

Reviews and Notices

The Civilization of the Old Northwest. By BEVERLY W. BOND, JR. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1934. Pp. ix+543, \$3.50.

This volume on the Old Northwest naturally recalls the book of Burke A. Hinsdale so long accepted as the standard treatise on the old "Territory Northwest of the River Ohio," including all of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. However, the work under review, covering the years 1788 to 1812, is rather a sequel than a revision of the story told in the earlier book. With the exception of "A Century of Progress" chapter at the last, Hinsdale's book, published in 1888, centers on the period before 1788. The paths only cross occasionally as in the varying estimates of St. Clair. Dr. Bond extends the period but evidently does not find even a "fiasco" in Wisconsin during what he calls "the formative period of the Old Northwest" covered by his book. Wisconsin is omitted. Each of the other four states is given a separate chapter with Ohio allotted somewhat more space. As a whole it is as if Hinsdale dealt with the framing of the "codes" (The royal charters and the ordinances of 1785 and 1787) while Bond explains how the "codes" were carried into effect. General Arthur St. Clair may not have been exactly a General Hugh Johnson but he was likewise a *tour de force*.

A further comparison of the two books would reveal the changing concept and status of historical investigation since 1888. Instead of depending almost exclusively on government documents and secondary works as was the practical necessity in Hinsdale's day, Dr. Bond also makes extensive use of such sources as diaries, letters, newspapers, the *Northwest Territorial Papers* and the highly valuable state historical society collections (except that no use is made of those of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin). Too, the book under review stresses the social and economic phases, the "new" history. It is the "development, institutional, social, and economic of the civilization of the Old Northwest, in the basic period between the founding of the first colony at Marietta in 1788 and the outbreak of the War of 1812," which constitutes "the central theme" of the book. It was in this territory and dur-

ing this period that the "American colonial system" was tested and vindicated, avers Dr. Bond.

The book opens with a chapter on the land, the population, and the American colonial policy as the bases of the civilization. The major "lure of the western lands" for the pioneers is conceived as consisting in the opportunity to better their living conditions. Letters and reports from friends and others are rated as the most important contributory cause of their migration westward. Following the general chapters on the early American government of the Old Northwest and the process of passing from territory to state come the *separate* chapters on each of the Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan lands. Then follow individual chapters on the conquest of the Indians, the distribution of land, agriculture, communication, trade and industry, cultural and social foundations, religion and order, with a concluding chapter on the vindication of the "American colonial policy." It is an appetizing menu and a delectable diet.

As one reads these interesting pages, other than chapters I, II, III, XVI and those on individual territories, one does not get the idea that *The Civilization of the Old Northwest* is a history of Ohio and Cincinnati with incidental references to and generalizations on the Old Northwest, but one does become rather convinced of the truth of the statement in the preface that "the library of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio in Cincinnati has furnished the backbone" for the research. This is probably more true of the chapter entitled "Cultural and Social Foundations" than of any other. It is probably true that "as usual, Cincinnati led the way" but it scarcely seems wise to support so many generalizations with illustrations and evidence drawn from Cincinnati. The name, Cincinnati, appears in this manner seventy-five times within the compass of this chapter (pp. 424-464). Ohio University at Athens was "a backwoods university" before 1812 but one wonders why the reference to the revival of the University of Cincinnati "in the form of a great municipal university" came within the discussion on these years. There may be some overuse of the words "typical," "distinctive" and "especially" in these connections. Was not the culture of the Old Northwest more characteristically than distinctively American? Was a region bounded on the north by the Great Lakes and on

the south by the Ohio River "insulated"? The appropriateness of the use of the words "startling" (e.g., p. 37) and "striking" (e.g., p. 421) is not always clear.

Although the style is hardly sprightly and the pattern is more the mosaic of a McMaster than a synthesis by a Becker, the *Civilization of the Old Northwest* does assemble much material of value and interest to the student of the *Kulturgeschichte* of early pioneer America. Hinsdale called attention to the necessity of such a sequel to his book when he wrote: "The influence of the country beyond the Alleghany Mountains on the population that occupies it, its reaction on the Atlantic Plains, and its effect on the national life, character, and government are themes demanding fuller investigation than they have ever received;" and then characteristically added, "but this work may fitly close with a rapid view of the trend of political thought in the Old Northwest" (pp. 405-406). Bond's book is that sequel and is in fulfillment of the desire of Frederick Jackson Turner expressed about a quarter of a century ago when he said in a commencement address at Indiana University: "American society has reached the end of the first great period of its formation. It must survey itself, reflect upon its origin, consider what freightage of purpose it carried in its long march across the continent, what ambitions it had for the man, what role it would play in the world" (*The Frontier in American History*, p. 281). It is hoped that this excellent pioneer effort of Dr. Bond may stimulate others to further fulfillment of the desire of the master historian of the West.

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The twelfth number of the *Franciscan Studies* which is dated August, 1933, is a monograph by Theodore Roemer, O. M. Cap., Ph.D., entitled *Ludwig-Missionsverein and the Church in the United States, 1838-1918* (New York, 1933, Joseph F. Wagner, Inc.). This study consists of one hundred sixty-one pages, including an index and bibliography and sells for sixty cents. The author had access to excellent sources which he used with skill. In the introduction to his bibliography, he says: "The source material for this study was gathered in the archives of the Ludwig-Missionsverein at Munich. These contain about 2,300 letters from the United