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BOOK REVIEWS

Born To Be A Soldier: The Military Career of William Wing Loring of St. Augustine, Florida. By William L. Wessels. (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1971. 122 pp. Appendices, illustration, index. $3.50.)

From "Soldier Boy" in the Florida militia fighting Indians during the Second Seminole War in the 1830's to *Fereck Pasha* (one of the highest military grades) in the Egyptian Army invading Abyssina in the 1870s comprise the beginning and the end of the military career of William Wing Loring of St. Augustine. Loring's military tours within the above mentioned limits were as colorful as his first and last duties suggest. He participated in the two formal American wars waged during this period: the Mexican War, which cost him an arm, and the Civil War, serving as a major-general in the Confederate Army. In addition, he was active in the Indian campaigns of the West, leading a mounted rifle regiment to Oregon in 1849 and later, throughout most of the 1850s, stationed in Texas and New Mexico fighting the Apaches and Comanches. The final ten years of Loring's military life were spent in the service of Ismail, the Khedive of Egypt, who desired to replace his French military advisors with American veterans of the Civil War.

The author's thesis is the old cliche that truth is stranger than fiction; therefore, the narrative presents a straightforward biography without the subtleties of passing moral judgments or discovering underlying causes for Loring's diverse military efforts. It is regrettable that Mr. Wessels did not flesh out his narrative stylistically to match the raw material of William Loring's life. Good solid nouns and active verbs would carry the action more effectively for the author than his reliance upon chronology and space relations which are too abstract. A more serious weakness, from the scholar's point of view, is the lack of footnotes. Although there are extensive quotations and some indication as to their source throughout the text, the absence of footnotes and bibliography cause the monograph to be barren for the serious historical researcher.

In spite of this criticism, this work will be of interest to a

number of readers: it is the story of a man who had an unusual military career; it is the life of a western pathfinder and Indian fighter hitherto relatively unknown; and it is a biography designed to fill in another link in the vast scholarly research on the personalities involved in the great American conflict, the Civil War.

Jacksonville University George E. Buker

The Gulf Stream Story. By Samuel Garter III. (New York: Doubleday and Co., 1971. vii, 181 pp. Foreword, illustrations, bibliography, index. $4.95.)

This small book on a topic recently the subject of several extensive studies does not pretend to be "learned or final." "Rather it aims to interest the reader to pursue the subject further. . . ." It is really less a book about the Gulf Stream itself, and more about the people who have used it. Early navigators became aware of it and used it long before it was charted or began to be understood. Not until Benjamin Franklin began to study it and Matthew Fontaine Murray published his famous *Physical Geography of the Sea* in 1855 did it begin to be comprehended.

The Gulf Stream has been so intimately associated with the history of Florida that coupled with its name we might easily assume that it is a local phenomenon. In reality it is a globe-circling ocean river little if at all affected by the Gulf of Mexico. But off Florida, where it is narrowest and fastest, a maximum speed of five knots an hour, it became a great highway for sailing ships returning to Europe from the New World. Sailing that route made the Atlantic coast of Florida, like the area off Cape Hatteras, a veritable graveyard for ships and a happy hunting ground for salvors and treasure seekers. The author goes far afield to chronicle the dramatic events associated with the Stream. Pioneers, plunderers, and pirates are less surprising than the chapter devoted to the slave trade which is only very remotely associated with this great natural phenomenon.

Steamships are little affected by the force of the stream, but they do not ignore it. Intensive interest in and study of the stream today have to do principally with its dynamics. There

is speculation about its growing importance with respect to food supply, control of climate, and production of electric power. The stream also remains a very real force for the increasing number of sailing ships and for racing motorboats that must cross it in contests of speed. If you like a dramatic and romantic introduction to the subject, read this book. If you wish to know more about it, take the author's advice and read the works of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Gordon E. Dunn and B. I. Miller, Hans Leip, Henry Chapin, and F. G. Walton Smith, among others listed in a bibliography of thirty-three titles.

University of Miami Charlton W. Tebeau

Gold, Glory, and the Gospel: The Adventurous Lives and Times of the Renaissance Explorers. By Louis B. Wright. (New York: Atheneum, 1970. xvi, 362 pp. Preface, introduction, index. $10.00.)

Louis B. Wright, author of numerous works in the fields of Renaissance civilization and its transition to colonial America, has written a clear, concise, and dramatic narrative of the spectacular feats of the explorers of the fifteenth to the early seventeenth century.

Among the qualities of this work is the author's selectivity. He devotes more than a third of the book to the Portuguese explorers, including Magellan who sailed under the Spanish flag. This much space is warranted and welcomed. The Portuguese were the pioneers in navigation and exploration, and the first of the empire builders in early modern history. Roughly another third of this work encompasses the voyages of Columbus and the conquests of Mexico and Peru by Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro, respectively. The remainder of the book covers the less successful explorers and the Dutch and English challengers.

As the title fittingly denotes, the continuous motives of gold, glory, and religion drove these explorers to overcome overwhelming and seemingly astronomical odds. Throughout his narrative and the use of quotations, the author emphasizes that religion was as a sincere and driving motivation as were gold and glory. The Portuguese and Spanish saw no hypocrisy in

subjugating the Indians in pursuit of material wealth while simultaneously concerning themselves over their conversion. Religion was an equally powerful motivation among the Protestant explorers, but in a negative sense. The Dutch and English believed they were the chosen people of God whose mission was to prevent the whole world from becoming Roman Catholic. "Protestant partisans were fired with as much zeal against the Catholics as the Spanish and Portuguese had ever shown against Moslems or bloody heathen in Aztec Mexico" (p. 275).

The author does not sit in moral judgment, neither condemning nor condoning the actions of these men. While his narrative would place the Pizarros and Lope de Aguirre in the category of cruel and vindictive men and Hernán Cortés as a man of statesmanlike qualities, he adheres to his statement of purpose: "To understand the actions of these men, we must be aware not only of their beliefs but also of the characteristics of the times in which they lived. We do not need to whitewash them, but we do need to view them in relation to their own age." (p. xiii)

Designed for the general reader, footnotes are sparse but adequate. The absence of a selected bibliography is this reviewer's only criticism. A reader, stimulated by this narrative, would find one useful in pursuing the subject further.

Memphis State University William R. Gillaspie

Hans Peter Kraus, *Sir Francis Drake: A Pictorial Biography*. (Amsterdam, N. Israel, 1970. viii, 236 pp. Preface, introduction, illustrations, catalogue of the collection, bibliography. 288.50 guilders [$81.00].)

At first glance merely a bibliophile's handsomely printed tribute to a portion of his own collection, *Sir Francis Drake* is also an important announcement of previously unknown documents dealing with Drake and his Spanish adversaries. Beginning with an introduction by Lieutenant Commander David W. Waters (RN) and Richard Boulind the work proceeds to a discussion of the various items in the Kraus collection. The introduction discusses the Elizabethan context from which Drake sprang, his career, and Spanish reactions to it. The volume

concludes with a detailed catalog of the seventeen manuscripts, twenty-nine printed items, eight maps and views, and seven medals and portraits which comprise the collection. Students of Spanish Florida will be interested in the fine reproductions of Boazio's 1589 engraving of Drake's attack on St. Augustine (pp. 123, 127).

The scholarly importance of this book is its revelation of previously unknown manuscripts, in particular two drawings of proposed additions to the fort at San Juan de Ulua (1570), a memorandum (1586), and items of correspondence between the Duke of Medina Sidonia and Philip II about the defense of the Empire, and D. Pedro Vique Manrique's defense of his actions as Commander of the Galleys of Tierra Firme during Drake's attack on Cartagena (1586). The Medina Sidonia papers show that the duke was a much more logical choice to command the Invincible Armada (1588) than had previously been assumed.

In their introduction Waters and Boulind bring together an impressive array of sources and several suggestive interpretations of events and of the changes in English attitudes towards the sea during Elizabeth's reign. In contrast, the picture of Drake is that of the eight-foot tall, romantic hero of Elizabethan propaganda and nineteenth-century British historiography. In the same vein, the Spanish are held up as sharp-dealing, unworthy foes of the national hero (Waters and Boulind are Englishmen). Perhaps the only excuse for these portrayals is that Kraus intended his book to show Drake as he appeared to his contemporaries. They turn out to be mostly English. Relevant Spanish documentation, such as that printed by Irene Wright in Documents Concerning *English Voyages to the Spanish Main, 1569-1580*, is not properly used to place Drake's actions in perspective, particularly with regards to the Isthmus of Panama incident of 1573 (pp. 16-17). In sum, while this introduction has much merit, it is not the balanced evaluation of Drake one would have expected in 1970. Lovers of fine books will want to have a copy of this exceptionally well designed and printed work in their personal collections.

University of Wyoming Paul E. Hoffman

Anglo-American Political Relations, 1675-1775. Edited by Alison G. Olson and Richard M. Brown. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1970. x, 283 pp. Preface, introduction, bibliographical essay, notes, index. $10.00.)

The historical profession thrives upon the reading of papers. At best these efforts represent the seminal statements of forthcoming books or the sage summation of long study. Given an effective unifying theme, the result, as in this volume which derives from the Twentieth Conference on Early American History at Rutgers University in 1966, can be highly stimulating.

"Anglo-American political relations" prove to be as broad as the Atlantic and as varied as the New World colonies themselves. Editors Olson's and Brown's introductory chapters set the succeeding essays in the perspective of C. M. Andrews's ancient plea for the study of imperial history and in the up-to-date context of the behavioral social sciences. David S. Lovejoy analyzes the fatal relationship between the attempt of the Virginia Assembly to secure a more liberal charter, and Bacon's libertarian rebellion against that same assembly. Virginians quickly learned about English politics; David Alan Williams traces the interaction of policies and politicians on either side of the Atlantic, between 1690 and 1735, with a swift and sure hand. New York's James Delancey is given the Namerian treatment by Stanley N. Katz. Quite different is Richard S. Dunn's very interesting comparison of imperial pressures on Massachusetts and Jamaica in the last quarter of the seventeenth century. Similarities abound in these seemingly disparate colonies! Olson describes the Anglican Church commissaries who inevitably became American politicians-a sort of loyal opposition in spite of themselves.

Thomas C. Barrow's contribution stresses the inefficiency of the Old Colonial System, especially in matters fiscal, and he identifies the post-1763 reforms as a mature response to long-standing problems rather than a spontaneous reaction to the outcome of the Great War for Empire. Michael G. Kammen emphasizes the failure of the American interest to maintain itself as a force in British politics after the Peace of Paris. In the most provocative essay in the collection, John Shy compares the imperial views of Henry Ellis and Thomas Pownall, two of

the most influential, knowledgeable, and antipathetic of Anglo-American statesmen. Shy's summary of their opposing views demonstrates the narrow range of "the possible" in English reactions to American problems. Joseph E. Illick rounds out the volume with a bibliographical essay which mentions virtually everyone working in the field of Anglo-American relations before 1783.

In spite of the avowed aims of the contributors and the obviously trans-Atlantic nature of their studies, this book reinforces a sense of the uniquely American character of American colonial history! If this goes against the grain with dedicated "imperialists" (with whom this reviewer would modestly claim association), it yet proves the historical stimulus and challenge of their uniformly admirable studies.

Auburn University Robert R. Rea

New Orleans, 1718-1812: An Economic History. By John G. Clark. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1970. xii, 394 pp. Preface, tables, note on sources, index. $10.00.)

This economic history begins with the founding of New Orleans at a time when the colony of Louisiana was almost totally undeveloped. Because Louisiana had been since its discovery such a drain on the royal treasury, the king had transferred it to Antoine Crozat in 1712. Within five years Crozat asked to be relieved of the burden since he was unable to supply the essential "massive injections of people, money and goods," and unable to guarantee markets.

During the next few years John Law's company tried to develop the colony, but it gave up in 1731. The total population at that time was about 2,000 free colonists and 3,000 slaves. This body count does not include the Indians. Wars with and against them contributed to an economic malaise made more acute by the impact of French involvement in European wars.

After reading the eight chapters on the French period, one senses the frustration that made it easy for France to transfer the colony to Spain. The author gives three basic reasons why Louisiana could not prosper under the French: capitalists were unwilling to invest in Louisiana, France did not have a navy

adequate to her colonial pretensions, and her population was unwilling to emigrate.

In chapters nine through thirteen John Clark presents the exciting picture of New Orleans becoming a major staple port because Louisiana was discovered economically by the British as they tried to incorporate the Floridas and the hinterland (Illinois country) within their trading empire. Colonists demanded English and French goods; and the lumber trade to British, French, and Spanish possessions in the Caribbean supplied the opportunity to introduce contraband. Smuggling became a norm of everyday life. Spanish authorities, in sanctioning this illegal trade, arrived at a better solution to the provisioning problem than the French who had consigned Louisiana to a permanent state of want rather than allow foreigners to feed the colony.

The final chapters, fourteen through seventeen, deal with the New Orleans which the United States received as a farm town in 1803– larger than most farm towns in the nation– geared to the service of a back country sprawling as far north as Pittsburgh, the largest free trade area in the world. The author's fifteen pages of "Notes on Sources" show that he has used the voluminous primary and secondary sources for the period. He has produced a valid economic history of New Orleans and its hinterland during the years 1718-1812.

Louisiana State University Jane De Grummond

Slave Society in Cuba During the Nineteenth Century. By Franklin Knight. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1971. xxi, 228 pp. Acknowledgments, note on archival sources, list of maps and tables, introduction, appendix, glossary, bibliography, index. $10.00.)

The virtues of Cuban slavery have been extolled for well over a century and a half, first by the Cuban slave owners themselves, in an effort to justify their institution, and more recently by scholars with an ideological "ax to grind," who have been so determined to compare Cuban slavery favorably with the United States variety that they had little time for ascertaining its true nature.

Happily, Professor Knight's study represents a refreshingly

new approach. For one thing, it is well documented, employing many new materials unearthed in the Archivo Histórico Nacional. For another, it is objective. Professor Knight charitably points out that students of Cuban slavery have been misled by the changing nature of the island's institution. Prior to the island's sugar revolution, when Cuba possessed few slaves and experienced no real pressures of capitalistic agriculture, its form of slavery may well have been extremely benign. However, during the last part of the eighteenth century and much of the nineteenth, as the number of slaves on the island increased some ten times (38,879 in 1774 to 376,899 in 1856), the laws regulating them became much harsher and repressive; neither the bureaucracy nor the church showed an inclination or made much of an effort to mitigate the plight of the slave, the practice of manumission decreased, as did the prevalence of urban slavery, while the number of slave suicides increased enormously.

These matters, moreover, are not considered in isolation, but rather are viewed in the context of the island's illegal slave trade, the diplomatic problems for Spain that it produced, and the entire question of the institution of slavery as a device for perpetuating Spanish hegemony.

The only error of any consequence the book seems to contain is the suggestion that Cuba's plantation slaves died at a rate of some four per cent annually, a figure that even the most avid defender of Cuba's slave system would have deemed optimistic. The author selected it, apparently, because "it was comparable with that of other West Indian islands during their plantation era" (p. 82). However, it was not a four per cent level of mortality, but rather a three-fourths per cent annual rate of decrease (excess of mortality over natality) among West Indian plantation slaves which prevailed, suggesting that the level of Cuban slave mortality, at least for those engaged in the cultivation of sugar, was probably twice four per cent. Aside from this objection, and a quibble about the author's use of the term "rate" when he undoubtedly meant "level" of mortality, it is a well done piece of work which ought to be read carefully by any serious student of slavery in the Americas. Finally, the book is well indexed and contains an excellent bibliography.

Bowling Green State University Kenneth F. Kiple

Free Soil: The Election of 1848. By Joseph G. Rayback. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1970. ix, 326 pp. Preface, note on sources, index. $12.50.)

In 1948 Professor Rayback published an incisive article on Calhoun's presidential ambitions in the 1840s. He has continued his research into the involved politics of that decade, and has now come out with a most penetrating and objective study of one of the most significant elections in American history, that of 1848. This election actually lit the fuse that set off Civil War twelve years later.

The Free Soil party was the first vital third party, following the Anti-Masons of 1832 and the ineffectual Liberty Party of 1840 and 1844. It was the direct predecessor of the victorious Republicans of 1860. The main facts are well known. The Democrats passed over Polk for Lewis Cass of Michigan, while the Whigs nominated General Zachary Taylor of Louisiana (they had won with General Harrison in 1840 and would lose with General Scott in 1852). Wilmot Proviso advocates, anxious to keep Negroes out of the territories, met in Buffalo and drafted disgruntled Martin Van Buren, the ex-president who had been rejected in 1844. The Free Soilers won ten per cent of the total vote, taking New York from Cass and giving the election to Taylor. But Taylor fell under the influence of Senator Seward of New York, offended Robert Toombs and Alexander Stephens of Georgia when they discovered he planned to betray the South on California, and fortunately for the nation died while trying to sabotage the Compromise of 1850.

This is a careful and meticulous job, completely professional, and one which will be appreciated by any close scholar of the period. The general reader should only peruse it, because he will get bogged down in the minute details. Professor Rayback should write a ten-page article for *American Heritage*, summing up his conclusions, all of which are well taken.

Tulane University Gerald M. Capers

The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865. By E. Milby Burton. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970. xvii, 373 pp.

Acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, bibliography, notes, index. $9.95.)

This interesting work is a military history of the principal events in Charleston, South Carolina, from the Ordinance of Secession, December 20, 1860, to the city's evacuation on February 17, 1865. The only time politics are mentioned "is when it has a direct bearing on one of the officers involved– usually in connection with his being from command."

The siege of Charleston is a rather remarkable event in the history of warfare. Few operations have lasted longer (587 days) and few have involved so many different kinds of warfare. Methods used ranged from novel to ancient, and the combination of them were, in all probability, unique.

Charleston and Fort Sumter were more than a city and a fort respectively. They were symbols of the Confederacy which had to be defended at all costs. On one occasion Robert E. Lee wrote General Pemberton, then in command of the area, reminding him that Charleston, under no circumstances, should be lost and if necessary the defenders must be prepared to fight "street by street and house by house."

Some of the bitterest fighting of the entire Civil War occured at Battery Wagner on Morris Island in the summer of 1863. A small Confederate garrison of less than 1,000 men doggedly held out for fifty-eight days against a well-equipped force of 11,000 Federal troops "armed with some of the heaviest artillery then known and aided by a fleet of heavily gunned and armored vessels." Yet Civil War historians have devoted little attention to this "terrific" engagement. The author, on the other hand, in his excellent chapter on Morris Island, has done much to correct this oversight.

This reviewer, with a particular interest in General W. T. Sherman's Carolinas campaign of 1865, found the story of Charleston's fall very interesting. The city experienced a fate very similar to Columbia which also went up in flames on February 17. The next day a Federal naval officer in the port city could write: "And thus, after a siege which will rank among the most famous in history, Charleston becomes ours."

Commander E. Milby Burton, director of the Charleston Museum and chairman of the Charleston Historical Commis-

sion, has written a most informative account of the fighting in and around Charleston. The narrative moves along smoothly and has good balance. One small criticism, nevertheless, seems to be in order. The work would, undoubtedly, have more value were it even slightly interpretative. But the author ridiidly adheres throughout the volume to his introductory statement of purpose: "My effort . . . has been to present facts as objectively as I could. . . . It is hard not to be sentimental about Charleston, but my purpose has not been to defend again this beautiful city."

Virginia Military Institute John G. Barrett

The Confederate State of Richmond: A Biography of the Capital. By Emory M. Thomas. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971. viii, 227 pp. Preface, illustrations, bibliography, index. $6.75.)

"Richmond seemed to attract revolutions," so Emory Thomas begins his biography of the Confederate capital. He cites various incidents from its past. Nathaniel Bacon had settled on land that became the town, and Patrick Henry had cried for liberty or death in one of its churches. It was the capital of Revolutionary Virginia and in 1800 the seat of the slave Gabriel's insurrection. And now in 1861 revolution had come again to the old city– Virginia had seceded from the Union and the government of the recently formed Confederate States of America was moving its capital to Richmond. There was an irony to it all, Thomas writes. Richmond was ordinarily "a quiet place, and Richmonders were for the most part conservative folk."

This is a first book by a young historian, and the author states his purpose and theme somewhat aggressively, as young scholars properly should. "Hopefully this book will offer interpretations . . . that have importance greater than analyses of battles and campaigns. . . . Hopefully, too, this book will do justice to the narrative drama of home front war." (The incorrect use of "hopefully" is apparently a phenomenon of our time, afflicting younger and older writers alike.)

The purpose may be overstated, but the author does a good job in trying to achieve it. Here, within less than 200 pages of

narrative, is as incisive a picture of Richmond at war as we are likely to get. The coverage is comprehensive, treating such subjects as prisons, prices, prostitution, hospitals, education, religion, and journalism. The impact of the war on the city is ably depicted. Selected as the capital primarily because of its economic importance, Richmond had in 1861 a population of slightly under 40,000. During the war this figure swelled to almost 100,000, a sudden increase that created all kinds of new problems for the city government.

Richmond's greatest problem, however, was the almost constant threat of Yankee attack, and Thomas is at his best in recounting the reaction of her people to this challenge. They met it with courage, he writes, and this spirit was Richmond's "glory." But after the great defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg "spirit and flesh alike began to falter. . . . From this point the capital was dying." Its nation was dying too. But at the last nation and capital had become "one and the same," Thomas contends. "When Richmond fell the nation collapsed."

The book should appeal to both specialists and lay readers. Interesting and informative, it is a real contribution to Civil War literature.

Louisiana State University T. Harry Williams

Iron Afloat: The Story of the Confederate Armorclads. By William N. Still, Jr. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1971. x, 260 pp. Acknowledgments, illustrations, prologue, bibliographic essay, bibliography, index. $10.00.)

In *Iron Afloat*, William N. Still has given the reader an excellent account of the building and operation of the Confederate ironclad navy. At the time of secession the South had no navy, few seamen, and only limited facilities for building warships. It did, however, have a number of able officers who had resigned from the United States navy and followed their states into the Confederacy. Although there was never any question that there would be a Confederate navy, the basic problem faced by the South was how to build a fleet which could challenge the well-established United States navy.

Lacking both the industrial resources and the finances to

match the North, southern naval leaders resorted to innovations. Converted merchant vessels and foreign construction were tried but with only moderate success. The acquisition of the Norfolk Navy Yard and the partly-destroyed frigate *Merrimac* led the Confederates to build their first ironclad, the *CSS Virginia.* The *Virginia's* greatest success proved not to be her victories but her existence as a force in being which prevented a sea attack on Richmond and Norfolk.

Although Norfolk eventually had to be evacuated because of the land threat and the *Virginia* blown up to prevent capture, the value of the ironclad as a harbor defense was recognized by the Confederates. Southern leaders still hoped to use the ironclads to break the blockade, but their real usefulness was in preventing the Union navy from seizing major southern ports. Large numbers of these vessels were started in all ports of the South, but shortages of labor and supplies permitted completion of only twenty-two ironclads. Considering their inadequate machinery, shortage of trained crews, and flaws in design, the strength of these vessels both real and imagined provided an effective defense of the major ports of the South. In almost all cases they were defeated only by overwhelming enemy force or by having their bases captured by land action.

Iron Afloat will appeal to scholars and Civil War buffs alike and should remain the standard work on Confederate ironclads for a long time, since the author has exhausted just about all the sources now known. The work is well illustrated with maps, ship plans, and pictures. The print is readable and the layout of the book is a credit to the Vanderbilt University Press.

Auburn University Frank Lawrence Owsley, Jr.

Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee, 1862-1865. **By** Thomas Lawrence Connelly. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. ix, 558 pp. Introduction, acknowledgments, maps, illustrations, footnotes on sources, bibliography, index. $15.00.)

If there has been thinly occupied ground in Civil War literature, it has been with the Confederate Army of Tennessee, that stubborn, undernourished, poorly clad, sometimes glorious,

often grievously misled aggregation that fought from the approaches to Louisville and Cincinnati to where the blood red sun sank at last on the tattered ranks at Bentonville.

Thomas Lawrence Connelly, relatively a newcomer as an authority on this war, professor of history at the University of South Carolina, a scholar on virtually every page, has recounted that army's career so handsomely that this reviewer, who is not given to hyperbole, can do little more than applaud. This is his second volume about the Army of Tennessee. The first volume, entitled *Army of the Heartland,* was published in 1967.

With this work the author takes a place in the forward ranks of Civil War historians, North and South. His grasp is sure, his prose superb. If the book has a fault, it is that it appeals more to the initiated who sit at the Round Tables and to dedicated but scattered students of the war, than to the neophytes, because it is loaded with detail. That, to this reviewer, is a virtue. It has an abundance of fresh viewpoints. It reveals an intimacy not only with the records and books but also with the terrain of the battlefields and campaigns, and shows a clear insight into the characters of important generals.

The profile of the battle-maimed General John B. Hood, at the time he replaced Joseph E. Johnston as commander of the army, is the best summation of Hood's qualities and character yet written. One perceives clearly from reading the accounts of Peach Tree Creek, Franklin, and Nashville, that Hood did not have the background, the balance, or even the native intelligence to command an army. The author's appraisal is not even as generous as that!

If he is bold in his strictures he ordinarily supports his conclusions with artfully marshaled facts. Still, some will take exception to his criticisms, which extend even to General Robert E. Lee. He abhors straddles. He finds it difficult to be tolerant with clumsy or self-willed generals in the West when men die valiantly but needlessly because of their obstinancy.

What an army this was! Dragged-out Murfreesboro, bloody Chickamauga, sanguinary Peach Tree Creek, useless Franklin, and absurd Nashville were names on its banners. Even as Joseph E. Johnston was negotiating surrender terms with Sherman in April 1565, General John C. Brown of Chickamauga and Franklin fame was drilling the skeleton of his division

hopefully for fresh encounters. After the surrender at the Bennett farmhouse near Durham, North Carolina, the army marched in its corps formations for the last time over the fifty miles to Salisbury, then disbanded forever.

The text shows briefly, perhaps with unintended pathos, how some of the old leaders who survived the bayonets were mowed down by the surer blade of time. General Simon Buckner of Fort Donelson and Chickamauga was last to go. He passed as the war clouds hovered over Europe in 1914. He was a Kentuckian who seemed to represent "that persistent dream" of the Army of Tennessee reaching the Ohio River. Maybe there is a hint of the emptiness of fame and war in the author's closing lines: "Now he is gone. While heroes' monuments sprouted in the East at Gettysburg, the Green River flowed near Buckner's homeplace and past Bragg's old earthworks of 1862, now covered with grass."

Fairview, North Carolina Glenn Tucker

The Virginia Conservatives, 1867-1879: A Study in Reconstruction Politics. By Jack P. Maddex, Jr. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970. xx, 328 pp. Introduction, note on nomenclature, acknowledgments, bibliography, index. $8.50.)

The Virginia Conservatives is a balanced monograph based on extensive use of the primary sources and general acceptance of the interpretations of Thomas B. Alexander and C. Vann Woodward about the New South and the people who shaped it. Professor Maddex's study of post-Civil War Virginia politics helps to show the diversity in the course of Reconstruction and the similarity of its results in the southern states.

With a large population and advanced economy, Virginia suffered more than its share of military destruction and disruption over secession. Even after West Virginia was detached, many Unionists remained in the Old Dominion. The Pierpont government, unable to survive the struggle between President Johnson and Congress, was replaced under the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. When the Republican party officially endorsed the proscriptive Underwood constitution and the traditionalist Con-

servatives opposed Negro suffrage, a coalition of moderates from both parties defeated the proscriptive provisions of the constitution, and won the 1869 elections. Thus, Conservatives gained control of Virginia through the Reconstruction process itself.

Aside from its party label, however, there was little to distinguish the Gilbert C. Walker administration from the "carpetbag" governments of other states. Unlike the other states, Virginia never had a Republican administration, but its government was marred by corruption just as theirs was. Traditionalists who expected the Conservative party to preserve Virginia's antebellum society and economy were disappointed. Although it maintained a dignified white supremacy and kept taxes down at the expense of public services, the party presided over a transition from the older agricultural concentration into the New South of railroads, northern capital, and mineral development.

When the party leadership first tried to fund the large debt previously incurred in support of railroad construction, only a faint dissent was heard. But it grew until the Readjusters split the party and captured the legislature in 1879. The Conservative coalition which had defeated the Republicans in 1869 and restored Virginia to the Union merged into the Democratic party of the Solid South by 1883.

Florida State University Jerrell H. Shofner

Charles Sumner And The Rights of Man. By David Donald. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970. xxxix, 595 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, illustrations, list of manuscript collections and scrapbooks cited, index. $15.00.)

In this second and concluding volume of his biography of Charles Sumner, Professor Donald has been at pains to show that the idea of his man as "a dreamy-eyed abstractionist" (p. ix) who held himself above the business of political machination is a much mistaken one. One of the key facts about Sumner is that he was successful in politics because of a nice balance he managed to preserve between his responsiveness to the wishes of his constituency and his shrewdness as a politician among politicians. Surely no one hereafter will fall into the error of a

contemporary eulogist who ignorantly ejaculated that Sumner "never packed a caucus, pulled a wire, or rolled a log" (p. 10). How Sumner, an intellectual, was able to work effectively in the political arena makes a fascinating story, and Professor Donald tells it with the skill of the master that he is. But perhaps even more revealing of Sumner's measure as a significant figure during and after the Civil War is the interplay between his personality and his principles, a relationship brilliantly examined in the first volume of this major work.

As in the first volume, Sumner here emerges as a self-conscious paragon of virtue who struggled for great moral causes partly out of a need for commendation and love which was never, and could never, be satisfied. He urged laggard contemporaries to one righteous goal after another and for his efforts, thanks especially to the traumatic beating cruelly given him by Preston Brooks in 1856, felt himself a living martyr. This heightened his already towering loftiness because, in his view, he fought, and was villified, for the rights of man. But to some it was questionable whether one so arrogant as he was could be truly philanthropic. For, if as a senator he seemed to be an "uncorrupted soul," Henry James once observed, yet "that insensate and implacable egotism" of his "almost made you suspect [his] public virtue" (p. 519).

James's suggestion was a just one. Sumner's commitment to human welfare was virtuous to a deplorable fault, as Julia Ward Howe, for one, well knew. When Sumner told her in 1864 that he had "long since, ceased to take any interest in *individuals*" (p. 147), she was astonished at the ungodly sentiment, but that bland aloofness was apparent in nearly everything the man did. At one point during the war, for example, Sumner argued that the North was "too victorious," that more defeats should be suffered to prolong the fighting. "There must be more delay and more suffering," he wrote at another time, "the war cannot, must not, end' until slavery was destroyed (p. 118). Sumner's idea that barbarity arose from slavery could not, then, have been exclusive: evil must be a consequence of the struggle to overcome evil. He initially responded to Lincoln's murder with the reflection that it was another instance of the barbarism of slavery (p. 217), but he "came to think" it was " 'a judgment of the Lord,' which was 'needed to lift the country into a more

perfect justice and to inspire a sublimer faith" (p. 220). It is comforting to assuage deep grief by finding something ultimately good in the sad and senseless brutalities of life. But it is frightening when a man of great political power elevates a consoling thought into a philosophy that informs a grim and determined course of action.

Professor Donald admires his subject for many good reasons. But Sumner remains a complicated and perplexing figure with whom everyone involved in the moral dilemma must come to some kind of terms. This biography is indispensable to that endeavor.

University of Toledo William H. Longton

The Segregation Era, 1863-1954: A Reader. Edited by Allen Weinstein and Frank Otto Gatell. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970. ix, 308 pp. Introduction, bibliography. $7.50.)

For reasons not easily discernible, the editors have selected fourteen excerpts from well-known books (eleven are in paperback) and five scholarly articles to illustrate what they will call "ninety years of Negro striving and suffering." By and large the essays are culled from reputable white authors who have written highly-praised volumes published between 1944 and 1968. (Missing are such names as DuBois, Washington, Johnson, Taylor, Wright, Hughes, White, McPherson, Newby, Osofsky, and Harlan.) Seven sections containing from two to four articles each take the reader chronologically from emancipation to legal desegregation.

The selections are beyond reproach. Benjamin Quarles recites the virtues of black soldiers during the Civil War while Willie Lee Rose describes what might have been a rehearsal for landed black reconstruction. Writing of South Carolina, Joel Williamson furnishes an abundance of evidence that Negroes could assume rights and responsibilities; he sees Reconstruction as a "period of unequalled progress" for blacks. With controlled indignation, John Hope Franklin destroys much of the mythology of Reconstruction, reminding us that Negroes were denied the opportunity to become qualified and then denied equal rights because they *were* unqualified.

Rayford W. Logan explains how blacks went from peonage in slavery to peonage in freedom. Vann Woodward writes in detail of the complete subordination of the Negro at the zenith of southern white supremacy. The South didn't "win" the Civil War but the rest of the country accepted its view on race-which makes one wonder about the necessity of secession, even from the southern point of view, in the first place. August Meier traces the increasing radicalization of W.E.B. DuBois, so pro-labor that he had the *Crisis* printed by a union that excluded blacks. In "Support Your Local Mob," Charles Crowe describes the anatomy of the Atlanta race riot of 1906. Nancy Weiss shows how President Wilson lost the black vote between 1912 and 1916 by presiding over the official segregation of Washington while telling "darky" stories and showing *The Birth of a Nation* in the White House.

David Cronon explains the historical position of Marcus Garvey in the "black is beautiful" syndrome of the past few years while Allan Spear describes the transformation of southern blacks into Chicago ghetto inhabitants. Disillusioned with what he considered broken white promises, the Negro intellectual of the Harlem renaissance, as depicted by Robert Bone, fell back on identity with folk culture. According to Dan Carter, the Scottsboro case illustrates the degradation of the oppressed and the psychotic instability of the oppressor.

The selection from Myrdal's *An American Dilemma* emphasizes the relation between the ownership of land in the South and the race question. Writing of the same period, Leslie Fishel and Professor Quarles suggest the vital if almost inadvertent significance of the New Deal to the black man. Richard Dalfiume goes over the ground of the late thirties and early forties in which the stirrings of revolt prepared the way for the civil rights crusade. Oscar Glantz is included with an article on Negro voting behavior after World War II which, it seems to the reviewer, is entirely too technical for this volume. Henry Allen Bullock reminds the reader of J. H. Franklin in his conclusion that Negroes in the South were educated by means of a psychology of self-debasement. "Negroes and Whites became different because they were kept apart. White Southerners insisted that they be kept apart because they were different." Loren Miller concludes the volume with the story of the Brown

decisions which did turn back the clock "toward the bright promise of 1868, when the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified."

The content of these nineteen articles written by liberally-oriented scholars is essential to an understanding of the civil rights revolution of the past two decades. Well selected, they reinforce the reviewer's belief that black history is still pretty much what *has been done* to the Negro. It may or may not be true that the black man has striven mightily to break his chains. It is true that he has been forcibly kept all these years in a shameful state of subordination. In any case, we witness today the most authentic revolution in our history.

University of South Florida James W. Silver

A Mind to Stay Here: Profiles from the South. By John Egerton. (New York: Macmillan Co., 1970. 190 pp. Preface, illustrations. $6.95.)

As the sub-title suggests, this book consists of several portraits of Southerners. While the subjects are different in superficial aspects-black and white, men and women of differing vocations-, they share two major characteristics. They are all genuinely committed to decent race relations, and they are all convinced that the South is where they must work out solutions. They are not the civil rights militants who have been dominating the news. They are the steady, seemingly tireless workers in the field who have been crucial to whatever success has been achieved.

There is Will Campbell, "poet, prophet and preacher-at-large," the folk-singing director of the Committee of Southern Churchmen. Then, there is James McBride Dabbs, seventy-four year-old "farmer, writer, former professor, and country gentleman," who has been telling Southerners for years that their section is "the most favorable setting for racial reconciliation." The third story traces the struggles of John Lewis, former chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and presently director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta.

The others are just as diverse. Howard (Buck) Kester, dean of students at Montreat-Anderson College in North Carolina,

has spent his life trying to apply the teachings of Jesus to race relations. Fannie Lou Hamer, one of Senator Eastland's black neighbors in Mississippi, has been fighting for voting rights despite vicious attacks from whites. Lucius H. Pitts president of Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, and U. W. Clemon, its outstanding graduate, have contributed greatly to black education and legal security in that city and state. Sarah Patton Boyle of aristocratic Virginia, confronted southern whites with their racial shame through speaking engagements and books, while John Howard Griffin tried to share the black experience by darkening his skin for a time and passing himself off as a Negro. The final cameo depicts a husband and wife team of jazz greats, Billie and De De Pierce, who, like the others, stress the positive approach to race relations.

A Mind to Stay Here is a refreshing experience. While Egerton does not overlook the injustices of the past, he emphasizes the achievements made by the people he is describing. In addition, his subjects have not lost their sense of the South's potential. It is a good source for the events of the civil rights movement since World War II and a guide for those who wish to see the movement accomplish greater and greater things.

Stetson University Gerald E. Critoph

The Commoner: William Jennings Bryan. By Charles M. Wilson. (New York: Doubleday and Co., 1971. viii, 487 pp. Acknowledgments, illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. $10.00.)

This latest contribution to the expanding historical literature on William Jennings Bryan is a biography by Charles Morrow Wilson, a journalist and free-lance writer, who describes his subject as a political and religious "fundamentalist" convinced that his primary mission was to nurture the American conscience. The central theme of Bryan's career as interpreted by Wilson was embodied in an oration on "God and Politics" which the Commoner delivered as a student at Illinois College. In his diverse roles as lawyer, congressman, editor, presidential nominee, Chautauqua lecturer, and anti-evolution crusader, Bryan always viewed himself as a "Christian statesman." Just as Bryan "held

totally with one God, he resolved to cling totally with one political tenet, which he saw as covering all like a giant revival tent." That tenet, the reduction and ultimate elimination of the tariff, came to be supplemented in time by his crusade against the gold standard, anti-imperialist campaign and effort in behalf of international peace.

Wilson's approach is essentially different from that of Bryan scholars such as Paolo Coletta, Paul Glad, and Lawrence Levine. This book can perhaps best be described as an intimate biography, based upon a variety of sources, including the Bryan papers and personal interviews, and written in an informal, almost chatty, style. Although it includes little that is new about the public career of Bryan and is less analytical than other works in its treatment of his activities as a Democratic politician, the study does offer insights into the private life, personal attributes, and psyche of the Commoner. The author points up the eccentricities and incongruities that characterized the "People's Man," the keeper of the nation's conscience who amassed a fortune in his role as the spokesman for the cause of the people. Despite all the Bryanesque rhetoric about familial loyalty, the family which took precedence with him was the American people rather than his own wife and children even though he indulged his talent for building "ugly houses" in providing for the latter. In describing Bryan's behavior during the closing years of his life– the period in which he spearheaded the anti-evolution crusade– the author pays particular attention to his declining health, especially the complications caused by diabetes. The Bryan of this era is depicted as a befuddled, sick old man whose condition made him easy prey for "religious charlatans."

After reading this biography one is inclined to agree with the assessment of Bryan rendered by Colonel Edward M. House who described him as "a really fine man, full of Democratic simplicity, earnest patriotism, and religious fervor."

University of Arkansas Willard B. Gatewood, Jr.

Travels in Central America, 1825-1840. By Franklin D. Parker. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1970. xiv, 340 pp. Preface, prologue, topical index, bibliography, index. $12.50.)

Professor Parker is a congenial scholar, lover of Central America, and an enthusiast of old travel accounts. He has given us a wonderful book with well edited excerpts of fifteen old travel books of foreigners (Europeans and Americans) through Central America. Ten of these accounts (Orlando W. Roberts, James Wilson, George Alexander Thompson, Jacobus Haefkens, Henry Dunn, James Jackson Jarves, George Washington Montgomery, George Byam, Thomas Young, and John Lloyd Stephens) are in the period 1821-1840, and five (Girolamo Benzoni, Thomas Gage, Raveneau de Lussan, John Cockburn, and John Roach) are given as background material. Listed at the end are also twenty-five additional travel books for the years 1841-1860. The years 1821 to 1840 are used since it was the time when most of Central America, newly independent from Spain, was united before the breakup into the various republics.

The long prologue has quotes from travelers who sketch for us the colonial background. Chapter one gives a discussion and excerpts of five travelers who visited Central America between 1821 and 1830. Chapter two has the rest, five more for the period 1831-1840. Chapters three through six are composed of extracts of these ten authors dealing with the various aspects of Central America such as the economy, learning, recreation and the arts, and religion.

There is no doubt that the whole book with its unique organization has a most scholarly atmosphere. It is well annotated, documented, and edited; certainly carefully prepared and written. The selections are excellent. There is at first difficulty in figuring out the arrangement, partly because the author's text is not separated from the excerpts of the somewhat edited travel descriptions. Indenting or smaller print could have avoided this annoyance.

What makes this book noteworthy to those interested in Florida history? Although there is nothing in the pages of the work about Florida, the closeness of Central America to Florida should make it relevant. At the same time the Parker book can serve as a model to a similar study of travel in Florida. The wealth of good material for such a project is undisputable. It certainly could enhance the growing bibliography of Florida.

University of South Florida Charles W. Arnade