, few writers have described them more vividly or

more in detail than has Foote. *Fredericksburg to Meridian* is 988 pages in length and contains over half a million words. However, the author, a novelist turned historian, is a skillful writer and never lets the narrative drag. His primary concern is telling a good story, not settling historical points. Yet this lack of interpretation detracts but little from the value of the book. Foote is at his best when describing southern heroes, and he usually views a battle from the Confederate side of the line. This is not to say that he has a southern bias but rather a southern interest.

He devotes comparatively little space to matters other than the military. In all probability not more than a hundred pages are given to politics, diplomacy, and public opinion, and even less to social and intellectual developments. On the other hand, the accounts of Gettysburg and Vicksburg are complete enough to make sizeable monographs. Even minor engagements receive meticulous attention from the author. This volume is not apt to change any interpretations of the war and the absence of documentation lessens its value to the serious student. Still it is a basically sound, clear, and immensely readable account of military affairs during the middle year of the war.

JOHN G. BARRETT

The Virginia Military Institute

Refugee Life in the Confederacy. By Mary Elizabeth Massey. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964. x, 327 pp. Illustrations, foreword, bibliography, notes, index. $8.00.)

An interesting aspect of recent studies of the Confederacy has been the examination of social and economic results of that disastrous period. *Refugee Life in the Confederacy* falls in this class. Everyone knew something of the southern civilians who fled before oncoming battle and Union occupation but Dr. Massey has painted many new facets. In the beginning of her research she hoped to cover a comprehensive account of refugeeism as a whole. However, the size of the task and the mounting pile of material forced more selective treatment. The theme has lost little by this necessity.

Most civilians who voluntarily left their homes expected a brief absence. Inconceivable to them was the chance that Confederate arms would not shortly recover areas of battle. Forced evacuation by Union generals was even more unimagined. Thus, many of the refugees became wanderers for the duration of hostilities, moving from place to place according to the tide of battle.

Results of the migration were not limited to personal loneliness, frustration, and confusion. In many instances deserted properties were subjected to greater looting and devastation than would have taken place had they remained occupied. Wagons, loaded with household treasures, and family carriages clogged the roads and wore them out. Movements of troops and equipment suffered. Space on the overcrowded and none too numerous transportation vehicles was frequently diverted to move civilians, and even to permit relatives to visit kinsmen at the front.

Despite the fact that all Southerners were theoretically united to form a new nation, residents of one section were not always sympathetic to people of another. As the period of exile lengthened and resources of money and food, not to mention Confederate-held territory, dwindled, tempers shortened. There were extensive efforts to raise funds for refugee relief and a willingness to share what availed, but there was also profiteering. Experiences of refugees were not uniform. Some migrated once and found a welcome with friends or relatives; others wandered about suffering increasing privations. One cannot help thinking that both the refugees and the war effort would have benefited by the civilians remaining at home except in cases of enforced evacuation. This idea occurred to the refugees themselves; a few did go home and others considered it even though it entailed acceptance of Yankee regulations.

When the ordeal ended in 1865, all Confederates experienced shock and discouragement but the refugees were also stranded far from home. As Dr. Massey phrases it, "Tens of thousands of unprepared, unguided, and undisciplined Southerners voluntarily displaced themselves and floundered around the contracting Confederacy for months and years." Americans living through World War II heard much of the tragedies of displaced persons. Probably few of them realized that similar tragedies existed in this country a century ago. Dr. Massey has contributed to our self-

knowledge and has told a story to which scant attention has been paid.

KATHRYN ABBEY HANNA

Winter Park, Florida

Matthew Fontaine Maury, Scientist of the Sea. By Frances Leigh Williams. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1963. xix, 720 pp. Preface, bibliography, notes, index. $10.00.)

This is a good book. Frances Leigh Williams has dedicated it, in part, to the late Douglas Southall Freeman, "who introduced me to the joys and disciplines of historical research." This biography is so carefully researched that I can think of no reason why the factual events of Maury's life should ever need to be rewritten. This book is recommended without reservation. *Matthew Fontaine Maury, Scientist of the Sea* should be within the next few years the source of a dozen doctoral dissertations. If there is any way in which to fault Miss Williams, it is for her timorous treatment of the U. S. Navy. She is much too well informed to make anything like that necessary.

The Physical Geography of the Sea by Maury is our first and in many respects our best book upon oceanography. C. Alphonso Smith claimed that it was "the first book to embrace the entire sea as its theme and thus to bring three-fourths of the world into the domain of recognized and intelligent principle." Three quarters of a century after Maury had written his text, a modern handbook of oceanography, edited for Britain's famed Challenger Society by G. Herbert Fowler, described it as "a book which is thoroughly imbued with the spirit of scientific research and marked by the boundless enthusiasm of its auditor . . . it remains a model for writers of popular science."

"Popular science" was the forte of Matthew Fontaine Maury, who had no formal education in sciences. It is not surprising to us that his work was treated as not-invented-here by Dr. Alexander Dallas Bache and Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution. Much of the central section of Miss Williams' tome is given over to the feuding between these two groups, the first represented by Maury, the other by the learned R. Bache and his protege, Joseph Henry.

Following a preliminary meeting at Brussels, Maury worked hard for the establishment of a weather bureau. What he had in mind became eventually the United States Weather Bureau, but for the time being it was knocked in the head by R. Bache and Joseph Henry and the Civil War.

The last chapters are devoted to Matthew Maury, the Confederate. Maury decided to go with his own and his wife's kith and kin of Virginia in the footsteps of Robert E. Lee instead of the footsteps of the other Southerner, David Glasgow Farragut. His career is traced through the development of the electric mine (then called torpedo) fired in the James River. The author describes Maury's activities in England and after the war in Mexico, and his subsequent return to the United States.

H. O. WERNER

U. S. Naval Academy

The Idea of the South: Pursuit of a Central Theme. Edited by Frank E. Vandiver. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964. 82 pp. Introduction. $3.95.)

Contending that the South was different from the rest of the United States, historians have long searched for a "central theme" in the section's past, a theme that will somehow explain the dissimilarity. This interesting volume continues the quest for a constant in southern history but does little to clarify the issue.

The book presents the varying ideas of seven distinguished Southerners. George B. Tindall relates the numerous myths about the South, suggesting that the "central theme" might be discovered through a close investigation of mythology, since it has played a major role in unifying society, developing a sense of community, and making the section aware of its distinctiveness. The self-consciousness of the South which had been building up during the ante-bellum period and was permanently fixed upon it by the Civil War is emphasized by Richard B. Harwell. This self-consciousness, intensified by post-Civil War literature stressing the apartness of the former Confederate States, caused the region to be more southern than American.

Louis D. Rubin, Jr. attributes the flowering of southern literature after World War I to a social revolution. Many Southerners, less perceptive than their artists, continue to fight a rear-guard action against change, but Rubin sees hope if the South will listen to its novelists and poets who have been saying: each man is a human being and must be so treated regardless of color or wealth.

Violence and extremism are characterized by Frank E. Vandiver as the main currents flowing through southern history. The social and economic behavior of the South, Vandiver says, can be explained by southern response to challenge, especially to the challenges of federalism, abolition, and integration. Nullification, secession, and lynchings are indicative of extremist reaction. T. Harry Williams traces the trend in southern politics toward realism and urges the region to abandon its "garrison psychology." A stance of defense against every criticism from the North is unnecessary. What the South needs, Williams insists, is more informed internal criticism.

One of the most interesting essays in the volume is the late Walter Prescott Webb's discussion of the future prospect of the South. Professor Webb, who for years enthusiastically "sold" the South, pointed out the dramatic alteration of the economic position of the region since 1930. He saw bright prospects for the South, primarily in new industry, if only it would grasp the opportunity. The three obstacles to progress, he said, are opposition to change, over-concern with the racial issue, and a deficiency in education. Agreeing with Webb, Hugh Patterson, Jr., calls for a "healthy atmosphere of discontent with things as they are," a southwide conference to promote a southern renaissance, and, above all else, "fully responsible, political leadership."

Not surprisingly, these essays lack unity, but they do contain one persistent theme: the South is always changing and is full of diversity. Perhaps the many faces of the South indicate that the search for a "central theme" is not only intriguing, but it is also hopeless.

JOE N. RICHARDSON

Florida State University

The American South In The 1960's. Edited by Avery Leiserson. (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1964. viii, 242 pp. Notes. $6.00.)

This volume is a collection of eleven objective essays by fifteen noted scholars which probes into important aspects of southern public affairs. Appearing originally in the February 1964 issue of the *Journal of Politics*, these essays review the social, economic, and political realities and myths of southern life over the last two decades, show pertinent relationships to the past, and indicate salient trends which are manifesting themselves in the rapidly changing South.

Seen at the basis of the South's many problems is the race question, a theme which flows prolifically throughout the entire volume. The essayists apparently give much credence to V. O. Key's widely used statement: "Whatever the phase of the southern political process one seeks to understand, sooner or later the trail of inquiry leads to the Negro." In examining the changing mind of the South, Leslie Dunbar asserts that the more rapid changes of the last decade came because Negroes "converted the political issues of equality into the Constitutional issues of equal rights." By using constitutional arguments, even for "direct action" movements, he contends that the Negro has tested not only the customs and morality of southern communities, but also their understanding of and affection for the constitution. Alexander Heard's well-developed introduction to the volume lists the six major organizations for Negro action (NAACP, Urban League, Black Muslims, CORE, SCLC, and SNCC) which have enabled the Negro to steadily assume leadership in his own behalf during this new and changing period.

On regional economic development, William Nichols outlines effectively the transition from a tradition-bound rural society to an urban-industrial complex, while Lawrence Durisch cites facts and figures to show the extensive growth of public employment over the last two decades and to emphasize the South's need for more intensive planning in order to meet the economic advantages it possesses. Samuel Cook, contending that the "ultimate tragedy of southern political history is racism," traces the development of political movements and organizations. Several other essayists present excellent, detailed studies of political attitudes and political behavior in the South and the uneven movement toward a two-party system. George Spicer reminds us that the federal judiciary, through its numerous decisions, has been the foremost agen-

cy in effecting public change. On the state level, Malcolm Jewell sees stable legislative patterns undergoing change induced by four interrelated factors: "Population trends to urban areas, judicially induced reapportionment, the growth of Republican strength in national and state elections, and the rising tide of Negro votes."

As might be expected in a collection of essays, the discourse is not always smooth, transitions are sometimes abrupt, and several are a bit repetitious. Although inconsistent page margins detract from the appearance of the book, this mechanical defect is overshadowed by the high quality and ample documentation of most of the essays and the new approaches to studying southern problems which several of them suggest. This interesting and thought-provoking volume makes a worthwhile contribution to the understanding of the South and its problems; however, it calls attention to the need for continuous and more varied research in the South as it faces the changes ahead.

LEEDELL W. NEYLAND
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Mississippi: The Closed Society. By James W. Silver. (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964. xxii, 250 pp. Map, illustration, appendix, index. $4.75.)

At eight o'clock on the night of September 30, 1962, President John F. Kennedy urged Mississippians to respect the court-ordered enrollment of James Howard Meredith at the University of Mississippi. While the President was appearing on television screens, federal marshals were firing tear gas into an unruly crowd on the university's campus. Students and the outsiders who outnumbered them became a cursing, brick-throwing, flame-throwing mob in rebellion against their government. Historian Silver, who lived about half a mile from the university's administration building, wrote this book "to tell the truth, to relate in plain fashion what" took place at the University of Mississippi and to place the events in their historical perspective.

The author views the insurrection as the inevitable response to the American dream of equality under law by some captives of a closed society. For more than a century white Southerners

have permitted no more than mild criticism of orthodox racial points of view. When the basic tenets of white supremacy-slavery in the nineteenth and the caste system in the twentieth century-were seriously challenged, the closed society rejected reason, relied on prejudice, and justified legal and extra-legal means to uphold the established order. In crises the architects and supporters of the closed society reiterate their prejudice in speech, press, radio, and television; they silence the voices of dissent; and they convince their deluded advocates of anachronistic institutions into believing that public opinion supports them. In 1861 the captives of a southern closed society rebelled against their country and brought many hardships to their region. Encouraged by the mouthings of elected officials and the bias of irresponsible editors, Mississippians rose in insurrection against their government in 1962.

The author's account of what transpired on the campus at Oxford deserves reading and pondering. Like Lucius Q. C. Lamar of another century, Professor Silver writes to uphold the ideas that truth is "better than falsehood, honesty better than policy, courage better than cowardice." One hundred and four pages of this volume describe the historical background of the closed society in Mississippi and the quelling of the mob at Oxford on September 30. The larger portion of the book analyzes registration procedures in Mississippi, presents some voices of dissent, and reproduces the author's letters to editors, members of his family, and other individuals.

Captives of any closed society, whether they live in Mississippi or Florida, will find no comfort in this support for the legitimate aspirations of a minority for first-class citizenship. The author admires the "manly bearing of the hastily gathered marshals fighting for their lives" against the mob and believes "the exemplary conduct of the Mississippi National Guardsmen and the regular soldiers are matters for great American pride." He is pessimistic, unduly pessimistic, I believe, in view of recent indications that an increasing number of white Mississippians are placing a greater value on traditional American ideals than on local prejudice.

REMBERT W. PATRICK

University of Florida

Southern History in the Making: Pioneer Historians of the South. By Wendell Holmes Stephenson. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964. ix, 294 pp. Introduction, notes, index. $7.50.)

For the historical profession a fortuitous circumstance occurred in 1939. In that year Professor Wendell Holmes Stephenson received a copy of the published correspondence of Herbert Baxter Adams, pioneer seminar director in America, with former Johns Hopkins students holding professorships and promoting history in the South. Before Stephenson put down the volume he had conceived the idea of writing the history of history in the South, with biographical sketches of its writers, teachers, and collectors, as well as their struggle to incorporate history courses into the curricula of southern colleges. He pursued the subject for a quarter-century, visiting manuscript-depositories and interviewing historians. The project, written in charming and felicitous prose, and illuminated by a mature wit and understanding, made him the nation's foremost authority on southern historiography. This book is the rewarding product of his study. It is a collection of essays, all but two of which appeared as articles in scattered journals, on early historians of and in the South.

Professor Stephenson chose to emphasize the personalities and problems rather than the bibliographies of his subjects. The result is an engrossing series of vignettes deftly inserted into a larger account of historians at work. There is, for example, young graduate student J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton angrily leaping over a seminar table to do battle in defense of his beloved Confederacy; the eminent Professor William A. Dunning explaining of a thrombosis "that if it had located in my head instead of my leg, it would have made a noise like Woodrow Wilson"; John Spencer Bassett wisely avoiding speculation in his investments; and Charles W. Ramsdell incredulously responding, "My God! Has it come to that?" when referred to as the "Dean of Southern Historians." These were real people as well as historical pioneers, and Professor Stephenson has succeeded in depicting them as such.

Rut along with the fun there is meaning in the book. Perhaps most valuable are Stephenson's insights into the nature of history and the problems of its craftsmen. In his introduction he de-

scribes the essential characteristic of "graduate-mindedness," and in a concluding chapter on American historical scholarship he makes a plea for well-written, imaginative, meaningful history. These two segments should be required reading in all graduate schools.

For today's student of the past, surrounded by strong traditions which the pioneers had to create, aided by rich storehouses of resource materials they had to collect, and by the miracle of microphotography and the largesse of foundation grants unknown to them, it is an awesome and humbling experience to re-live the problems of those who blazed the trails along the frontiers of history in America. Apathy, a dearth of elementary library holdings, low budgets, occasional outbursts of intolerance, or physical disabilities did not prevent such men as William Garrott Brown, William P. Trent, George Petrie, Ulrich B. Phillips, and Thomas M. Owen from teaching, writing, and collecting history. If present-day students can see farther than the pioneers saw, it is only because they can stand upon the shoulders of giants. With glints of rich humor and flashes of real insight, Professor Stephenson has told an important story of the foundations of historical scholarship in the South.

DAVID E. SMILEY

Wake Forest College

Joseph Vallence Bevan, Georgia's First Official Historian. By E. Merton Coulter. *Wormsloe Foundations Publications,* No. 7. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1964. xvii, 157 pp. Illustrations, foreword, introduction, preface, notes, bibliography, index. $5.00.)

In the early nineteenth century many records for the colonial period of American history lay in remote European archives. Although for Florida the most important records were in Spain, for other states comparable materials were in England. Joseph V. Bevan of Georgia was one of the first to recognize this fact, and he attempted to obtain for his state copies of the pertinent documents in London.

Professor Coulter's biography of Bevan, which at last brings recognition to this obscure historian, is necessarily episodic, for

the available sources do not permit a full and continuous account of his life. Extensive research, however, has yielded suifficient material for the portrayal of a personable young intellectual whose career, frustrated by financial difficulties and ill health, ended at the age of thirty-two.

Born in Ireland in 1798, Bevan while very young was brought to Georgia where his father became a planter and merchant. As a youth he attended the University of Georgia and the College of South Carolina. He edited newspapers in Augusta and Savannah. Between his journalistic efforts he undertook the practice of law. He also rendered service to his state as its historian, as secretary to the commissioners establishing the western boundary, and as a member of the legislature.

Of more than usual interest is the brief period when Bevan, after his graduation from college, studied in England and made the acquaintance of the famed philosopher and writer William Godwin, whose *Letter of Advice to a Young American* was originally written to the Georgian.

Of greatest interest for American history is Bevan's activity as Georgia's official historian. Governor Troup secured the appointment of the young man as historiographer, to arrange, collate, and publish the state's documents. Bevan proceeded to enlarge the project, collecting materials wherever he could. He planned a full history of the state that would undoubtedly have surpassed the then recent work by Hugh M'Call. One great obstacle was the lack of colonial records and Bevan, working through the state department, obtained from the British authorities permission to utilize their archives. Lack of financial support prevented his making use of the opportunity, but his failure to obtain the British documents and to complete his history does not erase his contribution as a pioneer in the movement to acquire from abroad the source materials that were essential to the writing of colonial history.

A very useful epilogue to this biographical study traces the disastrous dispersion and loss of the materials that Bevan had succeeded in assembling and the long delay before Georgia finally obtained its colonial records from London.

RAY E. HELD

University of California, Berkeley