

Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York as centers of wholesale trade and the general reliance of the western merchants on eastern firms for goods. While the volume of western trade was relatively small it was nevertheless in a large measure responsible for road and canal building activities in the East during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The concluding section lists and discusses the types of mercantile organization, and it contains a lucid explanation of the complicated western money system such as bills of exchange, currency, credit structures, and the method of handling accounts.

The extensive bibliography and the generous number of footnotes reveal the extent to which Dr. Atherton has made use of mercantile records, personal reminiscences, newspapers, and other documentary materials. While this is essentially a monograph, the book deserves especial praise for its good, easy style and for the fact that this, unlike so many studies in economic history, is anything but dry.

OSCAR OSBURN WINTHER

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*The Moravian Mission on White River. Diaries and Letters May 5, 1799, to November 12, 1806.* Edited by Lawrence Henry Gipson. *Indiana Historical Collections*, XXIII, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1938. Pp. xv, 674, \$2.00.

This volume has been "in the making" for some twenty years. The late Arthur W. Brady of Anderson, Indiana, began even before the World War to collect the Diaries and Mission Letters relating to the Moravian Mission on White River, and made arrangements to have them translated and edited. Mr. Brady died in 1933. His manuscripts, incomplete and unedited, were entrusted to Dr. Christopher B. Coleman of the Indiana Historical Bureau. In looking about for a competent editor, Dr. Coleman naturally turned to Professor Gipson, who, before going to Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, had taught History for several years in Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana. With such a background, in addition to his recognized scholarly and editorial ability, no other person could have been found who could do the job so well. Before undertaking the task of editing these documents, however, Professor Gipson was

fortunate in having them translated by four members of the Moravian Church: Dr. H. E. Stocker, H. T. Frueauff, and Professor and Mrs. Samuel C. Zeller—all competent scholars. Thus, this volume emerges as the product of a number of minds. The real authors, those who faithfully penned the Diaries have long since died. Mr. Brady, too, has passed to his reward, as has Dr. H. E. Stocker.

On first thought, it might seem somewhat difficult to evaluate such a volume, representing the product of several individuals. But with the able editing that Professor Gipson has done, the task is not as difficult as it may appear. The *Diaries and Letters* will be indispensable in any study relating to the missionary work of the Moravian Church. For over two hundred years this church has devoted itself to mission enterprises in North and South America and in the islands of the sea. Much of historical information is gleaned from Professor Gipson's footnotes and editorial comments. Using the Diaries as a narrative, the editor leads us down numerous historical by-paths and reveals whole chapters of Indian history to the reader—chapters that almost over-shadow the events so meticulously described in the Diaries. Truth compels the statement that during the period of the Moravian Mission, from 1801 to 1806, little aid was given by William Henry Harrison, territorial governor of Indiana. No real effort was made for example to stop the liquor traffic. But, despite this lack of help, the Moravians carried on as best they could.

Many a reader of this *Magazine*, will want this volume in his library of Indiana History. It fills a gap—a brief one, it is true—but none-the-less a gap in Indian History that long since should have been filled. Two addresses of historical importance from Moravian missionaries, one to Governor William Henry Harrison, and one to Governor Arthur St. Clair are included. An excellent index of thirty-two pages concludes the book.

JOHN WM. OLIVER

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*The Rampaging Frontier.* By Thomas D. Clark. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1939. Pp. 350 (xiv, 15-350), \$3.00.

The sub-title of this unusual volume is "Manners and Humors of Pioneer Days in the South and Middle West," and