

believing that the majority of readers were conservative, he wrote to Randall that his book "on this score alone will far outlive the work of your rival." Accordingly he wrote reviews and did all possible to promote the widest distribution of *The Life of Jefferson*. However, the country was less conservative than these correspondents had hoped. In his letter of August 20, 1860, Randall revealed that he was active in the campaign of Breckinridge and Lane in New York. In the last letter of the series Grigsby volunteered, "I was sad unto death" when South Carolina seceded.

This volume is worthy of highest commendation.

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Raymond J. Reece

The Territorial Papers of the United States. Compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. Volume XVIII, *The Territory of Alabama, 1817-1819*. (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1952, pp. xiii, 875. Index. \$5.50.)

This volume contains the official records of the Territory of Alabama as found in the Archives of the United States. The subject matter is essentially a continuation of volumes V and VI (*The Territory of Mississippi, 1798-1817*). In fact, there is a chronological overlapping between volume VI and the introductory portion of the present work. Hardly more than a score of the more than 950 papers in this volume can be found elsewhere in printed form. Information previously difficult to secure is now easily accessible in regard to complicated land claims (which by the editor's own admission "occupied more of the attention of the officers and people of the territory than any other set of events"), intricate local politics, difficulties with the postal service, defense of the territory, demands for more democracy in government, and many other matters important to local historians.

The general principles laid down for previous volumes have been followed. As hitherto, documents on diplomatic, Indian, and military affairs are included only when they have a special significance for the territory. The Alabama Territory was in existence only two years and had only one governor, William Wyatt Bibb. Yet the relevant documents are so vast, even within well-defined limits, that the editor

was compelled to omit many of them. Although it is regrettable that funds were not available to print a larger number of these papers, the reviewer feels that under Carter's guidance the selections were made with fine historical judgment and intelligence.

The administration of the territory, as in previous volumes, is made the principal basis on which the volume is predicated. The selections made are taken chiefly from the archives of the Departments of State, Treasury, War, Post Office, and Interior, from the manuscript division of the Library of Congress, and from the House and Senate files. Many cross references are made to masses of related materials elsewhere, including secondary authorities.

The documents relating to the Federal Road and the difficulties of transportation in the territory are of especial interest. Papers relating to the Panic of 1819 indicate excessive speculation in public lands in the territory. When the credit system of land sales was abolished in 1820, Alabama had amassed a land debt of eleven million dollars, more than half the land debt of the entire country. The deposit of land revenues in the territorial banks, especially those at Huntsville and St. Stephens, promoted slack banking principles, which brought outspoken criticism from the Treasury Department in Washington.

The index to this volume is detailed and accurate. The work forms a worthy addition to the previous seventeen volumes on territorial history.

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Malcolm C. McMillan

The Army Air Forces in World War II. Edited by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate. Volume III, *Europe: Argument to V-E Day January 1944 to May 1945.* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1951, pp. xxxix, 948. Illustrations, map, charts, glossary, and index. \$8.50.)

This volume, the third in a projected seven-volume history of the Air Forces in World War II, tends to complete one of three themes into which the editors have divided the study. Volumes one through three have as their primary consideration the air operation against the European Axis.