

History of the United States. By EMERSON DAVID FITE, Ph. D. Professor of Political Science in Vassar College. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1916. pp. x—575.

This text is fully illustrated with nine maps in color and thirty-five in black in addition to above two hundred cuts. In the opinion of the reviewer this volume approaches more nearly the ideal text in United States history than any that has come to his attention. The perspective, the proper proportion between the various fields of our history, has been more nearly attained. The political principles, commercial policies and customs, developed in colonial times and later built into the national life, have been developed and other material either passed by or only casually noticed. Two other features are commendable. The author has never allowed himself in describing governmental activities to forget the conditions which give rise to those activities. This has necessitated a constant counterplay between the home life of the people and the conduct of their representatives in government. This has necessitated the use of what seems at first an unnecessary amount of detail concerning commercial and social life but this is in reality the best feature of the book. One can see from page to page the people taking possession of their heritage of natural resources and reducing it to a nation of homes. The cow-boys on the ranches, the circuit riders organizing the churches, the politicians organizing counties and States and the promoters opening up mines or building cities and railroads, all are shown in their characteristic capacities and their influence on the nation is deduced. The second feature is the avoidance of the common didacticism of most of our text books. The field of generalization in history is usually best left to the reader and especially is the teacher robbed of his opportunity when the facts of history are thus interpreted by the author. It is as if an author of an arithmetic should carefully solve every problem; or an editor of the Latin classics should furnish the student with an interlinear translation. History with such a text ceases to be a study and becomes a mere memory exercise, a weariness to both teacher and pupil. The volume under review seems to be a most promising text. The problem of

the text is set forth in the following quotation from Crevecoer, quoted by Dr. Fite on page 100: "What then is an American, this new Man? He is neither an European, nor the descendant of an European; hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country. I could point out to you a family, whose grandfather was an Englishman, whose wife was Dutch, whose son married a French woman, and whose present four sons have now four wives of different nations. He is an American, who leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He becomes an American by being received into the broad lap of our great 'alma mater'. Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world. Americans are the western pilgrims, who are carrying along with them that great mass of arts, sciences, vigor, and industry, which began long since in the east. They will finish the great circle. The Americans were once scattered over all Europe. Here they are incorporated into one of the finest systems of population which has ever appeared. . . . The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury and useless labor, he has passed to toils of a different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence . . . This is an American."

Sieur de Vincennes Identified. By PIERRE-GEORGES ROY. (Indiana Historical Society Publications, Vol. vii, No. 1). Indianapolis, C. E. Pauley and Company 1917, pp. 130.

The documents contained in this study and the comments upon them establish beyond doubt that the founder of the post on the Wabash was Francois-Marie Bissot de Vincennes. The author goes into considerable detail in regard to his family and the whole discussion incidentally throws some light on the dealings of the government of New France with the Miamis and other tribes on the Wabash.

Of the hundred twenty pages of that only twenty-five are devoted to the "Sieur de Vincennes" (pp. 81-105), about forty-