

author did not write until he garnered and interpreted the facts.

The treatment of the "iron plantations," so widely scattered over Pennsylvania, is a fascinating story. The iron-making process, the changes in the means and methods of production, the ironmasters of the province who played important roles in the economic and political development of Pennsylvania, the mansions of the masters, the work and homes of the laborers, the mines, the forges, the furnaces—all these are carefully and even eloquently portrayed in the narrative. The last chapter (IX) of the little volume is an excellent summary of the history of the iron industry in Pennsylvania from 1716 to 1800. Handicapped by lack of capital, by the money and banking situation and by trade restrictions, nevertheless, "down to the period of the Revolution, the iron industry of Pennsylvania had achieved a normal growth." The author makes the very interesting (and no doubt correct) observation that but for the high stage of development reached by iron production before 1775, "the colonists would have been helpless in the struggle" for independence.

An extensive and very valuable bibliography accompanies the little volume and the index is adequate. The author deserves high praise for his careful research and careful writing. He has prepared a volume that will prove to be very useful to teachers and students of economic history, not only in Pennsylvania, but elsewhere, especially in every state where iron production was carried on in the eighteenth century. The book will also provide fascinating reading for any intelligent person who may pick it up. WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

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*Early Western Pennsylvania Politics.* By Russell J. Ferguson. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, 1938. Pp. xv, 300, map, illustrations.

Every general work on American history, short or long, has given some attention to political conditions in early western Pennsylvania. Comments in such works have usually been based on limited information, and it is well that a monograph dealing with the topic has at last appeared. The volume covers roughly the half century following 1773, with the quarter century lying between 1790 and 1815 strongly

stressed. A trained student, working on such a fascinating period of Pennsylvania history with quite adequate sources at his command, could not fail to produce a worth while volume.

It was in the era of the Whisky Insurrection that the Federalist and Republican parties were gradually forming behind Hamilton and Jefferson. It was a period of much confusion when some of the great actors on the stage did not understand the situation. Hamiltonians made a great deal of the overawing of the insurrectionists of western Pennsylvania by the army that marched across that state, and historians have since pretty generally given Washington, Hamilton and the troops credit for saving the newly formed government. At least they have credited them with carrying the federal government through the first dangerous threat to its newly created national power. The statement of the author that the insurrection, viewed in relation to the nation, "represented the first definite challenge to the sovereignty of the federal government" seems too strong. The assertion in the remainder of his sentence that "it also presented a definite challenge to the Federalist party" (p. 120) accords more fully with the facts, in the opinion of the reviewer. Indeed the first contention appears to be largely discredited by the matter presented in the remainder of the chapter (pp. 129-131).

The relationship of the Democratic Societies to the rebellion against the excise tax is briefly treated (p. 125). Inasmuch as President Washington placed much of the responsibility for the insurrection on these clubs, it would have been well to treat them more fully. A recent article by William Miller of New York University, entitled "The Democratic Societies and the Whisky Insurrection" (*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, July, 1938) shows the need of presenting the truth about these organizations.

It is more excusable in Pennsylvania than elsewhere during the presidencies of Washington, Adams and Jefferson to use the terms Republicans, Democrats and Democratic Republicans as interchangeable, but even there it is best to qualify the use of the latter two. The country-wide party name for Jefferson's party was Republican, and to use either of the other names with the same application too early is confusing.

The effects of the rise of commerce and manufacturing in Western Pennsylvania, accompanied as was this development by the appearance of a more wealthy class, are clearly presented. The democratic spirit that pervaded the western area of Pennsylvania in the period of the Whisky Insurrection, though it was somewhat quiescent for several years, quickly revived under the leadership of Jackson. Dr. Ferguson links the democracy of the period of the rise of the Jeffersonian Republicans with the rallying of the farmers of western Pennsylvania to Jackson in the eighteen-twenties, declaring that this area "did not 'go democratic' then—it had always been democratic. Jackson merely revived the spirit of a frontier democracy that had been lulled into inactivity for a time by visions of industrial affluence."

By his own admission in his Preface, the author has attempted "to portray the efforts of the people in a predominantly pioneer agricultural society [early western Pennsylvania] to find a solution for their social and economic problems through political action." The reviewer feels that he has fulfilled his purpose well, and believes that all students of party history will welcome his book.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

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*The Early Writings of Frederick Jackson Turner.* Compiled by Everett E. Edwards. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1938. Pp. xi, 316.

This very welcome volume not only reproduces the early writings of Turner but includes a list of all of his writings and an essay on "Turner's Formative Period" by Fulmer Mood. The "Preface" is from the pen of Louise Phelps Kellogg, and consists of brief comments on the contents of the volume.

The reprinted essays include: "The Significance of History" (1891); "Problems in American History" (1892); "The Character and Influence of the Indian Trade in Wisconsin" (1891); and "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893). The last, the most famous of the writings of Turner, and indeed the most famous essay ever written in the field of American history, was republished here in order to provide a new copy of the essay in the form in which it was published by the American Historical Society,