

Major General Winfield Scott, commander of the Second Corps, joined in Gibbon's commendation of Haskell. And, the final pragmatic judgment in military matters, Haskell was shortly given a jump promotion to the colonelcy of a newly formed Wisconsin regiment.

Haskell provided a detailed contemporary account of what was probably the greatest military engagement ever fought in North America. It will remain a basic document in any appraisal of Gettysburg. The editors have provided an excellent biographical setting which enables the reader to see the man, the soldier, and the chronicler in perspective.

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Hubert H. Hawkins

Outcasts from Evolution: Scientific Attitudes of Racial Inferiority, 1859-1900. By John S. Haller, Jr. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1971. Pp. xv, 228. Notes, illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$7.50.)

Outcasts from Evolution is a study of nineteenth century scientific racism in the United States. In this slim volume John S. Haller of Indiana University Northwest discusses the anthropometric research done during the Civil War on black and white soldiers (some deceased) which "proved" black inferiority, the "proofs" of physical and mental inferiority of black people provided by white southern physicians and northern insurance company analysts, and racial views and studies of some leading American natural and social scientists during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Haller's expressed intent is to show the manner in which scientific opinion "provided a vocabulary and a set of concepts which rationalized and helped to justify the value system upon which the idea of race rested in American thought" (p. x). Unfortunately, he is often unclear in distinguishing "scientific" findings from opinions on race. And one can question his decision to describe as scientists individuals whose opinions were backed by virtually no scientific content. The statistical proofs of the physical and moral inferiority which would lead to the eventual extinction of black people provided by insurance company analyst Frederick Hoffman, for instance, is about as scientific (his major source was the 1890 census) as the evidence marshaled by Hinton R. Helper for his well known racist monograph, *Nojoque* (1867).

The author is also unclear about what he means by race, for many of his scientists are shown to have held strong views on the inferiority of Irishmen and southeastern Europeans as well. His

discussion of Nathaniel S. Shaler (pp. 171-73) illustrates this lack of clarity, for here Haller suggests that *Outcasts* is a study of scientific support for cultural inferiority as well as racial inferiority. One becomes more convinced of the dual nature of this study when some of the scientists, unable to prove the physical inferiority of Chinese and having some knowledge of their past accomplishments, are shown to have taken to theorizing about the inferiority of Chinese culture, thus suggesting racial inferiority, too. In short Haller has failed to make clear that he is writing about men who used their standing in the scientific community as a platform from which they could mouth what were in fact nothing more than pre-conceived biases.

It may be that Haller is correct that these "scientific" ideas influenced a generation of Americans on race and set the foundation upon which "attitudes of racial inferiority have continued to plague western culture" (p. xi) until today, but one would appreciate documentation of this premise. For instance, it would be helpful to know what effects these opinions had at the time on college courses, national and state legislation (he points out that some of these men supported lynchings), civil rights cases, and upon the masses through popular journalism. One particularly wants evidence to substantiate the allegation that the idea of the ensuing extinction of black people was a widely held view and that "segregation and disfranchisement were the first steps toward preparing the Negro race for its extinction" (p. 210). Anthropologists and sociologists may find value in this book as an introduction to their science during the nineteenth century, but it presents no new information or insights into understanding racial prejudice.

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William Harris

Transportation to the Seaboard: The "Communication Revolution" and American Foreign Policy, 1860-1900. By Howard B. Schonberger. *Contributions in American History*, Number 8. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing Corporation, 1971. Pp. xix, 265. Notes, selected bibliography, index. \$10.50.)

Transportation to the Seaboard focuses upon the struggle waged by industrialists, farmers, and merchants to secure cheap transportation across the country and the effect of this agitation upon America's rise to world power. Placing the transportation issue in a broad politico-economic context, Schonberger divides his work into four parts: the first section, covering the years 1860 to 1880, concentrates on western farmers' and merchants' demands for reg-