

George Washington in the Ohio Valley. By Hugh Cleland. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1955. Pp. xvi, 405. Maps, illustrations, and index. \$5.00.)

The publication of Professor Cleland's book is particularly well timed, coming in the midst of the bicentennial anniversary of Washington's initial journeys into the upper Ohio Valley. In the narrative the author has depended predominantly upon the writings of Washington, but on occasion he has supplemented this source rather liberally from letters and journals particularly when Washington is silent or when there seems to be a discrepancy in his accounts and the accounts of others. The work is concerned with Washington's seven trips into the "Western country" to deal with the problems of the frontier. The first of these expeditions occurred in 1753 when, as a young major of twenty-one, Washington was commissioned by Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie to carry a letter to the French at Fort LeBoeuf. From this beginning, the story is carried to the decade of the 1790's, shortly before Washington retired from public life.

As a result of attempting to relate some of the important early history of the upper Ohio Valley, with particular attention given to Pittsburgh and its immediate vicinity, "in the words of one of its most distinguished visitors, George Washington" (p. vii), the book tends to lack continuity. This fact is of great importance if the book is directed, as the author has suggested, "to people who like to read history rather than professional historians" (p. vii). Dr. Cleland has, however, made short prefatory remarks at the beginning of each new section of the book which aid in overcoming this lack of continuity. In these brief paragraphs an attempt is made to bridge the rather large gaps and to set the scene for each new episode.

Because of the many place names used and the various routes described at one time or another in the book, it is unfortunate that the author did not see fit to use maps more extensively throughout the narrative. Only three maps are reproduced in the book and these are not placed particularly well to lend themselves for immediate reference by the reader. Again, this is a shortcoming that tends to be magnified if the book is directed toward the non-professional historian. Another rather serious omission is the lack of

a bibliography. One wonders many times throughout the book what Professor Cleland's sources are when he augments content by remarks in footnotes.

Perhaps the author has succeeded in writing an account that will be used by the "average" reader. And if this be true, perhaps this is justification enough for the labor. It is certainly true that the book contains many interesting commentaries on such subjects as early military life, early modes of travel, methods of dealing with the Indians as well as the chicanery of the red man, and early politics.

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The Presbyterian Enterprise; Sources of American Presbyterian History. Edited by Maurice W. Armstrong, Leferts A. Loetscher, and Charles A. Anderson. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1956. Pp. 336. Appendix and index. \$4.50.)

This book was prepared and published in connection with the celebration in 1956 of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first presbytery. The editors, all of whom are well versed in the history of American Presbyterianism, have gathered together approximately 170 manuscripts—letters, journals, diaries, periodicals, minutes, and other documents which give a vital, warm glimpse into the lives of the men and women who *were* the Presbyterian Church—from colonial times to the present. The documents have been carefully chosen and skillfully edited, with editorial explanations preceding each document.

Part I deals with colonial Presbyterianism, beginning with the minutes of the first presbytery in 1706. It includes the organization and work of the church down through the adoption of standards in the "Adopting Act of 1729." Chapter two of this section relates to the Great Awakening, which divided the Synod (organized in 1717), but which swept thousands into the churches and stimulated the organization of educational institutions and development of democracy. There are interesting documents relating to: the "Log College"; revivals; Gilbert Tennent's sermon in 1740 on the "danger of an unconverted ministry"; the missionary activities of David Brainerd and others; the estab-