

"Great Compromiser's" contributions in resolving various sectional disputes (in 1820, 1833, and 1850) have received the greatest attention, but his Whiggish prescription for national economic progress has not been shortchanged.

Despite this previous work, Baxter presents new information about Clay's economic agenda and in the process manages to offer new insights about Clay the politician and the man. Of course, there are numerous details about how Clay formulated and promoted his program for economic expansion. Serious readers will probably enjoy yet another rendition of the debates over tariff policy and internal improvements and, not least, another account of the Bank War. Clay's efforts during the Nullification Crisis, his battle with John Tyler, and his unsuccessful presidential campaigns are also analyzed.

Often, a familiar story well told brings renewed satisfaction. Yet Baxter's version of Clay's record is not at all dated. He presents, for example, an updated view of the Panic of 1837. Baxter is especially adept at showing the evolution of Clay's positions; oftentimes Clay's personal experiences in raising hemp or traveling over bumpy roads provided convincing justification for his favored proposals.

Clay partisans may not find their hero celebrated as much as expected. Indeed, Baxter can be rather hard on the famous Kentuckian, albeit not because of Clay's position on black bondage or sectional politics. The portrait presented is not that of a careful, calculating politician. Clay is criticized for lacking "practical statesmanship" (p. 107) during the Bank War with Andrew Jackson and likewise scored for his dictatorial stance opposite Tyler (although Baxter also admits that Tyler too was out of touch). At times Baxter verges on presenting Clay as a committed ideologue and a somewhat naive one at that!

Clay's economic nationalism certainly warrants the closer look Baxter provides. While little revolutionary material may be revealed, the author successfully refines our view of Clay's program and his participation in Jacksonian-era political disputes. Undoubtedly a labor of love, this well-researched and well-argued volume deserves a careful reading.

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Glorying in Tribulation: The Lifework of Sojourner Truth. By Erlene Stetson and Linda David. (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1994. Pp. [xii], 242. Illustrations, notes, appendices, bibliography, index. \$28.95.)

One of the most exciting recent developments in black history and women's studies is the scholarly interest in Sojourner Truth. It is about time that a historiography developed on this fascinating,

unlettered nineteenth-century black activist, whose words and deeds have been embraced by present-day Americans but unscrutinized for accuracy or authenticity. In 1993, Carleton Mabee published the first scholarly biography of Truth (*Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend*), and I published the first annotated version of Truth's slave narrative with a modern, contextual introduction (*The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*). Erlene Stetson and Linda David's *Glorying in Tribulation* is the third effort to offer a scholarly treatment of Truth. It has been followed this year by Nell I. Painter's biography (*Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol*). My own Truth biography will appear at some future date.

Readers might wonder about duplication as well as overlap. Mabee's dry, detailed biography covered important events in Truth's life and took a fact versus fiction approach. It was meant to dispel "myths" about Truth canonized by modern feminists. Stetson and David's construction of Truth illustrates the range of interpretation that her life invites. *Glorying in Tribulation* is refreshing and interesting because the authors write with sensitivity, offer some critical analysis, and place Truth in a context of women's activism.

"Sojourner" is loosely constructed by the authors as a black female torchbearer of struggle. Biographically, the authors cover the same ground as Mabee with less thoroughness and no new evidence. Their most challenging analysis is their defense of the authenticity of Frances Gage's "Ain't I A Woman" speech, which Mabee relegates to "folklore" and Nell Painter and I at least call into question. The authors have a good chapter on Truth's contributions to black struggle during and following the Civil War yet end with an uncohesive chapter on the suffrage issue. Furthermore, the authors' innovative perspective in assessing Truth's womanist politics is greatly weakened by a failure to discuss the famous Indiana confrontation over her sexuality and to analyze the politics of the black female body.

The lack of a preface, introduction, and epilogue indicates not only structural formlessness but confusion as to the authors' objectives. Nevertheless, *Glorying in Tribulation* offers an original contribution to the scholarship on Sojourner Truth.

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To Appomattox and Beyond: The Civil War Soldier in War and Peace. By Larry M. Logue. (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1996. Pp. xiv, 168. Note on sources, index. \$22.50.)

Larry M. Logue's *To Appomattox and Beyond* is another book in Ivan R. Dee's exemplary American Way Series, which in a few