Still, they refused to admit that error of opinion should also be tolerated. Had Cushing and Adams admitted that a good government could not be injured by false opinion, they would have developed a libertarian philosophy that was incompatible with the concept of seditious libel. The book concludes that the framers of the Constitution had a genius for studied imprecision. There is no evidence that they possessed ultimate wisdom or even the best insights on the meaning of freedom of expression. Their contribution was sufficient, however, in their recognition of the principle of freedom of speech and press in the Constitution in unqualified and undefined terms.

_Legacy of Suppression_ will take its place as a standard work on the development of our civil liberties and a guide for future writers on the subject.

_Eastern Illinois University_  
Richard M. Jellison


A welcome and delightfully entertaining addition to the literature produced by British visitors to the United States prior to 1850 is this republication of Captain Frederick Marryat's _Diary in America._ One of those fortunate few who enjoy more than one successful career, Marryat resigned his commission as captain in the British navy—retiring from a career of nearly a quarter-century that was marked by honor and personal bravery at sea—to attempt the almost equally hazardous life of literature. At the height of his popularity as a novelist he ventured to America; his object, in his own words, was "to examine and ascertain what were the effects of a democratic form of government and climate upon a people which, with all its foreign admixture, may still be considered as English" (p. 46). (Italics are Marryat's.) Arriving in New York in the spring of 1837, Marryat traveled widely during the eighteen months of his visit—from Washington, Louisville, and St. Louis on the south, through Canada on the north, and west into what is now Minnesota where he hobnobbed with Indians near Fort Snelling. First lionized, later vilified, he was in almost constant hot water with press and public. A speech he gave at Toronto praising the Canadian handling of the _Caroline_ affair and later bedroom adventures in Louisville, Kentucky, with the wife of a phrenologist provided news of his tour for his detractors.

More flippant than scholarly, Marryat reflects the same aristocratic prejudices as those of his junketing predecessor Miss Martineau. Possessed of the quick and artistic eye of the novelist, he is at his best when drawing word pictures of the sights, sounds, and smells of the America of the Jacksonian era. When one compares the results of his researches with those of his French contemporary De Tocqueville, the Englishman fares but poorly as a serious interpreter of American democracy. But Marryat could be perceptive, as in this observation worthy of the best in the Turner hypothesis: "We must always bear in mind
the peculiar and wonderful advantages of country [italics Marryat's] when we examine America and its form of government; for the country has had more to do with upholding this democracy than people might at first imagine” (p. 43). By country he meant “the vast extent and boundless resources of the territory” (p. 44).

Though Marryat enjoyed his tour, and his enjoyment is infectious, he was more favorably impressed with the natural resources and the scenic beauty of the United States (waterfalls fascinated him) than with the pushy, egalitarian Americans themselves. Eminently readable, his Diary is also very quotable and not ephemeral.

Professor Zanger's job of editing is extremely helpful. He does however make an error in the identification of Gros Cap (p. 320, note 4). The Gros Cap described by Marryat is the Gros Cap of Lake Superior about ten miles west of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and not the Gros Cap of Lake Michigan. Zanger includes a critical introduction of excellent quality in which he corrects earlier misinterpretations of Marryat's itinerary and offers a sound estimate of the historical and literary value of the Diary.

Purdue University

G. G. Hatheway


Edward Lurie, a trained historian, has used the techniques of his craft to prepare this satisfying full-length biography of the Swiss-born zoologist who became one of the leaders of science in the United States in the middle of the nineteenth century. Agassiz was educated in the best European universities, a friend of Cuvier and von Humboldt, and had a world-wide reputation for his studies of fossil fish and for his brilliant exposition of the action of glaciers as a geological force. In 1846 he was invited to Boston to deliver a series of lectures at Lowell Institute. He soon attracted such favorable attention as a well-informed scientist who could be understood by laymen that he was appointed professor of geology in the new Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard College. From his Boston friends Agassiz soon secured funds with which to begin research for a multivolume account of the zoology of America, initiate a study of fishes, and establish a museum for the study of comparative anatomy. For Agassiz the latter meant a collection of every kind of natural history object from all over the world.

Professor Lurie pictures Agassiz as a skillful teacher, an administrator, and researcher who started many projects on so large a scale that they were never completed, and as a person engaged in frequent controversy with his students and associates over credit for discoveries. Yet at the same time he is shown as possessed with the breadth of vision necessary to initiate the broad-scale development of scientific study and research in the United States. In cooperation with a handful of other top-flight scientists, Agassiz was most influential in securing government and private financial support and in putting competent