

and for what it covers, is a sizable rock. To this reviewer the most striking thing is the insistent, fresh emergence of the lines of James's character and personality. This long self-portrait is involuntary, unintended: James's conscious thought is directed only toward military concerns and family matters; his habit of mind is impersonal, factual; his angular style—which Mr. Sells regrets but follows with faithfulness—is cool, impersonal, almost stolid. We may take a decade-long look at the James found here, almost surprised to find him free of both the blackening and the lost-cause romanticism with which successive centuries have visited him.

The background needed to enjoy in perspective both the place of the Bouillon manuscript as a document and its contents as part of history is considerable and often complex. Under the editorial care of Mr. Sells this need is admirably met and fully met, except perhaps that one might wish included a single-scale map showing handily the areas of the various campaigns and their chief actions. Sir Arthur Bryant has written the Introduction—a factual, compact, leisurely life of James II, an example of modern scholarship's view of this oft-debated monarch. Mr. Randall's Preface has assembled the evidence available on sources for James II and set the Bouillon manuscript in its place. Furthermore, he and his associate, Percy Muir, together give the account of the discovery of the Bouillon manuscript—to be brief, any bibliophile engaged in summoning lawyer and priest would bid both wait while he heard this tale again. Mr. Sells, as editor and translator, meets with judgment and verve the delicate textual problems involved in translation and collation, and in his "Translator's Introduction" and in the notes illuminates the relevant background of the campaigns, of the individuals appearing in the text, and of those connected with the manuscript.

Altogether, Mr. Sells and his colleagues have set ready at hand for the student of the seventeenth century an instrument at once reliable, convenient, and, especially in the mathematician's sense of the word, elegant.

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American Suffrage from Property to Democracy, 1760-1860. By Chilton Williamson. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1960. Pp. x, 306. Index. \$6.00.)

At long last a volume has appeared that clears up most of the tangled web in which our suffrage history has been obscured. It is a book which is certainly not to be recommended to the casual reader but which should not be ignored by anyone wishing a clearer understanding of this country's democracy.

By doing a state by state survey of most of the Atlantic seaboard the author has shown that in pre-Revolutionary days the colonies all demanded at least a freehold qualification test for voting, but frequently this requirement was ignored and thus a broader suffrage was more often in existence than has been credited by historians.

To Williamson the turning point in the movement that led to eventual universal white manhood suffrage was the Revolution. During this period anti-British agitators and suffrage reformers found common cause in their struggle against Britain. This, then, marked the beginning of conscious involvement in suffrage reform that was to continue even into the present century.

The book treats in detail (sometimes to the reader's anguish) the struggle in each state for lessening of property qualifications that appeared in the post-Revolutionary period. The suffrage advances that Williamson records were made as a result sometimes of party politics, of soldiers' demands, and of southern attempts to line up nonslaveholding whites in a solid white front.

Turnerites are dealt a blow when Williamson in his shortest chapter points out that the New West made few contributions to suffrage. Instead the western states borrowed from the new advances of the seaboard states.

Often, almost as much an issue as suffrage was the idea of making voting procedures more democratic. Mr. Williamson records the complaints of voters about the necessity of traveling to distant polls and lack of secrecy in voting.

From the 1820's on, the suffrage issue was relegated to a minor role, bursting forth dramatically only in the Dorr Rebellion of the 1840's. But by the eve of the Civil War universal white manhood suffrage was a reality in the United States.

This is a book which will long be the last word on the subject of pre-Civil War suffrage reform in this country. Too much credit cannot be given Mr. Williamson for coming to grips with such a complex problem, nor too much praise for handling it so competently.

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Virginia Railroads in the Civil War. By Angus James Johnston, II.
(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, for the Virginia Historical Society, 1961. Pp. xiv, 336. Illustrations, tables, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

The importance of railroads in the Civil War has long been recognized by historians. Only recently, however, with the appearance of a glut of Civil War histories and extended studies dealing specifically with railroad history, has this importance been clearly demonstrated. Angus Johnston, in this meticulously detailed economic-military history of the role of Virginia's railroads in determining the outcome of that war, has offered the hypothesis that one of the major disadvantages of the South in the military competition between the differing economic structures of the blue and the gray was its transportation network. Having selected Virginia as the test site for his hypothesis because it contained the preponderance of southern railroad mileage and served, as well, as the major battleground of the war, the author concludes that without adequate transportation, principally railroads, the logistical problems encountered by the Confederacy were such as to determine in large measure the outcome of "the world's first modern railroad war."

The ineptitude of the southern government in dealing with the problem of adequate transportation, on the one hand, and northern