

the psychological moment when he could no longer impose himself on his community." "Somehow he obtained a rattle-trap wagon and two horses." "Vagrants, or little better than vagrants, were Thomas Lincoln and his family making their way to Indiana." "It is said he (Lincoln) astounded his father by refusing to own a gun. He earned terrible whippings by releasing animals caught in traps." "In central Kentucky, a poor village was Elizabethtown, unkempt, chokingly dusty in the dry weather, with muddy streams instead of streets during the rains, a stench of pig-sties at the back of its cabins." "In the rough and nondescript community of Pigeon Creek, a world of weedy farms, of miserable mud roads, of log farm houses." "Thomas Lincoln the next year journeyed back to Kentucky and returned in triumph to Indiana bringing as his wife an old flame of his who had married, had been widowed, and was of a mind for further adventures." "Yet she was a kind stepmother to Abraham who became strongly attached to her." It is generally assumed that a biographer knows something of the times, of the people, and manners among which his victim flourished, but perhaps it is not necessary. No great harm can come from such writing about Abraham Lincoln, but the libel on Thomas Lincoln and his wives is vicious.

*A History of Minnesota.* By WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL, President Emeritus of Minnesota University. Vol. I, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, 1921. Pp. 533.

It is a pleasure to turn from the deluge of historical trash thrown on the market at present to the work of an honest historian. Dr. Folwell has at his elbow the collections of the Minnesota Historical society. He was president of Minnesota university from 1869 to 1884, was a soldier in the Civil war, and has been actively employed in governmental duties for near a half century. Besides thus understanding his state and his people and besides having a personal acquaintance with the geography of his state, he writes in a pleasing style. The volume under review covers the territorial period, from the appearance of Radisson and Groseilliers, about 1660, down to the constitutional convention in 1857.

A large part of the story is concerned with the Indians and their management by the government. The reviewer was especially interested in this, having waded through a corresponding chapter of Indiana history. There was so much speculation in Indiana, engaged in by such prominent characters, that it seemed wrong to tell the whole truth but the story told by Dr. Folwell relieves one of all apprehension. The Indian agents of early Indiana were mere kindergartners and what is more interesting a number of the same men who learned the rudiments of the game in Indiana became masters in Minnesota. Soldiers like Josiah Snelling, Amos Stoddard, Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, Henry Leavenworth, and others also remind us of the close connection of the two states. Among the early governors was Col. Willis A. Gorman, a hero of the Mexican war and a congressman from Indiana previous to his appointment as governor. The struggle for cheap lands, the tribulations of the squatters, the building of railroads and the political strife all remind us in Indiana that our experiences were not unique—not even the contest with the British fur traders. It is an attractive story and one wonders why a sane person who can get such material will read any other kind. It is to be hoped Dr. Folwell will be able to continue the work, for it hardly seems probable a better author can be found.

*Problems in American Democracy.* By THOMAS ROSS WILLIAMSON, Smith College. D. C. Heath & Co., 1922. Pp. 567.

THIS, I presume, is intended as a high school text in civics. First, as to two or three very minor matters. It seems the author has exceeded the limit in his acknowledgments. There is quite a little space wasted in the text telling what has been done or what is to be done. The "helps" at the end of the chapters are rather elaborate. These are not serious and are not offered as serious criticisms. The plan of the text is, first to present the concrete needs for government, that is, the problems confronting us, here and now; then the explanation of the government which must meet these problems. The problems are classified as economical, social and political. Rather each problem has three phases, economical, social and political. The discussions are clear and reasonably impartial.