

Remini's thesis is that the main element in the bank war of the 1830's was Andrew Jackson himself rather than forces emphasized by other authors—the western farmer, the eastern working man, the rising entrepreneur, or a particular social group. Two stubborn, powerful men faced each other: Jackson and President Nicholas Biddle of the Bank of the United States. At many points in the conflict, Remini believes, a compromise which would have preserved a badly needed central banking system and still have introduced a necessary degree of governmental regulation was entirely possible; but owing to pride or prejudice, neither stubborn man would consent to it.

So the focus is on Jackson the politician, instead of financial, constitutional, sociological, or ideological aspects. It was Jackson who finally turned public opinion against the bank by 1834, though the President had run against the current earlier. Remini thinks that a majority of the people favored the bank at the outset and even through the election of 1832 (when Jackson probably lost rather than gained votes because of his recharter veto). This assessment of opinion corresponds with the findings of Jean Wilburn in another recent book on the subject but rests upon soft, incomplete evidence. In any case, the dynamic ingredient was Jackson's conviction that this monopolistic corporation wielded too much power over the nation's economy and government. And Jackson's victory was a tribute to his considerable skills as a politician and to his capacity of democratic leadership.

The long-run consequences were important. Jackson materially built up the office of the presidency to a position of much greater strength than it had ever had previously. The President developed the veto as a valuable instrument in policy making, he actively participated in the legislative process, he prevailed in his insistence upon complete control over his cabinet, he stimulated the resurgence of the two-party system, and he became the only national official representing the American people as a whole.

In terms of what the author proposes to do, perhaps beyond that as well, the book is both informative and interesting. No doubt it will be received quite favorably indeed.

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*Life in Two Worlds: Biography of William Sihler.* By Lewis W. Spitz. (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1968. Pp. 199. Notes, index. \$3.95.)

The noted Reformation scholar, Lewis W. Spitz, Stanford University, ventures into the field of nineteenth century American frontier history with this biography and career evaluation of an Indiana Lutheran pioneer, William Sihler. The founder of several Lutheran colleges, Sihler exerted a profound influence in the organization of the Missouri Synod from his position as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, 1845-1885.

The book's title is well chosen. Sihler lived exactly half of his eighty-four years in Germany, half of them in America. Spitz, however, gives the title another twist. He explains, quoting Leigh Hunt: "There are two worlds—the

world we measure with line and rule, and the world we feel with our hearts and with our imaginations. Sihler lived intently in the real world about him and in the world of the spirit within him" (p. 172).

The ten chapters of the book are like separate essays which tie into each other very nicely to present a clear character portrayal. While the essays are of special interest to Lutherans, they contain valuable historical material for any student of frontier American church history. Though Spitz himself is a Lutheran, he is very frank in his criticisms of Sihler's "old world hang-ups." For example, he terms Sihler "a transplanted European living in a linguistically, culturally, and religiously isolated community, as impervious to frontier influences as he could make himself" (p. 10).

With respect to Sihler's impact on the Missouri Synod, Spitz indicates, on the basis of considerable examination of the early issues of *Der Lutheraner*, that "there is an intimation that two years before the organization of the Synod (Chicago, 1847) Sihler had evolved a concept of a synod represented by a senate of permanent delegates rather than the Jacksonian-type triennial meetings ad hoc such as C. F. W. Walther favored" (p. 81). Sihler became, in turn, the synod's first vice president, overseeing the eastern part of the synod, and the first president of the Central District (1854). Sihler also left a distinctive mark on the Missouri Synod through his numerous writings.

E. S. Gaustad's *Historical Atlas of Religions in America* indicates that most Indiana counties are predominantly (United) Methodist. It is noteworthy, therefore, that Spitz faults both Sihler and the pioneer Lutheran missionary, F. C. D. Wyneken, with a lack of appreciation of Methodism's appeal to frontier communities and its still very evangelical emphasis. Spitz translates a portion of the lengthy tract Sihler published in 1844 against the Methodists. Though Sihler reacted strongly against the personalism of Methodist theology, he did approve of a Methodist emphasis against the use of alcohol, a view quite contrary to that "of his hard-drinking Germans" (p. 170).

At one point Spitz repeats an error somewhat current in Missouri Synod journalistic and historical writings. He terms St. Paul's, Fort Wayne, "the oldest Luthernan Church in America" (p. 43). It is not. Zion, Pershing (East Germantown), affiliated with the Indiana Synod (LCA), has a continuous existence since 1822. Other Lutheran churches in central and southern Indiana [e.g. St. John's Sunman (ACL), Ebenezer and First United, Indianapolis (LCA)], are older than St. Paul's, founded in 1837.

Written in a unique Spitz style with side excursions into many philosophical and theological thought patterns which influenced Sihler, *Life in Two Worlds* is actually a look into numerous worlds. Spitz draws comparisons of Sihler's views to nineteenth century rationalistic premises he first embraced, to Luther's stance on doctrinal and social issues, and to contemporary Lutheran positions. This greatly increases the book's worth. The biographical notes and the index make the volume even more useful and informative.