

Their wooded sides were mighty screens until their peaks were gained. And now the gaps, which pierced them and made them passable for marching armies, provided a new potential. They became entrances to a trap. (p. 75)

Here is the story of Chickamauga, the siege of Chattanooga and the opening of the "Cracker Line," the "Battle above the Clouds," the incredible "charge of the mule brigade" the great, dramatic battle of Missionary Ridge, climaxed by the unordered charge up the steep slopes—all in full color.

Again full appendices give further information: in this case, the steps for loading the rifle, the service of the artillery piece, the order of battle for both sides, a list of all commanders that includes regimental commanders, a roll of honor citations and comments, a collection of poems and songs inspired by the campaign, and a catalog of the artillery now found in the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park.

So long as the quality of these two volumes is maintained, the great flood of Civil War literature now coming is to be welcomed.

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*Hancock the Superb.* By Glenn Tucker. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1960. Pp. 368. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, bibliographical note, index. \$5.00.)

*Advance and Retreat: Personal Experiences in the United States & Confederate States Armies.* By J. B. Hood. Edited by Richard N. Current. *Civil War Centennial Series.* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1959. Pp. xiv, 376. Illustrations, maps, appendix, notes, index. \$6.00.)

*Wearing of the Gray: Being Personal Portraits, Scenes and Adventures of the War.* By John Esten Cooke. Edited by Philip Van Doren Stern. *Civil War Centennial Series.* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1959. Pp. xxii, 572. Illustrations, index. \$7.50.)

In the bibliographical note and acknowledgements to *Hancock the Superb*, the author states that "in the great recent output of Civil War literature, Winfield Scott Hancock has been neglected." It has further been stated by the author that while working on the material for his book, *High Tide at Gettysburg*, he became so impressed with "Hancock's outstanding generalship on each of the three days of the battle at Gettysburg" that he decided to make Hancock the subject of his next book.

It is apparent that this book is written with the express purpose of elevating Hancock from the ranks of the "neglected" into the ranks of the "superb." The author has amassed much evidence and presents it in a manner calculated to convince the reader that Hancock has been neglected too long.

This book does not have the neat transitions or the polished style of *High Tide at Gettysburg*. In some respects it gives the impression that it was hurried either in the writing or in the publication and that

a little more care on the part of the author or the publisher would have maintained the high standards established by Tucker's *High Tide at Gettysburg*.

Although the author seems to be straining to convince the reader that Hancock deserves more attention than historians have been prone to give him, he does make a plausible case. While the book has its weaknesses, it achieves the author's purpose of elevating Hancock. This book should be read by Civil War historians—particularly those who have an interest in Gettysburg.

The editor of *Advance and Retreat* has done an excellent job of explaining the shortcomings of the original narrative by Lieutenant General J. B. Hood of the Confederate army. The book is not an objective narrative nor an accurate history, but was written originally as an answer to some accusations which had been aimed at Hood. It is essentially an elaboration of the angry report Hood turned in shortly after he resigned from the army.

As a general, Hood does not rate among the "superb." At first glance, the reader might wonder why the Indiana University Press has reprinted an account which even the editor of the book admits has serious shortcomings. Hood's *Advance and Retreat* illustrates, however, the internal problems of the Confederate army and provides additional information about the fighting around Atlanta and the Tennessee campaign. Probably its greatest value is that it gives Hood's reply to his critics and throws some light on his actions during and after the Civil War. The book must be read, however, with a clear understanding that it is Hood's defense against criticisms aimed at him by his enemies. If the reader uses this approach, he will find the volume useful.

The *Wearing of the Gray* is a reprint of a book originally published in 1867. In the editor's Introduction, an interesting account of John Esten Cooke's life is given along with the observation that Cooke would have been relatively unimportant as a writer had it not been for these eyewitness sketches written during and after the Civil War.

Certainly the best parts of the book are those describing camp life and everyday incidents. Cooke writes in a vivid journalistic style. While the writing is colored by his personal feelings and attitudes, his report of Confederate military life is excellent. The reader should understand that the book is best from the standpoints of local color and personal interest. Its statements about the numbers of troops involved in battles should be compared with other sources which are perhaps more accurate in their statistics than Cooke.

The *Wearing of the Gray* is a book which will appeal to young students of history as well as to Civil War buffs. It is certainly one of the best sources for a personal report on the lives of some of the most famous Confederate generals. Particularly interesting are the accounts of General Stuart and his escapades, which are graphically discussed in this book. It is a volume which all Civil War readers will want on their book shelves.

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