

## Reviews and Notes

*The Scotch-Irish in America.* BY HENRY JONES FORD. Princeton University Press. 1915. pp. 607.

IN this single volume Professor Ford gives a good estimate and summary account of that racial strain in the American population known as the "Scotch-Irish." It is the stock that has produced in the South such men as the Calhouns, the Houstons, the Jacksons, and Johnstons, and the Clarks, and in the North and West such men as the McKinleys, the Logans, the McClellans, the Kirkwoods, and the McDonalds and a host of others whose ancestors, through their fighting and pioneer spirit, helped to win the frontier for civilization. The story of the life of these people is told from the time of the Scotch plantation in Ulster in 1609 to the influences they are now exerting on current American life.

It is only toward the end of his volume that the author notices the controversy over the definition of the term "Scotch-Irish." He quotes the distinctions of John Fiske and Henry Cabot Lodge between the Scotch-Irish and the Irish pure and simple; and he makes his text refer to that "indisputable breed of people in the north of Ireland introduced there by the Ulster Plantation." They were of the Scottish people who had been living in Ireland. When they came to America they were called "Irish," but they claimed to be Scotch. While the Ulster Plantation was designed for an English settlement, the English settlers there were soon absorbed by the Scottish element. So the author holds the use of the term "Scotch-Irish" to be not only justifiable but required by accuracy as a description of a distinct race stock.\* The English and Scotch settlers in North Ireland treated the native Irish a good deal as our American frontier settlers treated the Indians. They felt that they had to "defend the borders and fortresses and suppress the Irish." Professor Ford gives us a brief account of the lands and life of these people and of their conflicts and customs in Ulster. He then proceeds to discuss in interesting and effective pages the religious and moral customs of the Scotch-Irish; their relations to the English government, the causes of their migration to America; the centers where they set-

tled; their relation to the Indians, their influence on American independence and American education and of their importance as a factor in American history. They were the first to stand up in the cause of American independence, as shown in their Mecklenburg resolutions in North Carolina; and their ministry and people were always foremost and active in promoting the cause of education. The volume shows the Scotch-Irish to be largely the source of American Presbyterianism; among the boldest in extending the western confines of civilization; among the bravest and most effective fighters in the Indian wars; and among the militant patriots in the building of the nation and in the Revolutionary and other wars of the Republic. Pennsylvania, as the Scotch-Irish center is given due prominence but the expansion of the stock "South and West" relates too exclusively to Virginia. The work deals chiefly with the work of Presbyterian ministers and the planting of Presbyterian churches and schools, and the descriptive accounts relate largely to persons and localities as types of character and influence. The Reformed and Seceding Presbyterian bodies appear to go unnoticed and the great part played by Scotch-Irish influences and settlements in the Piedmont and up-land regions of the Carolinas and their migrations and settlements beyond the Alleghanies by neighborhoods and congregations are almost entirely neglected. So noticeable is this that the work might not unfairly be entitled "The Scotch-Irish in America on the Middle and North Atlantic Sea Board."

The subject of the volume is not easy for comprehensive treatment. Within its scope it is a valuable and desirable study, of interest to all who care for American history and especially to all Americans of Scotch-Irish stock. The Appendix of the volume contains a full list of authorities, a list of the "Scottish Undertakers" in Ulster, the "Mecklenburg Resolves" and other material of value. The author has placed thousands of Americans under obligations to him for this work.

J. A. W.

<sup>1</sup> The Scotch-Irish in Ireland usually speak of themselves as "Ulster Scots." They are usually of the Presbyterian faith. The fullest and best account of the history and achievements of the Scotch-Irish in their Irish home is to be found in Rev. James B. Woodburn's volume on *The Ulster Scot* (1913?). Mr. Woodburn is a scholarly Presbyterian Minister in Castle Rock, Ireland. See also James A. Woodburn's *Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in Monroe County, Indiana*, for a tracing of the connection between the Scotch-Irish in Ulster to one of their typical frontier settlements in western America.