

accused them of having padded the first three volumes with "piddling documents laboriously glossed," and with "substituting an overabundance of industry for a sense of proportion."

The fourth volume includes two hundred eleven papers of which only thirty-five have, in whole or in part, been printed in earlier editions of Madison's writings. Ninety-three of the documents, the editors assure us, are altogether or partly in Madison's hand, and an additional seventeen record what he said or wrote. Nineteen dispatches prepared by his colleagues in the Virginia delegation to Congress were signed or otherwise approved by Madison. Fifty-two letters addressed to Madison personally, and twenty-four addressed to the Virginia delegation in Congress, are also included. The remaining items consist of motions, committee reports, and editorial comments on misdated or missing documents.

The editorial pattern set in the first three volumes continues in the fourth volume: prodigious industry persists; meticulous annotation is abundant; editorial notes are at times laborious but usually fruitful; the index, typically thorough, conveniently points the reader to documents and footnotes in this and the preceding volumes.

Absurdity, trivia, and disproportion, like beauty, are judged by the beholder—or reviewer. This reviewer, though admittedly lost at times among the documents and their annotations, accepts the intent of the editors and commends them for their success. True, no issue confronting the Continental Congress or the Commonwealth of Virginia was resolved during the seven months encompassed by this volume. Nor is the origin or culmination of any major issue revealed by the documents. But the many references to the continuous problems of western land claims, the shortage of money, illicit trade with the enemy, war debts and congressional requisitions, interstate rivalries, British peace overtures, battles and rumors of battles in the West Indies, will, when the volumes are completed, bring these issues into focus insofar as they relate to Madison. Personal observations and interesting anecdotes, sprinkled throughout the documents, lend local color and delightful detail.

This volume is no compact narrative. No new historical interpretations challenge the reader. No reader will be engrossed in its contents into the wee hours of the morning. The layman probably won't use it, nor will the professional engage his colleagues in arguments about its truth or its philosophy. And for good reason, for these are not the objectives of the *Papers*.

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A House Divided: A Study of Statehood Politics and the Copperhead Movement in West Virginia. By Richard Orr Curry. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1964. Pp. 197. Maps, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Curry's purpose in writing *A House Divided* was threefold: "to determine whether earlier works on the 'disruption of Virginia' properly assess the quantum relationship between Unionists and Secessionists in

West Virginia; to challenge the validity of other interpretations of the statehood movement; and to examine aspects of Civil War policies in West Virginia that have not been investigated by other historians" (pp. 2-3). Although a large order for so small a volume—there are only 140 pages of text—the author has in part succeeded. The book's central theme challenges the traditional contention that West Virginians overwhelmingly opposed secession and favored separate statehood. While recognizing the strength of Unionism in northwestern Virginia, Curry distinguishes between this section and the total area of the new state. He proves, with statistics compiled from many sources, that "half the counties included in the 'new State' area were opposed to statehood; and that 40 per cent of the people in West Virginia were Secessionists" (p. 13). Earlier historians interpreted the origins of the "war born state" in terms of sectional grievances dating back to the American Revolution. Curry believes that the statehood movement can be understood only in terms of the changing pattern of sectionalism between 1830 and 1861. He also credits McClellan's mountain campaign and the support of federal troops for making a separate state movement possible.

Whether or not it belongs to that genre of historical literature, *A House Divided* suffers from many of the faults found in published Ph.D. dissertations. The volume is confusingly organized and in spots reveals the pedestrian quality of research studies in education. Curry overemphasizes the uniqueness and importance of his conclusions and is somewhat intolerant of other historians' views and errors. The shifting pattern of sectional conflict is hardly a new concept even if it has never been applied to the history of West Virginia. The contention that democratic gains in the 1850 Virginia constitution were eastern not western victories is at least debatable. Curry nowhere defines a "Copperhead" but uses the term variously to describe opponents of emancipation, Conservative Unionists, and Democrats. The author castigates other writers for their treatment of John Carlile and his defection from the statehood movement; yet, Curry's own explanation is much too facile.

Despite the book's faults, students of Civil War politics and West Virginia history must take *A House Divided* into account. The author's story of the complexities of state and local politics is undoubtedly more accurate than the simpler pictures heretofore presented. Although somewhat aside from the central theme, Chapter 6, "Ohio to the Rescue," is the best in the book and gives deserved praise to Ohio's Governor William Dennison. A few readers may question the use of county histories and the partisan press as bases for statistical analyses, but the appendixes, containing compilations of West Virginia election returns, are invaluable. Curry's conclusion that the statehood movement cannot be judged "solely in the vacuum of constitutionality" but must be considered as a war measure is an important contribution to West Virginia history.

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