

Workshops in the Wilderness: The European Response to American Industrialization, 1830-1860. By Marvin Fisher. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967. Pp. viii, 238. Notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

In this brief but lucid book, Fisher joins the ranks of those historians who have recently begun to reassess the significance of American industrial growth in the three decades preceding the Civil War. He believes that the industrial process was firmly established in the United States by 1860, that it had already begun to exert a strong influence on American life, and that it provided opportunities in cities for advancement which rivaled those offered by the frontier. Specifically, Fisher is concerned with the response to these developments by European visitors who came to the United States between 1830 and 1860.

To most European visitors, the United States appeared as a land of abundance and opportunity. Fisher maintains that their writings reflect a keen perception of the country's agrarian promise ("myth of the garden") as well as its industrial potential ("myth of the workshops"). These seemingly contradictory views actually merge into a new image—"America as potential paradise" (see chapter 3). In describing the new image, foreign observers were generally optimistic and prophetic. They recognized that the American experiment in industrialization was unique and that many of the evils inherent in the European systems could be avoided in the United States. A few critics, most notably Alexis de Tocqueville, predicted that the new technology would have an adverse affect on society, but most visitors revealed their faith in American progress.

Fisher develops his thesis admirably. He has been selective in choosing his commentators and in dealing with highly subjective evidence. But recognizing these limitations, he believes that European observers have provided not only a "meaningful commentary" on the early industrial development of the United States but also insights into the European's conception of America. Most readers will agree. In using this type of evidence, however, it would seem that footnotes would be of greater value if they had been placed in the text. It is disconcerting to come across a particularly interesting observation and have to turn to the back of the book for the source.

This book is a significant contribution to the historiography of American cultural history. It will, however, also be of interest to social and economic historians. Particularly valuable is the "Checklist of European Comments on America, 1830-1860."

University of Maryland

Richard T. Farrell

Owen Lovejoy: Abolitionist in Congress. By Edward Magdol. (New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1967. Pp. xi, 493. Frontispiece, notes, bibliography, index. \$10.00)

A friendly contemporary claimed that "Lovejoy was the real hero of the antislavery cause" (p. x). Edward Magdol, author of this first published examination of the Illinois abolitionist, emphatically agrees. He admits in the