

by his daughter, Catharine Yates Pickering, began the biography of his father, Civil War governor of Illinois. Three years later the completed manuscript suffered from all the evils inherent in such works: it was biased; the treatment was uneven; and the style often revealed more about the author than about the subject. Yet Yates' "ordeal" also had its merits. Since the political careers of both men were similar—each served as governor of Illinois and in the national Congress—the son could appreciatively interpret his father, the politician. Extensive quotations from the elder Yates' papers clearly revealed "the walking and talking, living and loving man" (p. 49), which was the author's hope for his biography. The letters, newspaper items, and speeches also presented the full flavor of thirty years of Illinois and national political history.

In 1959 Mrs. Pickering asked John H. Krenkel to prepare her father's manuscript for publication. Considering the extent of the Yates Collection, he has done an excellent job. He has conformed to all the rules of editorial procedure; and although this reviewer would have liked his comments to be more interpretative, Krenkel's extensive footnotes and bibliography adequately supplement the original text. Indeed, the editor's lack of interpretation pinpoints the major fault, which may also be the major strength, of this volume. *Richard Yates: Civil War Governor* is an appetizer; it leaves the reader hungry for a more complete, more objective biography. The younger Yates was not explicit about the political shenanigans which occurred during his father's gubernatorial career; the contemporaries of Richard Yates, Sr., do not emerge as real people; and the coverage of Yates' senatorial years is sketchy. Krenkel, as editor, cannot be blamed for these omissions; rather, he should be praised for providing his readers with even this incomplete glimpse of Yates and his era.

This volume will also prove interesting to Hoosiers who wish to compare the Illinois executive to their own Civil War governor. Yates, as his son described him, was suave, sophisticated, aristocratic—a gentleman. In comparison, Oliver P. Morton was a blunt, pugnacious, tactless plebian. Yet both were skilled political strategists who thought well of their own abilities. Both were sincere patriots who dealt ruthlessly but competently with opponents who they felt would harm the Union, and, incidentally, the Republican, cause.

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*Illinois in the Civil War.* By Victor Hicken. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966. Pp. xiv, 391. Illustrations, notes, sources, index. \$7.50.)

This volume is an attempt to record the contributions of the Illinois soldiers to the fighting forces of the nation from 1861 to 1865. The book focuses on the ordinary soldier's feelings and attitudes toward eastern generals, Negro troops, Copperheads, the threat of capture, and life in prison camps. Most of the data used are based on information found in regimental histories and soldiers' diaries, memoirs, and reminiscences.

Hicken has extensively examined the personal papers of Illinois General John A. McClernand and considers the Battle of Arkansas Post as both a turning point and high mark of his career. Grant's biographers have stressed McClernand's faults, but Hicken believes that "few have attempted to understand the nature of the man they are so quick to label a political general" (p. 153). Hicken's portrait of McClernand reveals "an impulsive, overly ambitious, and genuinely patriotic man who was frustrated at every turn by men who knew the ritual of the military profession better than himself" (p. 153). In the final analysis the author agrees with Robert R. McCormick that "it is plain that faith was not kept with him [McClernand] and that his indignation was just" (p. 153).

Hicken ascribes the rapid increase in desertions from Illinois regiments following the winter of 1862-63 to the emancipation and arming of Negroes and the military reverses of 1862. By April, 1863, desertion was so widespread that the *Illinois State Journal* reported that "Democratic Boys . . . are coming home every day" (p. 139). Desertions from Illinois totaled 13,046 for the entire war. (Ella Lonn, in her study of this problem, gives the figure as 16,083). In his analysis of Copperhead influence on desertions, Hicken tends to minimize the particularly violent nature of many of the Copperhead activities, such as a mob attack at Du Quoin in July, 1863, when some four hundred men attacked a deputy provost marshal and seized the deserters that were being guarded.

The most serious fault in this study is the nebulous and often confusing method of footnoting. Two sources are frequently cited without making clear from which one a particular quotation or interpretation came. In many cases the citations are clearly not relevant to the discussion but serve only as a supplemental guide to further study. For example, on page 355 Hicken discusses General John H. Winder, the commander of Union prisoners in Georgia, and lists twenty-seven pages from Hesseltine's book *Civil War Prisons* and thirteen pages from *This Was Andersonville* as the sources. References such as these should have been inserted in the bibliography. On page 87, Hicken refers to McClernand's ambitions to obtain an independent command and cites Wood Gray's study of Copperheads (p. 216), which is a description of opposition to the draft in Pennsylvania and New York. There are numerous other examples of careless and inaccurate craftsmanship throughout the book which seriously restricts its value for the Civil War scholar. The book will, however, have appeal for those who are interested in a popular account of the everyday life of the men in blue from the Prairie State.

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*History of the Chicago Urban League.* By Arvarh E. Strickland. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966. Pp. 286. Notes, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

Strickland deals with a subject of significance, and he sees his subject whole. The Chicago Urban League's half-century of trial