

*The Papers of Jefferson Davis.* Volume I, 1808-1840. Edited by Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., and James T McIntosh. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971. Pp. xci, 594. Illustrations, notes, appendices, list of sources, index. \$15.00.)

For several decades after the Civil War Jefferson Davis' role as president of the Confederate States of America overshadowed his long career as officer in the United States Army, congressman from Mississippi, United States senator, and Cabinet member. To most Americans he was either a traitor to the Union or the heroic leader of a lost cause. Now there is a growing tendency to lay aside prejudice and polemic and look at Davis as he was. To that end Rice University and the Jefferson Davis Association have launched this monumental project which is intended to be the definitive edition of papers related to Davis' life and work. Monroe and McIntosh, who have already labored about a decade, expect to produce twenty or more volumes.

The editors intend "to provide sufficient background material to enable the reader to make his own appraisal of the man and his age" (p. xi). They have therefore included not only substantive letters, both public and private, by Davis and to him, but also routine official correspondence and records of his military assignments and activities. All dated items are arranged in chronological order, and explanatory footnotes, which shed much light on the documents, are both abundant and factual. Every name that appears in the text is accompanied at first mention by a biographical note explaining the person's relation to Davis; subsequent appearances are cross referenced to these notes. There are two autobiographical sketches of Davis, a chronology of his life, and a Davis family genealogy. The list of sources includes those used in annotation as well as the location of all documents reproduced in this volume. The index is detailed and appears to be accurate.

It was time for a new edition of Davis papers. Nearly fifty years have passed since the Mississippi Department of Archives and History published Dunbar Rowland's ten volume compilation, *Jefferson Davis, Constitutionalist: His Letters, Papers & Speeches*. Since 1923 additional Davis materials have been discovered, and the current project is more broadly conceived than Rowland's. His work, for example, contains only three items dated prior to 1840; Monroe and McIntosh have included 530 entries from those early years. Hudson Strode in *Jefferson Davis: Private Letters, 1823-1889* (1966) presents an interesting personal portrait of Davis but touches his public life only incidentally.

The editors and publishers of this book are to be congratulated on a work well conceived and skillfully executed. Those interested in

Jefferson Davis and his role in the nation's history will long be indebted to them.

*Indiana Central College, Indianapolis*

Frederick D. Hill

*Travels between the Hudson & the Mississippi, 1851-1852.* By Moritz Busch. Translated and edited by Norman H. Binger. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1971. Pp. xix, 295. Notes, editor's notes. \$12.50.)

The book was written by Moritz Busch in 1851 and 1852 as a diary or journal of a trip to the United States. Its publication in 1854 started Busch on a literary career that lasted more than forty years. It is obvious that publication was a primary consideration in the writing of this journal. The author writes consistently of the popular or spectacular and frequently borrows lengthy descriptions and passages on subjects he has decided to include but which he has not observed or knows little about. His work is entitled "Travels," but it could easily serve as a guide book or a complete account to encourage others to come to the area discussed.

The original text in German was 772 pages. This volume of about 280 pages of text profited from needed and skillful editing and deletions in the chapters included. The major deletion, however, was the complete omission of nine of the eighteen chapters. These are briefly summarized in the introduction and reveal that the editor narrowed or sharpened the meaning of the title. He deletes seven chapters dealing with New York City and the voyage to America and deals more specifically with the area from the Hudson to the Mississippi. Two chapters omitted could well have fitted into the limited interpretation of the title. These are "The Saints of the Latter-Day" and "Thirteen Songs and a Portrait of American Negroes." The editor explains their omission in relation to the paucity of first hand observations used by the author. Deletion of the chapter on the Mormons both in this context and because of Busch's practice of writing on topics of particular interest to his audience is understandable. The omission of the chapter on the black man considering the present widespread popular interest in additional interpretations of black history and in light of Busch's personal visit to an African Methodist church in Cincinnati is less easy to understand.

The topics with which the author deals are numerous, and most readers will find several that will be of particular interest. Busch treats modes of travel by canal, train, steamboat, stagecoach, horseback and on foot, and his descriptions are interesting. The author's continuing contact with and attention to recent immigrants to the United States, most of them like the author participants in the Euro-