

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.

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Letter Book of the Indian Agency at Fort Wayne, 1809-1815. Edited by Gayle Thornbrough. *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Volume 21. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1961. Pp. 272. Map, notes, index. Paperbound, \$2.50.)

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,

though much too short, history of Wells' agency and his eventual removal.

The letter book begins with Johnston's appointment in 1809 to the Indiana Territory Agency. It continues through the years of his agency (1809-1812) and the first three years (1812-1815) of the agency of Benjamin F. Stickney who replaced Johnston when the latter moved to the Piqua, Ohio, agency. Miss Thornbrough, in her introduction, in her notes, and in her review of the last three years (1815-1818) of Stickney's agency, has done an excellent job of maintaining objective neutrality when discussing the rivalries between Johnston and Wells and between Johnston and Stickney. For purely romantic reasons, and with most of the facts of the case arrayed against him, this reviewer has always been sympathetic toward Wells and Stickney. Surely, a case could be made for the view that Johnston connived and schemed for seven years to poison the minds of Governor William Henry Harrison and Secretary of War Henry Dearborn against Wells in order to become agent at Fort Wayne. Then, from 1815 to 1818, he repeated the performance to get rid of Stickney and to combine the Piqua and Fort Wayne agencies under his control. However, to take sides on such an issue as that in such a work as this would have been improper, and Miss Thornbrough is to be applauded for her objectivity and for her contribution to those who may, at a later date, desire to interpret history.

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The Holy See and the Nascent Church in the Middle Western United States, 1826-1850. By Robert Frederick Trisco. (Rome: Gregorian University Press, 1962. Pp. xii, 408. Maps, bibliography, index. \$5.90.)

The quarter century which Father Trisco treats in this scholarly study was a critical era in the history of the Catholic Church in the Middle West. He defines the Middle West loosely as "the region stretching from the Alleghenies to the Rockies except the South." In 1826 the Catholic population of the area approximated 7,500 in three dioceses. By 1850 it exceeded 400,000 in eleven dioceses—a fifty-three-fold increase in twenty-five years.

Father Trisco has valid reasons for selecting 1826 as the starting date and 1850 as the closing date for his study. In 1826 Mauro Cappellari accepted the directorship of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, the papal agency concerned with administration and expansion of the mission fields in the world. In that year the erection of the Diocese of St. Louis made the Western Church juridically distinct from the rest of the United States. Then too, the early history of the three trans-Allegheny dioceses (Bardstown, Cincinnati, and St. Louis) has already been adequately treated. The year 1850 seems to be a logical concluding date for Father Trisco's specialized study. It was the year of the death of Benedict Joseph Flaget, the first bishop of the Middle West. In 1850, moreover, the first two metropolitan provinces were established in the trans-Allegheny country. And by 1850 the Church was flourishing and had come of age—it could no longer be classed as "nascent."