not yet ready to accept the idea of a civilized Indian. As the author concludes, "the laborers in the Lord's vineyard were doomed not to reap the harvest they hoped because of their own cultural assumptions, the racial attitudes of their compatriots, and the persistence of aboriginal culture" (pp. 159-60).

The documentation and extensive bibliographical essay indicate that the author is familiar with the source material related to his subject. It is unfortunate, however, that despite the value of his topic and the almost unexplored mass of material at his disposal, he limited his text to only 160 pages. The narrative is generally well-balanced; but this reader wonders why the most important development in Indian-white relations of the pre-Civil War period, the Indian removal program, should have received such little attention. The program vitally concerned and affected many of the missionary societies. Moreover, the reader is left with the erroneous impression that Isaac McCoy fathered, as well as favored, the idea of removal (p. 101).

Aside from these general criticisms, Salvation and the Savage should prove interesting to the layman and worthwhile to the specialist.

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The fur trade with the North American Indians had developed a definite pattern long before young Ramsey Crooks entered the trade in 1806. He served his apprenticeship at Montreal, at Mackinac Island, on the Missouri River, and at Astoria until 1816, when John Jacob Astor placed him in charge of the Great Lakes operation of the American Fur Company. In 1827 this company combined with Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Bernard Pratte and Company, of Saint Louis, in an attempt to control the fur trade from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains. Crooks almost succeeded in establishing a monopoly from that date to 1832. His greatest obstacles were the Federal Intercourse Acts, the Federal Government Trade House System, Indian agents, rival traders, and his own unpredictable employees. The forces against him were too potent for even his frenetic zeal; and when he bought Astor's American Fur Company in 1834, he secured the pinnacle of his ambition but a business which went bankrupt in 1842.

Ramsey Crooks was an able trader of wide vision, insatiable ambition, and boundless confidence in himself. He knew the meaning and the methods of pressure on an adversary, and those who opposed his plans were sure to be attacked by any means at his command. Crooks failed to understand that his successes against other traders ultimately depended upon the name and financial resources of Astor; that his own energy and abilities were not enough to prevent occasional failures in his grandiose and monopolistic schemes. When Astor retired, Crooks inevitably destroyed the American Fur Company.
Lavender has used the biography of Crooks as the cohesive, personalized theme in an historical account of the American fur trade. The device has merit, but he has been most successful in his history. Careful attention has been given to historical resources on the aspects of the trade from about 1800 to 1834; and political sovereignty, Indian affairs, and economic and business history have all been consulted. The minutia of the activities and personal lives of hundreds of traders, army officers, Indian agents, and Congressmen has been employed. However, Lavender's method requires a disconcerting number of presumptions in order to involve Crooks, and the latter emerges less clearly than many of the minor figures of the drama.

The author thoroughly enjoys the chaos of the fur trade in this period; and his failures to achieve clarity occur when he resorts to too much, rather than to too little, evidence of Crook's personal life or business ethics. It was a period of pious protestations and pragmatic performances, and digressions increase the readers' enjoyment but not his understanding. There are few errors in fact, although William Wells was a Miami, not a Potawatomi, captive (p. 73). One would be loath, however, to characterize such men as William Clark or Lewis Cass after reading Lavender’s account, which emphasizes the inconsistencies inherent in the enforcement of federal Indian policies.

It also is somewhat disconcerting to follow the details of Crook's career to his greatest opportunity as the undisputed head of the American Fur Company and then find only a part of one chapter devoted to its collapse after 1834, while fourteen chapters were needed to bring him into the Astor partnership. At least one more book would be needed to develop the decline of his company, and Lavender may be justified in his use of an abrupt termination to his story. He also may have found that the collapse of the American Fur Company cannot be described without more complete research in the papers of the Ewing brothers of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The author makes refreshing, well-substantiated, critical judgments in his bibliographical notes, which, however, are placed at the end of the text. Any student entering this field of study can profit from reading Lavender's book as a preliminary to serious scholarship.

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Bert Anson


An indispensable part of contemporary American foreign policy has been a friendly and productive collaboration with Britain. Alliances during war, cold war, and uneasy peace have served the interests of the United States and England very well indeed—alliances made possible by ever closer economic and cultural relations. Every history student knows that this happy condition has not always existed and that it is the consequence of a gradual process of rapprochement, evolving since the Revolution but often marred by discord and conflict.