

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

Owen's life, there was "only a tenuous connection." In addition to these fundamental keys to his subject's career, the author discovered that Owen, more than once, "came near to achieving lasting renown." It seems necessary to quote one longer passage from Dr. Leopold's "Preface":

A brilliant career in radical journalism was prevented only by his [Owen's] return in 1833 to the Indiana backwoods. If the influence of *Moral Physiology* could be accurately determined, he might be known as a leading pioneer writer on sociological problems. His name might have been enshrined in the annals of the Smithsonian Institution if he had not, apparently, disagreed with its first Secretary. His reputation as an educator might have been made secure if in 1852, after helping devise the Hoosier public school system, he had consented to run for the office of State Superintendent and thus perfect the organization. Had he not lived his most fruitful years in southern Indiana, he might today be remembered among feminists with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth C. Stanton and among abolitionists with William Lloyd Garrison and Theodore Dwight Weld. But these are all might-have-beens. The fact remains that Owen is largely forgotten, and the fault is partly his.

Having worked out these essential notions in regard to Owen from the study of abundant sources that he knew how to use, it remained only for the author to write the biography. The book is divided into three parts, of which the headings are: "The Reformer," "The Western Democrat," and "The Intellectual." To the first period, one hundred twenty pages are devoted; to the second, one hundred eighty-one; to the third, one hundred ten. Only three chapters of the seven that make up Part One of the biography are concerned with the New Harmony experiment launched by Robert Owen, the primary purpose of the volume being to portray the long public career of Robert Dale Owen. "The Western Democrat" has received more space than "The Reformer" or "The Intellectual," which seems correct. The results of Owen's efforts in his middle period are important and tangible. Did he not come closer to winning "lasting renown" as a political leader than earlier or later? Strange to say, however, the author failed to mention Owen's achievements in the field of politics or to explain why he did not actually attain greatness in that realm in the keen paragraph of his "Preface," quoted above.

It was not easy to prepare a biography of the versatile, almost-forgotten Robert Dale Owen, but Dr. Leopold has

made the man live again. He has recreated Owen as he was in his three periods. Often he was misunderstood and condemned because he was ahead of his age. As he labored in different fields, he was handicapped in some of them by the prejudices that his views evolved in others had produced against him. These phenomena of his life are brought out and his changing views and variety of labors are portrayed. Much spade-work was done and well done preliminary to the writing of this biography. In addition, the narrative is fine. The book makes fascinating reading. It will appeal to the general reading public. At the same time, since it is scholarly, well documented and accompanied by an extensive bibliography, it will find high favor with special students of history as well.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH

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*Camp Morton, 1861-1865: Indianapolis Prison Camp.* By Hattie Lou Winslow and Joseph R. H. Moore. Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, 1940. Pp. 156, illustrated, seventy-five cents.

This Study is No. 3 of the *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, XIII, comprising pages 227-383 of that volume. The seven chapters deal with Camp Morton mainly as one in which Confederate prisoners were cared for. In 1861, the Camp was used largely as a place for training Union soldiers, and, to this use, a chapter is given. No one can read the story of Camp Morton without being impressed with the many serious and multiplying problems that presented themselves to the various persons in charge of the Camp during the War. Housing, bedding, fuel, food, illness all furnished plenty of headaches to the officers. At the best, it would have been difficult to manage the Camp efficiently, but most of the time even the best of the executives assigned to duty worked under discouraging handicaps. The brightest days of the War for the prisoners at Camp Morton were during the regime of Col. Richard Owen in 1862. In the remaining years of the War, however, matters usually went from bad to worse. Much more could be told about this very interesting though very distressing bit of war-time history, but the story must be read to get the setting and the facts. If for no other reason, every northerner steeped in the traditions of the treatment of Union soldiers in Confederate prisons during the