

Clash of Cavalry: The Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863. By Fairfax Downey. (New York: David McKay Co., Inc., 1959. Pp. xv, 238. Illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, indices. \$4.95.)

Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War. Reproduction. By Alexander Gardner. Introduction by E. F. Bleiler. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1959. No pagination. Numerous illustrations, index. \$6.00.)

On the morning of June 9, 1863, the Union cavalry corps under Brigadier General Alfred Pleasonton crossed the Rappahannock River on a reconnaissance in force and surprised the Confederate cavalry under Major General J. E. B. Stuart at Brandy Station, Virginia. The fighting that resulted was the zenith of American cavalry action.

In *Clash of Cavalry*, Fairfax Downey ranges from the topic of the feelings of a northern trooper before the battle to a vivid description of the attacks of the Union divisions. Clearly described are the countermoves of the Confederates, the failure of Colonel Duffié's Union division to reach Brandy Station, and finally the confused and bitter fighting for Fleetwood Hill—the key spot of the battle.

Clash of Cavalry is more than an account of the strategy and tactics of a cavalry engagement. The book includes a study of the training and equipment of the cavalryman and discusses the use of cavalry forces in the Civil War. There is also a comparison of Confederate and Union cavalry that explains the superiority of the southern cavalry during the first years of the war. Pictures of some of the important cavalry leaders, short evaluations of their training and abilities, plus side lights about the manual on the saber, and poems and songs of the cavalry troops give background to the battle.

Some criticisms can be noted. The battle maps are good, but clearer reproductions would be more helpful. A more detailed explanation of Colonel Duffié's failure to press home his attack along the Stevensburg road would have been valuable. *Clash of Cavalry* should be interesting, however, for both the student and general reader. It is an exciting and vividly told story of an important Civil War cavalry battle.

Another vividly told story of the Civil War appears in *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book*. Alexander Gardner (1821-1882) was a Scotsman whom Mathew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer, brought to America in 1856. By 1858 Gardner was head of Brady's Washington "gallery," and there he made his famous studies of Lincoln and other contemporary leaders. When the Civil War broke out, Gardner followed the armies with a horse-drawn darkroom and made many historic photographs of the conflict, and in 1863 he formed his own photographic organization in Washington.

In 1866, Gardner published *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War*. This publication was in two volumes and contained one hundred photographs taken by Gardner and members of his organization. A text, probably written by Gardner, accompanied each photograph. Few copies of the 1866 edition were sold, and in recent years this collection of Civil War photographs has become a collector's item.

The present volume is a reproduction of the original two volumes in their entirety, and was made possible by the cooperation of the University of Pennsylvania Library, which loaned its copy of the original edition for reproduction. Reproduced on quality paper and in the same size as in the original, the photographs show unusual crispness and clarity of detail. Though partisan and including some editorial comments that would be questioned by Civil War students of today, the text contributes to the understanding of each photograph. An index to both the text and photographs plus an introduction by E. F. Bleiler that provides the reader with general background on the collection and an explanation of the photographic processes at the time of the Civil War, are useful additions to the present volume. *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War* should be an interesting and delightful addition to the library of the Civil War buff.

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Republicans Face the Southern Question: The New Departure Years, 1877-1897. By Vincent P. De Santis. *The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science*, Series LXXVII (1959), Number 1. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1959. Pp. 275. Tables, index. Paperbound, \$4.00; cloth, \$5.00.)

The "Southern Question" has plagued the American public and the American politician for over a century. Before 1860 it revolved around the "sinfulness" of the slavocracy; during Reconstruction it included the controversies relating to the Negro, the Civil War, and military occupation of the South; after 1880, it involved treatment of the Negro, the one-party system, and the possible economic exploitation of the South. The latter three problems are with the country today.

In *Republicans Face the Southern Question* Dr. Vincent De Santis, of Notre Dame University, neglects the broad implications of his title and examines only the attempts of the Republicans to regain their position in the South after 1877. Primarily, the volume is even narrower in scope; it is the story of the efforts of four Republican presidents, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, and Harrison, to garner votes for their party in the former Confederate states. De Santis believes that the Republican party has consistently worked to "break up the Democratic South" and states that "Republican lack of success in the South has not been from a lack of effort" (p. 12). But as his volume itself indicates, few Republicans outside the White House ever gave much attention to the South; fewer still spent campaign money there. And the presidents, a cynic might charge, were interested in the area only because of its votes in the nominating conventions.

But whatever their reasons, various presidents did try to rebuild the Republican party in the South. Hayes, after carrying only three southern states, and those probably because fellow Republicans were counting the ballots, tried conciliation. He attempted to build a "conservative" party by awarding patronage to former Whigs, then uneasy Bourbon Democrats, abandoning the policy of military occupation, and,