

did not permit the people of the South to select delegates who really represented the Douglas sentiment of that section, the southern Ultras aided by President Buchanan were able to stage a bolt that was effective, and really start the war at Charleston in the spring of 1860. In spite of the "irrepressible conflict" theory held by Lincoln, Seward and other leaders, the author of the volume under review believes that, "prior to the disruption of the Democracy, civil war was not inevitable" (p. 519).

Whether his contention that the Civil War was needless has been demonstrated or not, the courage, consistency and vision of Douglas have been more clearly portrayed than ever before. However narrow the margin, the great statesman of the Northwest who would have saved the Union without war, was not sustained. The sword was drawn, and not Douglas but Lincoln is acclaimed the great savior of the Union. It is clear that there were certain powerful factors that operated to produce the Republican party and to promote a spirit of southern nationalism in the fifties. These great forces must be considered as well as the errors and personal animosities of leaders that helped to bring on the armed conflict. Conditions being what they were in both sections, a resort to war was easier than the acceptance of the policy of Douglas which required an understanding of the slow operation of economic laws based on geography. What happened in 1861 had happened before, has happened since, and may happen again.

The Eve of Conflict is well written. The author has had access to a great deal of new source matter. He challenges views that are held by many people. His book is stimulating. It should be read by all who are really interested in American history and especially by all students of Lincoln and Douglas who live in the Old Northwest.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

Robert Tyler: Southern Rights Champion. By Philip Gerald Auchampaugh. Hinman Stein, Printer, Duluth, 1934. Pp. xi, 387.

The author and editor of this volume (it is rather a collection of letters than a biography) has for some years been a student of James Buchanan. He has now brought together and published many letters of Robert Tyler, a few written

by his brother John Tyler, Jr., several written by Henry A. Wise, and a number written by James Buchanan, with occasional letters from others. There is a "Foreword" contributed by Lyon Gardiner Tyler, distinguished son of President John Tyler, who was born in 1853 when his father was sixty-three years of age and who died only a few weeks ago. Robert and John Tyler were two of the older sons of John Tyler. The ex-President contributes some letters to the collection, those written at the time of the secession movement and the Peace Conference being of especial interest. Nearly all of the correspondence falls within the years from 1851 to 1861. There are six letters that were written in the years before 1851 and five that fall in 1865-1866.

The correspondence is tied together by intervening comment of Dr. Auchampaugh, which turns the book into a sort of monograph on the relations existing between James Buchanan, Henry A. Wise and Robert Tyler in the critical years preceding the Civil War. In the midst of the matter contributed by himself, the author frequently quotes from correspondence which is not published in the volume, and there are also quite a number of instances where letters are only partially printed.

There is no doubt whatever of the great value of the correspondence in the collection. It was gathered from the Tyler manuscripts in the possession of Lyon Gardiner Tyler, from the archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, from the Manuscripts Division of the Congressional Library, and from various printed sources. The author has studied with care the events and men of the period covered, and his conclusions are thoughtful and stimulating. His characterizations of Robert Tyler, Henry Wise, R. M. T. Hunter and Buchanan are very interesting. In general he is in sympathy with Buchanan, but he makes a real effort to treat him impartially. In regard to the rôle that Buchanan attempted to play during the last weeks of his presidency, Dr. Auchampaugh says:

But it was not 1833. There were new men of strong passions and hardened hearts who knew not and cared not for the ways of the fathers. Webster, Clay, and Calhoun were dead. Buchanan still lived, but his long and friendly association with Southern leaders had been used against him by Republican newspapers of the North. Then malicious

propaganda had greatly injured his influence in his own section at a time when it would have been well to have taken heed to his earnest and experienced counsel.

One of the most interesting contentions of Robert Tyler (Tyler to Wise, Philadelphia, June 9, 1856) is that Virginia really nominated Buchanan in 1856. "Virginia," he declared, "had the credit of making the nomination and you [Henry A. Wise] are the hero of the fight." In a letter to Buchanan (Richmond, November 30, 1856), Wise wrote: "I am responsible for your nomination and election. . . . " In his new work, *The Eve of Conflict: Stephen A. Douglas and the Needless War* (pp. 226-228), George Fort Milton gives the credit mainly to Jesse D. Bright and the Indiana delegation.

A few points in regard to the editing of the correspondence require mention. Where explanatory words or phrases are inserted in the text of a letter by the editor they are invariably enclosed in parentheses instead of brackets. This is confusing as there appear a number of words and expressions that were enclosed in parentheses by the writers of the letters. In most cases a reader can correctly judge the authorship of the enclosed matter but not always (pp. 205, 287, 347). The printer has not done a good job, and sometimes it is hard to know where a letter ends. It is often not possible to tell whether omission marks indicate the deletion of matter by the editor or that something has been omitted because not legible. There are not a sufficient number of explanations to guide a reader not thoroughly familiar with the history of the times.

Robert Tyler, whose letters make up a large part of the volume, lived at Philadelphia for years before the opening of the Civil War. Because he believed that the seceding states should be allowed to go in peace, though he was "not in fact a disunionist," this son of a former President was driven from Pennsylvania after the beginning of hostilities. He served the Confederacy throughout the conflict, and later settled in Alabama where he practiced law for a time at Montgomery and then edited a newspaper, *The Montgomery Mail and Advertiser*. The following passage from a letter which he wrote to Buchanan (Montgomery, March 16, 1866), revealing how one who had fought and lost could bravely adjust

himself to new conditions, is one of the most fascinating things in the volume:

You must know that I have become the most *economical* person of your acquaintance—neither drink, smoke, or chew—never enter a Club or a Theater—in truth am a self supporting machine—sweep my own floor, make my own fires, cook my own food, clean my shoes, fetch my water & serve myself in all particulars except to wash my clothing. I sleep on a cot in my office. On Saturday evening I go to the country to see my family & remain with them untill Monday morning.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

Early Architects and Builders of Indiana is the title of a study of thirty-six pages by Mr. Lee Burns, an architect of Indianapolis and an active official in the Indiana Historical Society. This brief treatise is Number 3 of Volume XI, Indiana Historical Society *Publications*. It was issued as a separate early in the present year, and copies may be purchased at fifty cents each from the *Secretary* of the Society. The illustrations are unusually good. Anyone interested in fine old buildings and in matter pertaining to the designers of some of the best that were constructed in Indiana in earlier periods will enjoy this modest pamphlet by Mr. Burns.

President Otho Winger of Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana, has long been a student of the history and customs of the Indians who once occupied the valleys and prairies of Indiana. He has recently published two pamphlets dealing with Miami Indians and their habitat. The first was brought out in 1934 and the second in the present year. The earlier publication, a booklet of twenty-six pages carries the title, *The Ke Na Po Co Mo Co* (Eel River): *The Home of Little Turtle*. The second, called *The Last of the Miamis*, runs to thirty-eight pages. These two brief efforts to portray some of the interesting history of the Miami Indians were preceded by a still earlier pamphlet by President Winger, *The Frances Slocum Trail*. In each instance, the accounts are enlivened by illustrations. All were privately printed, and unfortunately a very limited number was published. The author expects to bring out a larger work at some future time, and all who have become acquainted with his brief studies are anxious that the appearance of such a volume shall not be long delayed.