an arrangement which penalizes the careful reader. The bibliography is neither critical nor annotated.

Readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* will find that this book will make a contribution to their knowledge, particularly of Indiana history. The lives of the Holmans extended throughout the nineteenth century and illustrated many aspects of Indiana history. This biography is an important addition to the historical literature of the state.


A worthwhile contribution to the understanding of the effect and the implications of the Civil War upon the life of the people of an essentially agrarian state is Professor Bettersworth's *Confederate Mississippi*. This is another in a group of scholarly monographs being brought out under the auspices of the Louisiana State University Press, which are throwing a new and keener light upon many hitherto little-known aspects of southern history. The author, a native Mississippian, assistant professor of history at Mississippi State College and now serving in the United States Navy, ably pictures the confusion and turmoil caused by the war.

The first chapters sketch in the background for the coming struggle and describe the secession convention of January, 1861, which took Mississippi out of the Union and which reconvened in March, 1861, to pledge the allegiance of Mississippi to the new government of the Confederate States of America. Various aspects of life in Mississippi—political, economic and financial, social and religious—during the Civil War are then taken up separately.

A vivid and provocative picture of the governmental chaos in the state and in the Confederacy wrought by the necessity of meeting new political problems brought by the changed allegiance and by the stern problems of war make the chapter on "The Agony of Government" especially valuable. The slowing down of judicial activity, the almost complete breakdown of criminal justice, the passage of stay laws to prevent seizure of property for debts, and the futile attempts to provide an adequate state financial structure admirably illustrate general problems which plagued Mississippi officials during the war years. Perhaps the most valuable
parts of this volume are the five chapters which deal with economic and financial matters: “Wartime Finance, 1861-1863”; “The Financial Collapse”; “The Struggle for Economic Independence”; “Planter and Farmer in Wartime”; and “The Trade Through the Lines.” The lack of specie and the need for a circulating medium of exchange incited legislative attempts to help the financial life of the state by the issuance of state paper. Such attempts for the most part were disastrous, although, as Professor Bettersworth shows, Mississippi state notes depreciated less rapidly than Confederate currency. The twin evils of speculation and inflation added to the hardships of war suffered by the ordinary people. Too, the very presence of the negro slaves on large plantations was an economic liability. The curtailing of cotton production during the war left the negroes virtually useless as sources of profit. As “non-producing consumers” they became a drag upon a way of economic life which had been reduced to a subsistence economy by the circumscriptions and privations of war.

Professor Bettersworth has used the available manuscript and printed sources with skill and painstaking care. His interpretations are usually backed by a more than adequate array of sound evidence. It is to be regretted, however, that his style of writing leads him into devious paths of circumlocution which often obscure significant statements. Too, the author frequently predicates his narrative upon an assumption of a familiarity with certain not-too-basic facts, supposing a knowledge which even the professional historian may not always have. These minor flaws, while detracting from the book in the eyes of the general reader, in no way impair the very real excellence of Confederate Mississippi. Dr. Bettersworth is to be commended for having done an excellent piece of research, which reveals with piercing clarity the manifold political, social, and economic problems facing the state of Mississippi and the Confederacy in those war years.

Oscar S. Dooley


In writing *The Little Giant*, Mrs. Nolan has created a biography which is at once entertaining and instructional to a