

were no war measures pending," is a careless form of statement, to say the least. But other omissions are far more serious. We are not told how the members voted; nor anything of their other methods of procedure; nor what they were empowered to do by the conventions or legislatures which sent them; nor how, placed at the head of American affairs, they gradually assumed a control over the military operations of all the colonies, and soon came to exercise an authority that many of them had certainly never dreamed of. We learn nothing from these pages of the assumption of sovereign jurisdiction: of the absolute regulation of foreign affairs, of the disarming of Tories, of the issuance of letters of marque and reprisal, of the opening of the ports to trade, and so on through the list. Mention is made, it is true, of the emission of bills of credit, but not a word is given to its importance as a sovereign act, nor much of a satisfying nature concerning the extensive financial difficulties and disorders. It is thus impossible, from a perusal of these earlier chapters, to trace the steps by which a perfected constitution was, in the end, made necessary.

We have dwelt thus long on that portion of the book devoted to the Continental Congress because it serves as well as any other to illustrate its shortcomings; for the remainder is almost of a piece with this. Much is said of the United States Bank, and of slavery, and the tariff, but they are most inadequately treated, and we find no just conception of their influence in shaping political parties. The best portions of the book are those which deal with what might be called the picturesque side of Congress, and the last chapter, which tells of "present methods."

HERBERT FRIEDENWALD.

*Life of General Thomas Pinckney.* By his grandson, Rev. CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY, D.D., President of the South Carolina Historical Society. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1895. Pp. 237.)

THOMAS PINCKNEY was, unless we except his brother Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, the most distinguished member of a family which has always held a prominent place in South Carolina. He was born in 1750, and his death in 1828 closed a career characterized by ability, discretion, and a high ideal of political duty. He served as an officer in the Revolution, and as a general in the War of 1812. He was governor of South Carolina from 1787 to 1789, and presided over the convention which ratified the Federal Constitution. He was, for four years, American minister to Great Britain, was the Federalist candidate for Vice-President in 1796, and served two terms as a member of Congress. He also performed the important and delicate task of negotiating the treaty of 1795 with Spain. The brief biography by his grandson gives an intelligent account of Mr. Pinckney's public services, and a pleasing picture of his private life. In general, the volume follows the beaten track,—except

in its lack of an index,—and the extracts from family correspondence and papers do not add materially to our knowledge of the period. Too much attention is given to episodes in which Mr. Pinckney took no part, such as the mission of his brother to France in 1797, while no reference is made to those phases of state politics upon which his career might be expected to throw some light, as, for example, the important problem of the history of the Federalist party in South Carolina. An unpleasant feature of the book is the frequent reference to the Civil War and the note of contrast between North and South. If it is too soon to expect an unprejudiced attitude toward recent events, we may at least demand that our early history be approached without partisan or sectional bias.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

*Chronicles of Border Warfare; or, a History of the Settlement by the Whites of Northwestern Virginia and of the Indian Wars and Massacres in that Section of the State, with Reflections, Anecdotes, &c.* By ALEXANDER SCOTT WITHERS. A new edition, edited and annotated by Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society. With the addition of a Memoir of the Author and several Illustrative Notes by the late Lyman Copeland Draper. (Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company. 1895. Pp. xx, 447.)

Nor only the people of the Mississippi valley, but all of our historians who take an interest in the growth of the American people, westward, are under a debt of gratitude to the Robert Clarke Company, of Cincinnati, for their long series of publications on Western history. Some of these publications have represented original work and research put into the form of a monograph of some Western hero, or of an exhaustive treatise on some event of special importance in early Western history. In other cases, the book has been the reproduction of some valuable old publication, which is out of print, and accessible to very few scholars. The book before us comes under the latter head.

Withers' *Chronicles* is one of the number of books which have a great value because they preserve the traditions of the border about the Indian fighting of the second half of the eighteenth century in the West. They tell what the settlers themselves thought of the deeds done by the rough backwoodsman of the Alleghanys and the Upper Ohio in the ceaseless warfare of the white man against the red; they contain valuable side-lights on the ways of life and the habits of thought of the backwoodsmen; but, as a record of facts, each of them must be used with extreme caution.

Withers, like De Haas and Doddridge, both of whom covered much of the ground that he did, gathered some of his material from the pioneers themselves in their old age; but more often he adopted what the children of the pioneers told him, or what their successors reported as having been