

Book Reviews

The British Empire Before the American Revolution. Volume IX, The Triumphant Empire: New Responsibilities Within the Enlarged Empire, 1763-1766. By Lawrence Henry Gipson. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956. Pp. xlv, 345. Preface, chronology, maps and plans, index. \$7.50.)

There are distinct problems in giving a fully satisfactory judgment of this ninth volume in a series of eleven by Professor Gipson. It will be far easier to assess its success when, in his future volumes, the author deals with the question of the estrangement of Great Britain and her North American colonies. Here, Professor Gipson has purposely omitted any detailed discussion of the relations between Great Britain and her older American continental colonies in these years from 1763 to 1766. His avowed object is to present a careful analysis of developments within the territorial acquisitions gained by Great Britain as a result of the Great War for Empire, and to reserve consideration of the background of the Revolutionary War for a future volume. Thus the Stamp Act and the subsequent American discontent are not treated in this work. In reaction to the many historians who have insisted on considering this period as merely a background to the Revolutionary War, Professor Gipson contents himself with a detailed treatment of the methods used by Great Britain to cope with her new territorial acquisitions.

After rapidly surveying the framework of the Empire and the domestic political scene, Professor Gipson discusses, in turn, the different areas of concern to Great Britain in these years. The second chapter of the book, on the domestic political scene, is the one section which would have benefited from a more detailed treatment. Space could, perhaps, have been obtained by a more rigorous pruning of the fourth chapter, on the Cherokee War of 1759-1761, which follows the brief chapter summarizing the evolution of the Proclamation of 1763. After a discussion of the Indian uprising of 1763, Professor Gipson proceeds to the most valuable part of the book—a detailed consideration of developments in the widely scattered, and recently obtained, territorial possessions of Great Britain. He presents, in turn, an invaluable

discussion of political and constitutional developments in Nova Scotia, Canada, East and West Florida, and the ceded West Indian islands. The author concludes the volume with an excellent survey of the establishment of the political power of the East India Company in India.

There can be no doubt of Professor Gipson's extensive knowledge of this period. In this, as in his earlier volumes, he demonstrates repeatedly his vast knowledge of both the primary and the secondary sources. His careful presentation of the many facets of British policy emphasizes the fact that British imperial history in this period cannot be treated as pointing inevitably towards the Revolutionary War. The work is invaluable in demonstrating the complexity of problems facing the British government and the manner in which it dealt with them. Professor Gipson's sympathy for the British point of view is most refreshing in dealing with this period, which so often leads American historians into writing with a pronounced national bias. He reaches the conclusion that the British record in this period is "far from discreditable," and, in surveying the relations of Great Britain with the new acquisitions, he finds little to indicate the storm brewing in the older colonies.

The main criticisms that can be levelled at Professor Gipson's work concern its clarity. His subject of political and administrative developments in widely differing areas of the globe naturally presents problems of unity, which Professor Gipson in general overcomes. Yet, at times, the main theme is lost in the complexity of detail. One is left with the impression that the overall effect would have been enhanced, and the author's points made just as effectively, by a reduction in the amount of illustrative detail. This occasional obscurity is aided by the nature of Professor Gipson's style. His love for the long, multi-claused sentence slows the pace of the narrative and decreases its effectiveness.

Yet, even when these minor criticisms are taken into consideration, there remains no doubt that Professor Gipson is doing an indispensable service in writing his multi-volumed survey of the British Empire before the American Revolution. His incomparable knowledge of the innumerable sources, and his careful standard of accuracy, make these volumes an invaluable reference work on these years. The

present volume compares favorably with the others of the series, and retains the excellent format, numerous maps, and fine index of the earlier volumes. As he nears the completion of his Herculean task, Professor Gipson can look back with satisfaction on a series of volumes distinguished for their breadth of approach and for their fine scholarship. His readers can look forward with pleasure to his final volumes.

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Revolution in America: Confidential Letters and Journals 1776-1784 of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian Forces. Translated and annotated by Bernhard A. Uhlendorf. (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1957. Pp. xiv, 640. Illustrations, maps, and index. \$9.00.)

Baurmeister's ninety-four letters and journals, dated from September 2, 1776, to April 23, 1784, provide an uninterrupted narrative of the American Revolution.

Baurmeister, a shrewd observer and a professional soldier, reported to his superior, the Minister of State of Hesse-Cassel, on the military and naval, social and economic aspects of the War for American Independence. He was attached to Hessian headquarters and for a while to the British general staff. Baurmeister was therefore in a position to report, without prejudice, most of the important events of this war because he had no "patriotic ties to either side." His military observations are interesting and usually reliable. He omitted none of the important battles; therefore, he was able to report firsthand on the battles of Long Island, Brooklyn, Harlem, White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown (British occupation of Philadelphia), Monmouth, Saratoga, and on many minor engagements. These reports are not only impartial, but they add a quality of freshness to the issues of the time.

When Lord Cornwallis carried the fight to the South in 1780, Baurmeister continued to keep his superior in Europe informed of the outcome of each battle. Since much of his information was received from deserters and refugees, Baurmeister's reports are not so authoritative. For example, he often wrote "it is possible" (p. 413); it is "claimed" (p.