Boat” the “Manongahola” was too low to proceed (p. 138). In the meantime, he visited Marietta, which he found too “poor and proud” for prospects of profits (p. 139). Finally he opened up a store at Wheeling, where he disposed of his goods to a “Dutch man” whom he “hooked” by keeping his “skin full” (p. 149). He returned to the East with 14 horseteaks of “Skins and Sang” and an unspecified amount of cash (p. 156).

May’s daily account of life and customs, as well as conditions along the way, were charmingly detailed, graphic, and ungrammatical. However, he apologized that his reports were “very incorrect, but I believe will serve to show that I go to bed sober, tho’ Never out of good old Jamaica Sperritt and with it frequently recruit my oun, when Drooping” (p. 152).

University of Toledo

Randolph C. Downes


Mr. Van der Linden remarks in the Foreword that his book tells us two stories. The first story concerns itself with “the Revolution of 1800” and the second with “the romance between Margaret Bayard and Samuel Harrison Smith.” Neither story is handled well. Nothing new is added and much is omitted from the account of Jefferson’s election in 1800. Noble Cunningham’s brilliant study, _The Jeffersonian Republicans_ (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1957), which would have added much to the background, was magnificently ignored. As for the love letters that Mr. Van der Linden “discovered,” it is certain that the Library of Congress knew that they were there all the time, and they do not in any way “reveal what actually happened in the bitter political conflicts of the years between 1796 and 1801.”

The presentation is usually felicitous, but sometimes turns saccharine. The attempt “to paint a picture of American life in the age of Thomas Jefferson” occasionally comes off well and the chapter dealing with the actual voting in the House of Representatives that February, 1801, is the best descriptive writing in the book because the author allows the participants to tell their own story. Each quotation is carefully footnoted at the end of the volume, a cursed practice, but all too often the temptation to extemporize becomes too great. Mr. Van der Linden tells us that “no doubt” Samuel H. Smith called on Jefferson (p. 237), a slight matter without evidence and perhaps not needing any, but on the very same page he also tells us that “no doubt” Jefferson “supplied the paper [Smith’s _National Intelligencer_] with the latest news.” Evidence is essential in this latter case.

Trust in the material presented is not built without the historian’s handmaiden called source, nor is that confidence lightly regarded until abused. The reader’s faith is shaken badly when he is boldly told that “Jefferson secretly drafted a series of resolutions which were adopted by the legislatures of Kentucky and Virginia late in 1798” (p. 127). Irving Brant, the editors of the Madison Papers, Adrienne Koch, and
any reader reasonably well acquainted with the far-from-little-known facts of American history will all be appalled to see one of the mainstays of James Madison's claim to rank as a philosopher of Republicanism so blithely attributed to his fellow Virginian. The editor, particularly of a new publishing house, should have caught such an error even if the author knew not what he had done.

There is a drama in the election of 1800 and there is romance between the two young lovers, Margaret and Samuel, but the skeins of the two themes are not mutually interdependent and the attempt to bind the two stories confuses the first without shedding light on it and makes the second look ridiculous. Margaret Bayard wrote some interesting love letters and Jefferson was elected, but the latter was conceded before the book was written and the letters do not change either the reasons or the fact of the election.

Indiana University

Hugh Willard Ripley


Miss Thornbrough and the Indiana Historical Society are to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which they have edited and published the letter books of John Johnston and Benjamin F. Stickney, Indian agents of Fort Wayne in the years prior to and during the War of 1812. The documents by themselves are a mine of information concerning relations with the Indians and the British during this period of frontier conflict. The notes, the preface, and the conclusion are evidently the result of patient research and scholarship. Those interested in the policy of the government of the United States concerning the Indians on the frontier of the Old Northwest, in the abortive attempts to educate and to civilize the Indians, in the fruitless negotiations with Tecumseh and The Prophet in the months prior to the outbreak of the War of 1812, and in the equally fruitless attempts to retain the friendship and the support of the Indian tribes at the same time, will find this book most valuable.

Those merely interested in fiction-like history will find that, also, merely by reading between the lines. The confused and disorganized relationship between the Indian agent, the factor, and the military commander at Fort Wayne led to petty bickerings and rivalries which are often reflected in the letters of the agent. Of even more interest is the relationship of the succeeding agents one to the other. William Wells was appointed as assistant agent for Indian affairs in Indiana Territory in 1802 with his residence at Fort Wayne. In the same year, John Johnston was named factor of the Indian trading house. In 1809, after seven years of "petty politics, intrigues, jealousies, etc., that permeated the internal affairs of the Indian Department" (pp. 13-14), Wells was removed as agent and replaced by Johnston. Wells, to this reviewer, has long been a favorite character and was, as Miss Thornbrough states, a controversial figure. We are indebted to the author for an excellent,