Clair (Vol. II, 243-44), and Sargent to St. Clair (Vol. III, 399ff.). The Journal makes clear the curious combination of very large and very small affairs which made up territorial government.

Careful attention to cross references greatly facilitates the use of these volumes, and the notes to a vast number of related published and unpublished papers are invaluable. Students of local history will feel a particular gratitude for the care that has been taken in the identification of the many persons who appear as signers to petitions. No user of the volumes will fail to comment on the satisfactory inclusiveness of the Index.

NELLIE ARMSTRONG.


The publication of this volume marks the completion of the task of collecting and reprinting the legislation enacted by the territorial governments whose jurisdiction included the area which now constitutes the state of Indiana. The work of rendering these early laws readily available to the public was begun and carried forward in two earlier volumes, published in the Illinois Historical Collections, to which the present volume is, in a very real sense, a companion. The first of these preceding volumes, Laws of the Northwest Territory, 1788-1800, appeared in 1925 under the editorship of Theodore C. Pease; the next, Laws of Indiana Territory, 1801-1809, was edited by Francis S. Philbrick and published in 1930. The second volume was reprinted in 1931, with supplementary Indiana material, by the Indiana Historical Bureau.

The present volume covers the years from 1809, when Illinois Territory was carved out of Indiana Territory, to the admission of Indiana to statehood in 1816, and comprises the session laws enacted by the territorial general assembly during that period. A panoramic summary of the laws which constitute the body of the volume is set forth in a “Review of Legislation” to which the first eighty-five pages are de-
voted. In some instances, this summary includes references to legislation enacted prior to 1809 or subsequent to 1816.

The subjects dealt with in these early laws are indicative of the problems which confronted the inhabitants of the territory. Prominent in the list are laws regulating imprisonment for debt and specifying what property of a debtor should be exempt from execution. The status of negroes and mulattoes in the territory was a problem which called for legislative action. Acts which created new counties, fixed the location of county seats, regulated the method of conducting county business, and prescribed the organization of the local courts were numerous. As might be expected, laws pertaining to the militia accounted for a considerable part of the legislative output of the period, the militia act of 1814 covering more than sixty pages—a lengthy act for those days. This act appeared in the session laws with its own index, and five hundred copies were ordered separately printed.

Then, as now, taxation constituted an important subject of legislative action. For the most part, the taxes of the period were specific in their nature rather than \textit{ad valorem}; land, although taxed at a fixed sum per hundred acres, was commonly divided into three classes so that the better land would pay a higher rate. The use of the taxing power as a means of striking at practices which were considered socially undesirable is evidenced in the provisions of a tax law of 1813 to the effect that, while the annual tax on ferries should not exceed ten dollars, the tax on every billiard table was to be fifty dollars. Numerous acts for the relief of sheriffs who were unable, as tax collectors, to collect the taxes charged against them, indicate that tax delinquency was widespread. While the courts were authorized to grant divorces, legislative divorces were not uncommon. Other statutes typical of the period are those regulating the number of days which a person should be required to work on roads, penalizing the obstruction of navigable streams, providing bounties for the killing of wolves, and regulating the methods of electing public officials.

The session laws included in the volume are reprinted from original editions, many of which are now rare and relatively inaccessible. The value of the work is enhanced by the printing, as Appendix I, of the private acts of the assem-
blies of 1810 and 1814, which were originally printed with
the general acts of those sessions by title only and are here
reproduced from the enrolled acts in the office of the Secre-
tary of State. Certain memorials and joint resolutions of
general significance make up the contents of Appendix II.
In the third appendix the roster of territorial and county of-
ficials published in the Philbrick volume is brought down to
1816. The entire volume is excellently indexed.

The text of the legislation presented in the volume has
heretofore existed only in a fugitive form which will become
less and less generally accessible with the lapse of time. The
work of the editors and of the Historical Bureau, in making
this material readily available to research students, the bar,
and the general public, deserves the highest commendation.

Clyde F. Snyder.

A Kentuckian at the Court of the Tsars. By James Rood Rob-
$2.50, illustrated.

This volume deals with the ministry of Cassius M. Clay
to Russia 1861-62 and 1863-69. Mr. Clay was one of Ken-
tucky's most picturesque characters. Dr. Robertson's book
presents a fine biographical study of what was perhaps the
most dramatic and colorful decade in Mr. Clay's life of nine-
ty-three years. Though Mr. Clay would naturally have pre-
ferred a diplomatic position in England or France, a confer-
ence with President Lincoln led him to accept an appointment
to Russia. This was most fortunate as he was well fitted
for the Russian post and he soon came to refer to himself as
"a sentinel on the frontier" (p. 35). He had much in com-
mon with the upper classes of Russia and undertook to outdo
the Russian aristocracy in their own field. He became a
welcome guest at social functions and invitations to his din-
ers were not only accepted but sought after.

Mr. Clay's letters were sometimes curious diplomatic
documents, ranging over the whole field of international af-
fairs rather than being confined to specific issues. He was
of course vitally interested in the political and military con-
ditions in the United States and often made suggestions and
gave advice concerning these to Secretary Seward and Presi-
dent Lincoln. His correspondence also gives interesting char-
acterizations of personalities—rulers, foreign ministers,