

The author asserts: "This has been a factual recital No flourishes of style or memorable passages adorn the presentation. The record of double-dealing is eloquent without purple prose" (p. 185). This is hardly an accurate statement, however, because the volume is liberally sprinkled with such "flourishes of style" as: "this deception was perpetrated"; "that [the treaty] . . . was fraudulent in intent is indubitable"; "no scruples restrained his [William Henry Harrison's] remorseless pressure, prevarication, and deceit in victimizing the tribes over whom he had browbeating sway"; "no iota of moral compunction entered into the dispossession of the Indians"; "sordid motives . . . permeated with fraud"; "relentless white intrusion"; "fraught with . . . sordid manoeuvres"; "sordid blackguardism"; "orgy of fraud"; and "orgy of exploitation" (pp. 14, 17, 35-36, 58, 37, 48, 53, 97, 99, 111).

According to the author, his findings are from "documentary sources, augmented by findings of reliable authorities" (p. 185), which he variously describes, for example, as "without a peer in the legal angle of Indian Affairs" (p. 176), "a foremost authority" (p. 166), "a prime authority on the frontier history" (p. 116), "a careful and qualified regional historian" (p. 112). As accurately as these labels may describe the historians and writers concerned, however, quoting them out of context sometimes conveys the wrong impressions.

American Indians Dispossessed presents a picture that is completely negative. It does not present the whole story. It rejects as inadequate and unsatisfactory every effort that has and is being made to right the wrongs herein depicted. It offers no constructive suggestions to improve the situation. The reader is inclined to gain a feeling of hopelessness and futility for the Indian and a sense of purposelessness for the volume.

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The Meaning of America; Essays Toward an Understanding of the American Spirit. By Leland D. Baldwin. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1955, pp. 319. Maps and bibliography. \$4.00.)

The title of the volume would seem to imply an essay of something like two hundred pages, more or less, but the subtitle, "Essays Toward an Understanding of the American Spirit," suggests something different. The headings selected

for the sixteen chapters that make up the volume reveal a rather unusual treatment of such a subject as "The Meaning of America." The reviewer cannot avoid wondering why the author did not write a single essay on his chosen subject and avoid reproducing so much of what had appeared in previous writings.

Under any plan, such a subject as "The Meaning of America" would be difficult to handle, but to accomplish something definite by writing sixteen chapters with a variety of titles seems to have been a daring venture. At best, the resulting volume seems to call for a further effort based on its contents, perhaps, but nevertheless a single essay with the title, "The Meaning of America."

The sixteen chapters that make up the book under review are not historical narratives, but each is in the nature of a discussion, and, in these chapters, the author expresses a multitude of opinions. Among the chapter headings are included the following: "Hamilton and Jefferson"; "The Rampageous West"; "The Southern Search for a Veto"; "The Gospel of Wealth"; "The Pragmatic Challenge"; "The New Deal and the Welfare State"; and "How Fares the American Mission." These are seven of the sixteen chapter titles, the last being the heading of the final, or sixteenth, chapter of the volume.

Presumably the final chapter should reveal the author's conception of "The Meaning of America," but it seems to leave the reader guessing. Perhaps the author is wise in not trying to state too definitely the *meaning* of America, since such a statement is indeed difficult to fashion. One does not need to fear to hazard an opinion that Baldwin and many other thinkers will have the opportunity to give thought to the question that he has raised for some years to come.

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The Voyageur. By Grace L. Nute. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1955, pp. viii, 289. Reprint edition. Illustrations, end map, and index. \$4.00.)

In 1931 there was published at New York Grace Lee Nute's excellent story of *The Voyageur*. Now, twenty-five years later, the original edition having long been out of print, the Minnesota Historical Society has issued a second printing of the book.

The *voyageur* as a class has long since vanished from the world. Yet for more than a century he played an indispensable role in the operations of the fur trade. Gay-