

portance to historical knowledge. Aside from their inherent interest and the special uses pointed out above, perhaps the chief contributions of the book lie in its addition to the total store of printed documents available to the historian and in the fact that it contains in compact form Cahokian documents held in widely separated locations.

Indiana University

Frances Krauskopf

Franklin, Jonathan Williams and William Pitt. A Letter of January 21, 1775. By Bernhard Knollenberg. (Bloomington, Indiana University Library Publications, No. I, 1949, pp. 24. \$1.00.)

The publication of this brochure marks the initial step in disseminating to the public a knowledge of the rich special collections of the Indiana University Library. The proposed series, supervised by Robert A. Miller and Cecil K. Byrd, is "designed to make better known to students the source materials in the Library." The core of this pamphlet is a letter written by Jonathan Williams, Benjamin Franklin's great-nephew, describing the debate in the House of Lords, January 20, 1775, in which William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, proposed "that immediate orders may be dispatched to General Gage for removing His Majestys Forces from the Town of Boston." In his introduction Bernhard Knollenberg describes the background of this "crucial moment in British and American history" particularly as it relates to Franklin and Chatham.

The letter is of interest to Anglo-American historians as a supplement to Franklin's "Account of Negotiations in London" and as a capable report of the debate in which Chatham played the leading role. Dr. Knollenberg's assertion that it is "superior in terseness and vivacity" to the reports of Josiah Quincy, Jr., and Hugh Boyd is not necessarily proof of its accuracy. The manuscript serves rather to strengthen the phraseology of Quincy's report by linking it more closely with Boyd's thus lending more authority to Chatham's comments on the Continental Congress and supplementing Quincy's version of the opening sentences which Boyd missed. At the same time it corroborates portions of the version printed by George Kearsley (*The speech of the right honourable the Earl of Chatham*) which was with-

drawn at that speaker's request. Correlation and comparison of these and several other extant reports will be of value in clarifying not only Chatham's statements, but those of succeeding speakers in the debate.

Dr. Knollenberg's introduction suffers in that he did not see fit to consider the problem in the light of English politics. The significance of Chatham's actions should be read with an eye to Horace Walpole's jibe of "ridiculous" and Edmund Burke's judgment that "more would have been in the minority, if Lord Chatham had thought proper to give notice of his motion to the proper people." The division on the motion is given as 18-77, an error possibly derived from the Quincy report. Similarly, the editor has retained the manuscript spelling of "Shelden" for John Selden. A misplaced emphasis upon the danger in reporting parliamentary debates is based upon references which do not apply to the period under discussion, and in any case ignores the actual conditions in 1775.

These minor flaws hardly detract from the interest and contribution of the manuscript here offered to the academic world. With a wide variety of material to draw upon, further "Indiana University Library Publications" will be awaited with anticipation.

Indiana University

Robert R. Rea

The Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century, 1607-1689. By Wesley F. Craven. *A History of the South*, edited by Wendell H. Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter, Volume I. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press and the Littlefield Fund for Southern History of the University of Texas, 1949, pp. xv, 451. Illustrations and bibliography. \$6.00.)

The author of the first volume of this ten-volume history of the South is a native Southerner, a professor of history at New York University, and an editor and author of other volumes in the colonial field. His *Dissolution of the Virginia Company* appeared in 1932, *An Introduction to the History of Bermuda* in 1938, and *The Journal of Richard Norwood, Surveyor of Bermuda* (edited jointly with Walter B. Hayward) in 1945. The opening statements in the preface also help in understanding the author's viewpoint. "To write