
"We have made an examination of the book published under the above title, including the Table of Contents, the Preface, the Introduction, and the Select Bibliography. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted critical standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the printed documents and such other sampling processes as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion the documents included in this book are accurately reproduced and they adequately serve to illustrate the title chosen by the author."

Any resemblance between the statement above and a certified public accountant's letter of transmittal accompanying an annual audit is purely intentional. It has struck me that the tasks of reviewing a collection of documents and of auditing financial records are not at all dissimilar. The raw materials speak for themselves. After one has vouched for their authenticity there is little more to say.

One might ask, of course, why another book is added to an already crowded field, but this is after all, the publisher's business, not the reviewer's. It is true that this book is intended "primarily for the interested general reader and student" in contrast to such works as Merrill Jensen's American Colonial Documents to 1776, which has probably attracted very few general readers. Still, the documents are the same in both books. One can print them in greater or lesser quantity and on better or poorer paper, but one cannot honestly change their character.

If there is any such being as a general reader interested in working his way through three hundred pages of documents, Braeman's book ought to please him. The excerpts themselves are interesting, consisting as they do of the less arid stretches in the official statutes, proclamations, and resolutions, intermingled with such lively eyewitness testimonies as Jared Ingersoll's report on the Stamp Act debate in Parliament and John Adams' triumphant letter to his wife recounting the passage by the Continental Congress of his May 15, 1776, resolution, which he felt to be a true declaration of independence. Furthermore, this skeletal framework is fleshed out with connective tissue in the form of the author's running narrative, which supplies the missing parts and makes the documents themselves more intelligible.

The most valuable part of Braeman's book, however, is Chapter I, actually entitled "Introduction," in which not a single document appears. Here, Professor Braeman has put together the best essay on the changing historical interpretations of the American Revolution that one can find in the short span of eleven pages. It could well be required reading for courses in historiography. Out of this essay, however, grows my principal criticism of the remainder of Braeman's book. He describes the "neo-Whig" school of interpreters so lucidly that his own membership in that group becomes obvious through his subsequent selection of documents. The neo-Whigs stand squarely upon taxation without
representation as the cause of the American Revolution, and all of
Braeman's documents are chosen to bear upon that theme. He includes
no excerpts to illustrate the frontiersmen's grievances against the tide-
water aristocracy, nor the Puritans' fear of an Anglican episcopacy.
Except for Thomas Whately's essay in defense of parliamentary taxa-
tion there is nothing to represent the extensive English and Tory
literature on the other side of the issue, nor is there anything to suggest
the world context in which the imperial quarrel developed. In other
words, the road to independence down which Braeman points is a
straight and narrow path.

A very serious deficiency in the make-up of this book is the fact
that the selected documents are not listed in the table of contents. There
is no index, of course, but the book does end with a "select bibliography,"
which is select to the point of discrimination. It contains sixty titles,
among which are most of the excellent new studies that have appeared
since 1940, but one notes with some concern the absence of works by
George L. Beer, Edward Channing, Arthur L. Cross, H. J. Eckenrode,
Evarts B. Greene, Marcus W. Jernegan, Charles H. Lincoln, Charles H.
McIlwain, and Winfred T. Root.

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Prelude to Yorktown: The Southern Campaign of Nathanael Greene,
1780-1781. By M. F. Treacy. (Chapel Hill: The University of
index. $6.00.)

Prelude to Yorktown is a delight to read! The dust jacket claim
that the men who fought Greene's southern campaign "come alive" in
Mrs. Treacy's account is no exaggeration. The author is at her best
in assessing personality, character, and the human relations of a military
campaign. She is also at her best—from the very first page—in
describing the varied and formidable Carolina terrain and just how it
felt to fight, march, and bivouac during a steaming Low Country summer
or a cold and rainy Piedmont winter.

Possessing a background of family and personal connections with
professional military men, Mrs. Treacy, a recent University of Utah
Ph.D. in history, brings skill and clarity to the treatment of military
history. Her talents converge in the section on the Battle of Cowpens,
the high point of the book. Writing from her viewpoint that the Greene
campaign was essentially partisan in character ("I will equip a flying
army . . . and make a kind of partizan war"—Greene to Washington,
quoted on page 196), the author places great emphasis on the factor of
leadership. Greene's failure ever to win a battle (despite winning the
over-all campaign) she traces to his lack of the "imponderable quality"
of leadership (p. 200). Hence, Greene's well-laid plans (as at Guilford
Courthouse) were nullified by his inability to exact the fullest devotion
from the independent-minded and often faltering militia and from the
stouter but still imperfect Continentals. The old frontier brawler,
Daniel Morgan, was no democrat, but, says Mrs. Treacy, he understood