

*Cavalier and Yankee* is thoughtful, interesting, and valuable for the historian as well as the student of American literature. The author's insight into the minds of his subjects is often very impressive. The main defects are the book's lack of focus, dubious interpretations of ante bellum history, and an attempt to prove too much too precisely.

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*Under the Flag of the Nation: Diaries and Letters of a Yankee Volunteer in the Civil War.* Edited by Otto F. Bond. *Publications of the Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission*, Number 1. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, for the Ohio Historical Society, 1961. Pp. xi, 308. Illustrations, appendices. \$5.00.)

*Father Abraham's Children: Michigan Episodes in the Civil War.* By Frank B. Woodford. (Detroit, Mich.: Wayne State University Press, 1961. Pp. xiv, 305. Illustrations, appendix. \$6.50.)

It is certainly true that diaries form some of our most colorful if not always our most accurate sources of history. Given an intelligent, observant, and active participator in a certain period, and his diary will be extremely useful to the historian. Add to these qualities the feelings, recorded with utmost candor, of a mid-nineteenth-century country boy thrown into strange, often terrifying circumstances, coupled with sometimes lighthearted sometimes grave jottings on love, nature, pranks, and politics, and the general reader has an excellent account of a young Ohio soldier in the western campaign of the Civil War.

In the fall of 1861, Owen J. Hopkins enlisted as a private in an Ohio infantry regiment at the age of seventeen. During the next three and a half years he matured rapidly, traveled with his regiment to Louisiana and back to Tennessee, and rose to the grade of lieutenant. Thus he saw much of the Vicksburg campaign, a period of both intense action and "killing inactivity," guard duty in a "rebel" state, and administrative work in a regimental office. These experiences are all related in a clear, vigorous manner which reflects admirably the spirit of the moment: disgust with mud or red tape, helplessness at hunger or unforeseen trouble, hilarity at a victory in his own or another sector of the war. Of all the various moods captured in the diary, however, two stand paramount. The first, the strong feeling for his beloved Julia back in Ohio, no doubt greatly influenced the second—his constant, serious patriotism despite ribbings and hardship.

Mr. Bond must have felt a thrill when he first discovered that in early attempts at sophistication the diarist, his wife's father, acquired some mastery of French, for the editor is a long-time professor of French at the University of Chicago. His full Introduction, well-placed commentary, and numerous and useful footnotes show the care and research which have gone into his task. This volume is no doubt a labor of love. Unlike so many other books of this type, however, it is both a valuable and interesting contribution to the literature of Yankee army life.

Frank Woodford's *Father Abraham's Children*, on the other hand, is of an entirely different sort from *Under the Flag of the Nation*.

This series of chapter-long vignettes about Michigan's role in the Civil War provides a refreshing addition to the exhausting flood of material now appearing on this period. Though limited to the activities of one state, and almost comically proud of its localism, the volume's appeal is not to the inhabitants of Michigan alone. The book is popularly written and, although reasonably well documented, is obviously intended to present side lights and high points of Michigan citizens' participation in the war. The word "citizens" and not "soldiers" must be employed, for the volume not only includes several civilian exploits but also the adventures of Emma Edmonds, who, enlisting under male guise, must have shared many of the same emotions as the somewhat better known Calamity Jane.

The author, the book jacket informs us, is an experienced biographer, and this approach to history is strikingly apparent in his sympathetic treatment of the people who appear in his tales. That he is also chiefly interested in Michigan history comes readily to the fore. From one of the first Detroit meetings in the conspiracy aimed at the famed capture of Harper's Ferry, including such notables as John Brown and Frederick Douglass, through what the author certainly considers a major Michigan contribution at Gettysburg, to the last great chase of the war—that leading to the capture of Jefferson Davis—Michiganders careen heroically or conspire clandestinely throughout the great conflict. The concluding sentence of the last adventure best sounds the pitch of local patriotism in which the book was written. "With Jefferson Davis safe in the custody of Michigan, the war was indeed ended!"

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*Triumph of Faith: Contributions of the Church to American Life, 1865-1900.* By Francis P. Weisenburger. ([Columbus, Ohio]: The Author, 1962. Pp. vii, 221. Index. \$4.95.)

This book by Francis P. Weisenburger, professor of history at Ohio State University, presents an orderly and interesting summary of pertinent historical scholarship. Its abundant documentation will prove satisfying to the casual reader and should also fulfill the author's hope of providing new insights and new inspiration for further scholarly work to the serious student of American religious history.

Weisenburger's present effort stands as a companion volume to his *Ordeal of Faith: The Crisis of Church-Going America, 1865-1900* (New York, 1959). In contrast to the trials and tribulations detailed in the earlier volume, the present work sets forth the positive contributions of the church to American life in the same period—from the close of the Civil War to the dawn of the twentieth century.

The author has chosen to avoid generalities and to present his case through specific illustrations from the lives of hundreds of men and women, many of whom loomed as giants in the last generation of the nineteenth century. Thus he begins with a penetrating analysis of brilliant and sophisticated Henry Adams, from whose life religion had largely disappeared, but who confessed, nevertheless, the belief that without the church the standards of the country would be those of