

each theme she introduces Turner's views, examines criticisms by later historians, and evaluates the validity of the original hypothesis. Particularly valuable is her case-study examination of six farming frontiers ranging from the Genessee Valley to the Far West, an examination which leads her to conclude that "frontier farming suggests diversity rather than similarity in the process of settlement" (p. 42). Although this conflicts with Turner's repetitive pattern, she recognizes that the hypothesis is not totally invalid since it can be applied to some regions and contrasted with others.

This objective, thoughtful study shows an awareness of controversial parts of the Turner hypothesis. It also provides insights into nineteenth-century Indiana experiences and will be most useful as a problem study for students and historians of the American West and the United States.

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Mary Chesnut's Civil War. Edited by C. Vann Woodward. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1981. Pp. lviii, 886. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

"I write daily for my own distractions. These memoirs *pour servir* may some future day afford dates, facts, and prove useful to more important people than I am. I do not wish to do any harm or to hurt anyone. . . . It is hard, in such a hurry as things are in, to separate wheat from chaff" (p. 301). Written by Mary Boykin Chesnut on March 10, 1862, as the Civil War entered its second year, these words restate the purpose for which Chesnut claimed she began her diary. Mary Chesnut did indeed chronicle events of the Confederacy between 1861 and 1865, but she continued to work on her diary until her death in 1886. C. Vann Woodward has now issued a definitive edition of this diary, using not only the 1880s version, as previous editors have done (*A Diary from Dixie*, 1905, 1949), but also material from the 1860s version and later revisions.

Mary Chesnut, a South Carolinian and wife of James Chesnut, the first southern senator to resign after Lincoln's election, reported daily on social gossip and events such as parties, marriages, and funerals, as well as on political intrigues among Confederate leaders and military strategy. She remained loyal to the Confederacy, although at times she criticized the actions of its leaders. Her diary entry of April 27, 1862, reads: "New Orleans gone—and with it the Confederacy.

Are we not cut in two? . . . The Confederacy done to death by the politicians. What wonder we are lost. Those wretched creatures the Congress and the legislature could never rise to the greatness of the occasion. They seem to think they were in a neighborhood squabble about precedence. The soldiers have done their duty" (p. 330).

Although she believed black slaves were inferior and often dirty and lazy, she was antislavery from beginning to end. "I wonder if it be a sin to think slavery a curse to any land . . . God forgive us, but ours is a *monstrous* system and wrong and iniquity. Perhaps the rest of the world is as bad—this *only* I see. Like the patriarchs of old our men live all in one house with their wives and their concubines, and the mulattoes one sees in every family exactly resemble the white children—and every lady tells you who is the father of all the mulatto children in everybody's household, but those in her own she seems to think drop from the clouds, or pretends so to think" (p. 29).

Woodward's edition of Chesnut's diary, heavily and superbly annotated, presents the most complete picture yet of this unique southern woman. This edition is enhanced even more by the fine introduction and elaborate index. Without a doubt, this is one of the best memoirs of the Civil War, and it will be praised by historians as well as by all those interested in the story of human life.

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The Union, the Civil War, and John W. Tuttle: A Kentucky Captain's Account. Edited by Hambleton Tapp and James C. Klotter. (Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1980. Pp. xv, 298. Illustrations, notes, maps, appendix, index. \$20.00.)

Captain John W. Tuttle, a native of Mill Springs, Kentucky, was an intelligent and perceptive young lawyer who saw extended service during the Civil War as a Union soldier in the Third Kentucky Infantry Regiment. From June, 1860, until early 1867, Tuttle faithfully kept a diary. Numbering over 600 manuscript pages, Tuttle's account covers most of the major campaigns in the western theater of war: Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Atlanta.

The work is important not only for what it says about the war generally and about the specific campaigns, but also be-