

tions, coherent organization of thought, numerous references to women's roles, keen knowledge of medical developments, and surging empathy for those stumbling into grief.

Some weaknesses occur, however: a mediocre index, numerous unsupported assertions, several undocumented quotations, and a minor error or two. Despite these flaws, the book succeeds in its purpose, giving to the general reader clear and vibrant accounts of hardships lurking along the trail to the green and golden lands. The historian, too, will find much that is useful.

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*A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Antebellum North.*  
By John Hope Franklin. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976. Pp. xvii, 299. Notes, illustrations, note on sources, index. \$12.50.)

Historians have long read and quoted the many northern travelers to the South, and Thomas D. Clark's bibliography of original travel accounts, *Travelers in the Old South* (3 vols., 1956-1960), attests to the interest scholars have shown in such literature. More recently Eugene L. Schwaab has edited a handsome two volume collection, *Travelers in the Old South: Selected from Periodicals of the Times*. Yet one would hardly guess, from reading the steady flow of monographs on different aspects of the antebellum period, that many more southerners went North and recorded their impressions than did northerners visit the South. It is this rich and neglected body of writing—in book form, periodicals, newspapers, and manuscripts—that John Hope Franklin discusses in *A Southern Odyssey*.

There are usually several ways to approach a subject, and Franklin uses a straightforward, descriptive format. Beginning with a colorful account of how numerous upper class southerners toured the North in style, visiting the fashionable resorts, staying in the "right" hotels, and soaking up as much "culture" as they could, he depicts the sojourners on a provincial version of the Grand Tour. Despite their vaunted pride in all things pertaining to Dixie, southerners were strangely drawn northward. While they insistently persisted in expressing their love for their own region, their itineraries showed a recognition that the North possessed many virtues too, virtues which quite often made the South seem wanting

by comparison. Thus a profound love-hate attraction drew southerners northward at the same time that northern attitudes and institutions sometimes shocked and infuriated them.

Largely letting his material speak for itself, Franklin carefully portrays those sons of the South who sought their education in the North; he details the economic ties that bound the sections, showing how southerners were wedded to northern products, fashions, and credit; he reveals the attitudes of southerners to northern racial mores—and the supposed lessons they drew from their experiences; he includes southern criticisms of the rival North and devotes a chapter to southern defenders speaking in the North on behalf of the southern cause. And as his final chapter reveals, all this interregional travel did not lessen tensions. Southerners on the whole saw what they wanted to see and came to believe even more strongly that the North was an alien land and culture. Separation came to seem almost inevitable; and in a subtle, or perhaps vague, way, travel by southerners in the North contributed to the approaching conflict.

Franklin has collected and synthesized a large body of information, presented it clearly, and provided a useful bibliographical essay. Certainly many will find his account most helpful as they develop their own interpretations of the era. Moreover, the volume is attractively designed and printed, and contains twenty illustrations grouped as "An Album of Southern Travel." An expanded version of the 1972 Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History at Louisiana State University, the book won the Jules F. Landry Award for 1975.

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*History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976.*

Edited by Ellis L. Armstrong; associate editors, Michael C. Robinson, and Suellen M. Hoy. (Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976. Pp. xv, 736. Illustrations, tables, figures, maps, suggested readings, index. \$20.00.)

This interesting volume is a product of the historical interest generated by the nation's bicentennial. In anticipation of the event the American Public Works Association established a special bicentennial commission to supervise