

four and five of the volume under review. The story of the four-year term as Governor of Indiana is not marked by dramatic events. Marshall was considered a radical by Indiana's confirmed conservatives, but he was a mild liberal, to say the most, who did not veer farther to the left than the middle of the road. The author portrays him truthfully as an executive who stands out well among the governors of his period.

The strength and independence of Marshall, coupled with the sanity and political genius of Taggart and the situation that developed in the Baltimore Convention of 1912, brought about the placing of Marshall on the ticket with Woodrow Wilson. Renominated with Wilson in 1916, Marshall served eight years as Vice-President. From the beginning of the extremely serious illness of President Wilson in October, 1919, to March, 1921, Marshall's post was a critical one. This was the most trying period of his public career, and he acquitted himself well. It was not what he did but what he didn't do that revealed elements of greatness in his make-up. Dr. Thomas has handled the last seventeen months of Wilson's second term with skill and without bias.

Marshall lived four rather uneventful years after he left the vice-presidential office, and a single chapter suffices for these years. Like many other public men, he was more conservative after the World War than before. Dr. Thomas says: "Marshall demonstrated a markedly growing conservatism as his years advanced." If this affected his standing, it increased the respect in which he was held in his home state. Much water has flowed under the bridge since the death of Marshall in 1925, and he has been somewhat forgotten. Nevertheless, a reading of the excellent biography which is now offered to the public will greatly interest numerous persons, especially citizens of Indiana, to all of whom it is highly recommended by the reviewer.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH

Home Missions on the American Frontier. By Colin B. Goodykoontz. The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1939. Pp. 460. \$3.50.

Religion was a significant phase or condition of American frontier life. Religion was ever present on the frontier—at times somnolent and yet at other times explosives.

as for example the Great Awakening at the middle of the eighteenth century and the Great Revival which began in Logan County, Kentucky in 1797.

Many eastern states feared the rise of the New West, but, while realizing that they could not stem the tide of the westward march, they felt they might at least guide its course. And so too did eastern churches feel about those of their flocks who formed a part of the great exodus. They felt the urgent need of saving their Western brethren from too much doctrinal and ritualistic heresy. One method of control or of regulation was the organization of Home Mission Societies in the East for the purpose of sending missionaries into the West, and it is to this subject that Professor Colin B. Goodykoontz, a student of Turner, has directed his attention in the book under review.

In this scholarly and interesting book, Professor Goodykoontz has emphasized the work of Congregationalists and Presbyterians, but he has by no means overlooked the home missionary work of other Protestant groups. Keeping in mind the chief reason for home missions, the author states that the movement was the result of many forces, namely Christian idealism, denominational rivalries, humanitarianism, nationalism, and, not least, enlightened self-interest. The movement resulted shortly after the War of 1812 in the formation of numerous societies, examples of which were the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Congregational Home Mission Society, Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education in the West (S. P. C. T. E. W.)

There is little question in the mind of the author but that the missionaries were generally high-minded individuals whose sole effort was the advancement of Christianity, albeit particular forms of it. Not infrequently, points out Goodykoontz, they were exponents of "muscular Christianity." For example, Methodist Peter Cartwright with his adherents at a meeting in Ohio bested a crowd of "lewd and base fellows, armed with dirks, clubs, knives, and horsewhips."

Indiana was within the field of home missionary work. Samuel J. Mills and John D. Schermerhorn, representing the Missionary Societies of Connecticut and Massachusetts, made

Indiana a part of their survey in 1812-13. In regard to Jefferson County, Indiana, one missionary wrote in 1827:

The people are poor & far from market labouriously engaged in improving & cultivating their new land. Society here is in an unformed state composed of persons from every part of the Union. . . . Religious sects are numerous & blind guides enough to swallow all the camels in Arabia—Some of these cant read—Some labour to preach down the Sabbath— & others to rob *Christ of his divinity*— . . . When shall this reign of ignorance & error cease in the West?

From Spencer, Indiana, came this report of 1831 from another missionary:

When I came here every thing was opposed to Presbyterians. . . . But the Lord blessed our course, and let me tell you the Devil stole away all my sermons . . . but one day I saw him at the door. I warned the congregation of the fact—then I gave the people one of the plainist talks ever mortals heard. . . .

The book is the result of careful and painstaking scholarship, it is fully documented, and it is well written. At the end is a twenty-four page bibliography and a good analytical index.

It is not without interest to note that at the time of writing, an Indianapolis newspaper is carrying a story on present work of the Home Missions Council. Its efforts are directed toward the new American frontier element, namely, the migratory sharecroppers of the South. Well might one ask: Was the frontier ever tamed?

OSCAR OSBURN WINTHER

William Salter: Western Torchbearer. By Philip D. Jordan, The Mississippi Valley Press, Oxford, Ohio, 1939. Pp. 273, \$3.50.

This book is the product of an author who seems to be well pleased with the choice of his subject, and who is qualified to give readers his view of one of the Congregational ministers who labored in the West. Dr. Jordan has previously published source material and articles on William Salter and some of his associates. He has had access to the valuable William Salter manuscript collections in the preparation of his work. With commendable objectivity and in a clear and subdued style, the author gives brief but significant events of Salter's career and the evolving territory and state of Iowa in which he toiled for some sixty-seven years.

William Salter, student at Andover Theological Seminary,