

After 1780 Father Gibault's difficulties continued. He was out of favor with his Canadian superior, and, when the Illinois Country came under the authority of the newly created diocese of the Bishop of Baltimore, he found himself rebuffed by that prelate. He then settled in New Madrid under the ecclesiastical superior of Spanish Louisiana where his last years were "one long series of petty annoyances" (p. 5).

Gibault's participation in Clark's conquest, puzzling though it is, is certainly the most interesting aspect of his missionary career. As Donnelly concludes, despite his own denial Pierre Gibault was a factor in Clark's success. The significance of the conquest in the treaty negotiations at Paris in 1783 is disputed by historians to this day, but this reviewer is inclined to agree with Donnelly that Gibault, still "an historical enigma" is "an important, if minor, character in the history of the War of Independence" (p. 5).

It might be pointed out that Barthelemi Tardiveau was not an Illinois congressman (p. 119). The book would have benefited from the inclusion of a map of the Illinois Country and a more complete index.

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Debs. Edited by Ronald Radosh. *Great Lives Observed.* Edited by Gerald Emanuel Stearn. (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1971. Pp. viii, 181. Notes, bibliographical note, index. Clothbound, \$5.95; paperbound, \$2.45.)

Debs is one of the volumes in Prentice-Hall's *Great Lives Observed* series and, like the other volumes in the series, attempts to present "a three-fold perspective" of Debs drawn from his speeches and writings, his contemporaries' attitudes toward him, and analyses of him by "leading historians."

The largest part of the book is taken up by Debs' speeches and writings. Professor Ronald Radosh has done a careful job in selecting material which throws light on the evolution of Debs from "Conservative unionist" to Socialist "revolutionary" and on the two pillars of Debs' ideology: his conviction that industrial unionism would lead to the economic salvation of society, just as socialism would lead to its political salvation. Along the way the speeches and writings included in this collection also reveal Debs' curious blending of nineteenth century rhetoric ("Old Josh" Leach's grey hair was "the frost that never melts") with very advanced attitudes and opinions respecting such twentieth century issues as war and peace, militarism, poverty,

and racism. Even more important was Debs' achievement in blending European socialist theory and tradition into what appeared to many of his contemporaries to be an "Americanized" program of peaceful, evolutionary change.

The selection of material from Debs' contemporaries ranges from the warm regard for him held by a Terre Haute (non-Socialist) attorney, who counted "his friendship among the blessings of a lifetime" (p. 89), to the frenzied estimate of Theodore Roosevelt who described Debs as a "mere inciter to murder and preacher of applied anarchy" (p. 132).

Scarcely more consensus regarding Debs has developed among leading historians. Most of them have been attracted by Debs' warm humanity but are badly divided on such questions as his effect on unionism, his understanding (or misunderstanding) of Marxism and capitalism, and his niche in history as "liberal democrat" or De Leonite revolutionary. In an "Afterword" Radosh offers his interpretation of the conclusions regarding Debs reached in the essays by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., H. Wayne Morgan, Ray Ginger, Bert Cochran, David Herreshoff, and James Weinstein. In doing so Radosh contributes his own conclusion that "Ray Ginger has written what *will remain* the classic biography of Debs" (p. 175), a curious pre-empting of the field and, one would think, a prophecy that Ginger would hesitate to endorse.

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Kentucky Bourbon: The Early Years of Whiskeymaking. By Henry G. Crowgey. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1971. Pp. xiv, 171. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$9.75.)

As the title indicates this brief volume examines the early years of whiskeymaking in Kentucky. In addition to the development of distilling in the state, Professor Crowgey also discusses technological advances in whiskey production, the personal and social drinking habits of frontier settlers, the Kentucky reaction to the federal excise tax on whiskey, the utilization of distilled spirits in both home remedy and patent medicine, whiskey traffic on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, liquor purchases by the military for its own use and for distribution to the Indians, and the use of whiskey as commodity money. In attempting to derive the facts from a host of myths and legends, many of which were initiated by local historians, Crowgey combed newspapers, journals, court records, and personal