

that with the advent of the twentieth century, the church made an "adjustment." The Confession of Faith was revised and the Book of Common Worship introduced. Particularly during World War I, the church carried on missionary and welfare activities among the laboring people; it went through a fundamentalist controversy; it suffered with the people during the Great Depression. It also took the view that the essential doctrines of the church had to be confirmed by the majority of the presbyteries.

The final chapter reveals intimations of fresh creativity since 1937. Chaplains brought spiritual encouragement to men in the armed forces during World War II; the church launched a "reconstruction fund"; and the New Life Movement brought renewed spiritual vigor to local churches. Christian work on college and university campuses increased perceptibly, and more interest was taken in international affairs and in the quest of social justice.

A six-page "List of Documents Quoted" and an adequate index round out a volume which should prove invaluable to students of American church history.

University of North Carolina

Hugh T. Lefler

Ill Feeling in the Era of Good Feeling: Western Pennsylvania Political Battles, 1815-1825. By James A. Kehl. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1956. Pp. xiii, 271. Map, illustrations, bibliography, appendices, and index. \$4.00.)

Historical research has gone far toward demolishing the interpretation of the decade following the War of 1812 as an "Era of Good Feelings," if indeed such an interpretation ever was accepted by careful scholars. The one-party situation prevailing during the administration of James Monroe actually stimulated personal rivalries and political proliferation. The Panic of 1819, followed by a depression, as well as the acrimonious debate concerning the admission of Missouri to the Union, furthermore, did not produce "good feelings." Conflicting economic, social, and sectional interests persisted in the years of the "New Nationalism."

In a study of fifteen trans-Allegheny counties of Pennsylvania in this period, James A. Kehl joins others in concluding that there were many ill feelings, at least up to

1825. His purpose is to analyze the characteristics of the area and to give an account of the political battles waged there. Drawing principally from the local newspapers for his sources, he describes the minutiae of party alignments and instrumentalities in an informative though ponderous manner. The wing of the Republican party favoring the "delegate" or "caucus" system, as opposed to the "Independent Republicans" (including some unreconstructed Federalists), contributed to the evolution of the "convention" device of nominating candidates and drafting platforms by the middle 1820's. Local "committees of vigilance" and "committees of correspondence" carried on the organizational work of directing campaigns. Mr. Kehl transmits to the reader his thorough familiarity with these conditions, especially with the role of the press. He concludes with a treatment of the elections in western Pennsylvania and demonstrates that area's overwhelming support of Andrew Jackson in 1824.

The author disagrees with Frederick Jackson Turner that the Ohio Valley had essentially uniform characteristics. He finds western Pennsylvania to be a region by itself with its own traits. It was, he asserts, "Western in attitude, but had to depend upon a legislature at Harrisburg that was largely eastern in sympathy" (p. 12). Thus, unlike Ohio, Pennsylvania did not offer an "economic sanctuary" for debtors. In several respects, says Mr. Kehl, state lines and the Alleghenies marked off a distinctive region with a consequently unique pattern of habits and attitudes. The thesis may be sound as applied to this decade of American history, but it would be tenuous if extended to earlier or later years.

Indiana University

Maurice G. Baxter

Frontier Politics and the Sectional Conflict: The Pacific Northwest on the Eve of the Civil War. By Robert W. Johannsen. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1955. Pp. xiii, 240. Illustrations, map, bibliography, and index. \$5.00.)

One of the less-well tilled fields in the history of American democracy is the evolution of self-government in the territories. Because of special circumstances, the experience in Kansas has been frequently referred to, but until recently