

are apparently all quite trivial, although the transposition of type on pages ninety and ninety-one is annoying. No explicit attempt is made to advocate any special interpretation or hypothesis, and there are no sweeping spiritual or psychological generalizations. The book is comparable neither to Graham Hutton's *Midwest at Noon*, John J. Murray's *Heritage of the Middle West*, Horace Merrill's *Bourbon Democracy of the Middle West*, nor Russel Nye's *Midwestern Progressive Politics*; it resembles to a slight extent the major works of Beverly W. Bond, Jr., R. Carlyle Buley, and Henry C. Hubbart, which covered much of the subject from 1788 to 1880.

A *History of the Middle West* seems most admirably designed as a college level textbook. The reviewer expects to try it out for that purpose during the coming year.

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*The Winter Soldiers*. By Richard M. Ketchum. *The Crossroads of World History Series*. Edited by Orville Prescott. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1973. Pp. 435. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$10.00.)

Richard M. Ketchum is an author and a senior editor with the American Heritage Publishing Company. Of the several books written and edited by him, *The Battle for Bunker Hill* and *The American Heritage Book of the Revolution* illustrate his keen interest in and wide knowledge of the American Revolution. In *The Winter Soldiers* he has attempted to demonstrate how significant to the final outcome of the War for Independence was the early period from April 19, 1775, to January 3, 1777. Although *The Winter Soldiers* "is not intended as a book for scholars" and although footnotes are omitted, Ketchum's narrative is "based upon contemporary evidence" (p. 400). A close examination of the bibliography and notes for each chapter reveals that the author has investigated most of the printed sources and secondary works which cover the years encompassed by this book.

Chronologically, the story extends from the battles of Lexington and Concord to those of Trenton and Princeton

with occasional flashbacks to events occurring earlier whenever clarification is necessary. This time span naturally entails and highlights the following: the meeting of the Second Continental Congress, the fighting at Bunker Hill (actually, Breed's Hill), the events in and around Boston, the Declaration of Independence, the battles of Long Island and White Plains, and the Staten Island Peace Conference. It also includes the British capture of Fort Washington, the abandonment of Fort Lee to the enemy, and General George Washington's retreat through New Jersey and across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The crisis confronting Washington and his ragged, poorly equipped army is emphasized. The book reaches its climax with Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton.

When one evaluates this book in the terms of its own genre, it admirably fulfills the purpose for which it was written. The history buff can profit and, at the same time, enjoy the wealth of information presented. A specialist, whose research of the period has extended over two or three decades and whose prose has become pedantic, will not find any startling new facts; however, he will read a clean, crisp style of writing which, too often, eludes the writers of history. Ketchum shows good insight on the British problems of shipping supplies, enlisting soldiers, and handling camp followers. His descriptive cameos of the leading personalities are excellent; for example, he describes Lord North as being "round-shouldered, corpulent, with a bloated, sleepy, piglike face, and an oversize tongue which thickened his speech" (p. 63).

The author should have stated his thesis before page 396. Although somewhat tenuous, it is that "without [the victories at] Trenton and Princeton there would have been no army to fight at Saratoga and Yorktown" and therefore "the campaign Washington had just won was the decisive one of the war." Washington accomplished "something that had to be done or the cause of independence was lost irretrievably."

This is a handsome book, relatively free of typographical errors. The maps and illustrations are exceedingly helpful. Those who enjoy well written history will not be disappointed by *The Winter Soldiers*.

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