

tween arbitrary arrest (suspension of the privilege of habeas corpus) and military trial. The former was approved by Justice Davis in the majority opinion, and the latter was disapproved. Of course the Habeas Corpus Law of March 3, 1863, authorizing Lincoln's steps relative to arbitrary arrest, possibly removed some of Taney's objections in the Merryman case, since Congress had now acted. Nevertheless, something more than the Milligan decision was needed to "absolve" Taney.

Lincoln's Supreme Court is an excellent study of the relationship of Civil War politics and the Supreme Court. Valuable sources, particularly the Lincoln Papers, are utilized to great advantage. The general reader, as well as the historian, will find it interesting and reliable. The constitutional historian will not find an exhaustive analysis of the legal aspects of many problems, but the author did not intend to write that sort of book.

Indiana University

Maurice G. Baxter

Lincoln's Fifth Wheel: The Political History of the United States Sanitary Commission. By William Quentin Maxwell. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1956. Pp. xii, 372. Biographical notes, list of sources, bibliography, and index. \$5.00.)

Lincoln's Fifth Wheel is still another in the avalanche of books on the Civil War period now rolling off the press. These books have a ready market; for many this is their main reason to be, and one immediately raises the question as to the justification for this volume. The answer is that the book rests on a heretofore unused reservoir of material, and it covers a well-known but badly neglected feature of the war.

The author has plowed through the great mass of manuscripts now available on the period and found every bit of material that applies to his subject. He takes great satisfaction in this, not that it has netted much except the assurance that further pertinent evidence does not exist.

The writer, perhaps unwittingly, has added his bit to the current process of rejuvenating the New England tradition. He has helped line up the anti-slavery crusaders and their coadjutors for a second century's vogue. His great reliance

on the Olmstead manuscripts commits him. Contemporary opinion on the South and on slavery rested largely on Olmstead, and his persuasions are not absent from Maxwell's book. It is only fair to say that Maxwell has not sufficient material from other sources to enable him to exercise the historian's right of sitting in judgment.

In style the book is in the tradition of those who consider Parkman to be the greatest American historian. It is exceptionally well written for one forged from a mass of research data rather than from long experience and love of the field.

For informative content the book is very much worth while. Through it the lover of detail can go to a great battlefield and see the terrible aftermath of battle. He can also get a good idea of how everyday details were handled in the army: sanitation, mess, medication, etc. Those interested in the clash with politics, the impact of personalities, and the battle royal between Sanitary Commission and Christian Commission will also be well rewarded.

There are areas where one would like more information from the materials used even at the expense of going beyond the scope of the book. For instance, more on the struggle to control the policies of the administration might have been added, and also more on the clash of East-West sectionalism. Because of the nature of the materials used, the history of the Commission as written by Maxwell must of necessity be Eastern, and the author does not challenge Eastern priority. More about Frank Blair would have been pertinent. Henry J. Raymond seems to act out of pattern. What is behind it? New England proponents complain of the selfishness of the Pennsylvanians, and say that there is a large Philadelphia contingent in the affairs of the Commission. One would like to know more of the political implications of this charge.

DePauw University

A. W. Crandall

La Follette and the Rise of the Progressives in Wisconsin. By Robert S. Maxwell. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1956. Pp. xii, 271. Frontispiece, illustrations, notes to the text, bibliography, and index. \$4.50.)

Although a relatively large number of books have been written about the Wisconsin Idea, Wisconsin Progressivism,