

lated vice and gambling, produced a haphazard architecture, created belief in free education, and moulded the refinements and ways of an urban world in a transitional period. Crude theatricals, such as "Our Eastern Cousin in Chicago," could be billed as easily as "Othello," and crime statistics could mount in spite of church-going. Even the strain of the Civil War did not swerve Chicago from becoming the *entrepôt* of the Middle West. In this period of "passion and prejudice" the city, overwhelmed with militaristic fervor, volunteered liberally, but did not forget to quarrel over Lincoln's policies and the state of the Union. And the city continued to grow --in population, in trade, and in wealth. By 1871, "America possessed no more interesting city than Chicago." It was primitive and modern, rural and urban, tawny and cultured. One beheld there vestiges of the pioneer community, so adequately described in the first volume of this series, and one also saw the beginnings of a metropolitan American community. Nothing seemed inconsistent to this city surging forward to meet a flaming destiny in 1871.

The Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, was, in effect, to burn away the primitive and to make room for modernity. How this fire started is still unknown, although several explanations have been offered. It is but fair to mention, however, that Mrs. O'Leary's cow is completely exonerated. That is, the evidence that the cow kicked over the lamp is no stronger than that against several other alleged culprits, including Providence, Communists, and a group of celebrating Irishmen.

The volume is attractively printed, is illustrated with contemporary maps and photographs, and contains fifteen appendices. Certainly, no historian of urban growth in the United States can ignore this study which bids fair to be a model.

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*Edward Livingston: Jeffersonian Republican and Jacksonian Democrat.* By William B. Hatcher, Louisiana State University Press, University, Louisiana, 1940. Pp. xvi, 518, illustrated, \$3.50.

This attractive volume, the second of the Southern Biography Series to be published, deals with Edward Livingston of New York and Louisiana. A brother of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, Edward first came to the front in

New York politics in the most active period of Aaron Burr, when the evolving Republican Party was weakened by the clashes between the Clintons and the Livingstons. Elected to the national House in 1795, he remained a member until 1802. He first won prominence on the national stage, when he stood with Albert Gallatin in the famous House fight against Jay's Treaty. Later, the two leaders fought together against the Alien and Sedition Acts. In 1801, he was regarded as one of the pivotal men during the desperate attempt of Federalists to elect Burr to the presidency. However, he voted for Jefferson on every ballot. In 1802, he was appointed by Jefferson to the office of United States Attorney for the District of New York. One of the duties of this office was the collection of federal taxes. It was one of the misfortunes of Livingston's life that he entrusted this duty to a subordinate whom he did not properly supervise. There was a serious defalcation, and Livingston lost his office. In 1804, he went to Louisiana. In time, he rose to eminence as a lawyer there. In 1823, he became again a member of the national House after an absence of nearly a quarter of a century. In 1829, he was elected to the Senate. In 1831, he became Secretary of State in Jackson's Cabinet, and, in 1833, was appointed minister to France.

Such a record of facts in relation to any able leader would make him a worthy subject for a biography. It has been the aim of Dr. Hatcher to deal impartially with Edward Livingston in each period of his career. He has shown with what energy Livingston played his part in the national House from 1795 to 1802. In his later and greater period on the national stage, the author has told simply and well the story of the achievements of Livingston. Secretary of State in Jackson's Cabinet during the nullification crisis of 1832-1833, Livingston rendered great service to the President and made a name for himself as one of the great interpreters of the Constitution. It was not only with these periods of political success as a national leader that Dr. Hatcher had to deal, but with the uncertain years from 1802 to 1823. This obscure period in the life of Livingston was very important, and it required more research and more skill to tell the story of those years than was necessary to present the better known portions of his career.

Dr. Hatcher has handled the misfortune that befell Livingston in the matter of the defalcation in New York with great fairness. He has done even better with the Louisiana years during which the transplanted New Yorker built himself up to a second and greater period of success. This is partly because a greater mass of materials was at hand as a basis for the study. Anyone who reads the six chapters relating to the years of upward climbing in Louisiana against great difficulties will learn much that is new. The new and prolonged controversy between Livingston and Jefferson is the most difficult phase of Livingston's life to handle. Whether Dr. Hatcher has arrived at correct conclusions in regard to all of the various points involved in this clash, the reviewer is unable to say. At any rate, the author has made an honest attempt to unravel the tangle. Livingston's course in relation to the Batture land was certainly open to question, but Jefferson possibly pushed him too relentlessly in the matter.

In conclusion, it must be said that Dr. Hatcher has written a high-class biography which is supplied with a good index, and a large and helpful bibliography. The story is well organized and Livingston's life is well interpreted. The Southern Biography Series has been well started with this volume and that dealing with *Felix Grundy* which preceded it. Other volumes will be awaited with interest.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH

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*Robert Dale Owen.* By Richard William Leopold. Harvard University Press, 1940. Pp. xiv, 470, illustrated, \$4.50.

In this welcome volume, Dr. Leopold has made a very real contribution. After making a long and critical study, he concludes that Robert Dale Owen was "one of the most versatile figures in an age of versatility." a man "who performed ably in many fields but achieved greatness in none." Since Owen has fallen into "unwarranted obscurity," it has seemed to the author to be a worth while task to recover the man by writing a "critical full length biography" based on the wide variety of materials available. In the course of his researches, the author discovered that Owen led three lives in three different periods, in each period responding to a different environment, and that, between these three periods of