

came the General Conference of all the preachers which first met, November 1, 1792, in Baltimore. This has become a permanent institution of the church. The constitution for its perpetuation and government was adopted in 1808; and since that time it has been a delegated body.

In clear outline our author sketches the secession of O'Kelley and the establishment of his Republican Methodist Church, which had only a brief and feeble existence; and the attempt of Bishop Coke in 1791 and 1792 to effect a union of the Methodist Episcopal and Protestant Episcopal churches, and seven years later to unite the Wesleyan body of England with the Anglican church. Concisely, too, he treats of the question of lay representation. He sets forth the reasons for the secession of 1828 that resulted in the formation of the Methodist Protestant church, and describes the later movements that have succeeded in giving laymen representation in the highest councils of the mother church.

The question of slavery as it affected the church is treated comprehensively. From its foundation in the United States till 1800, Methodism was unrelenting in its opposition to slavery. The tone of condemnation became less severe in 1804; and four years later all rules forbidding the holding of slaves by private individuals were stricken out. When the abolition movement began in the thirties the Ohio and Baltimore Conferences unhesitatingly condemned it; while those of Philadelphia, Pittsburg and Michigan declared it incompatible with the duties of Methodist preachers to deliver abolition lectures. But in church as well as in state the "irrepressible conflict" was on; the crisis was reached in the General Conference of 1844 when the church was rent in twain. The organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the more important events in its history are briefly described; and in still less degree the same is done for the other branches of Methodism. A chapter toward the close of the work is devoted to "propagandism, culture and philanthropy of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The beneficent and educational institutions are carefully grouped. The work of the church in these directions is indeed a magnificent tribute to the evangelism of Methodism, to its founder, John Wesley, and to his followers who came to America infused with his spirit. Dr. Buckley's book is a valuable contribution to our historical literature. It is a clear and concise statement of an influence and an organization—for Methodism is both—that constitute one of the formative forces of our national existence, and that is playing an important part in the making of the world that is to be in the twentieth century.

JOHN WILLIAM PERRIN.

*New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest.* The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry, Fur Trader of the Northwest Company, and David Thompson, Official Geographer and Explorer of the same Company, 1792-1814. Exploration and Adventure among the Indians on the Red, Saskatchewan,

Missouri, and Columbia Rivers. Edited, with copious critical commentary, by ELLIOTT COUES. (New York: Francis P. Harper. 1897. Three vols., pp. xxviii, vi, 1027.)

DR. COUES has added to his editions of Lewis and Clark and Pike, these three volumes dealing with the travels of Alexander Henry, the younger, and David Thompson, covering the years from 1799 to 1814, and the area along the Red, Saskatchewan, Missouri and Columbia Rivers. They differ from his previous works in being substantially new material, while the others had been printed before. In publishing his Lewis and Clark, Dr. Coues failed to secure the original manuscript of the diaries in time to reprint them, and thus gave us an annotation of the old modified version of Biddle, with occasional appetizing footnotes containing the original text in all its charm of flavor. In dealing with these volumes the method of Dr. Coues is also peculiar. He found the journals of Henry too voluminous to print, and rather verbose. Consequently he "took what grammatical liberties" he pleased, cut out superfluous words, and recast sentences and "made a textual compromise between what he found written and what he might have preferred to write had the composition been his own." One can sympathize with the difficulties of repetition which beset Dr. Coues, but it is obvious that the mode of treatment described would deprive the work of any right to the title of an original authority, and moreover the manuscript used by Dr. Coues is only a copy of the original journals, now apparently lost. The manuscripts of Thompson, the scientist of the Hudson Bay Company, later of the Northwest Company, and then of the International Boundary Commission, and discoverer of the sources of the Columbia, include in their original form the period from 1784 to 1850, and exist in about forty bound volumes. These Dr. Coues used only in the notes to Henry's travels, and therefore he incorporated only the material on the period down to 1812. The work is one that does not suffer so gravely from this editorial remodelling as might have been expected, since it is largely of value as a contribution to the literature of exploration and of the manners and customs of the Indians and the voyageurs of the remote Northwest. One who wishes to see the life of the fur-trader, the advance agent of civilization among the savages, and the Indian himself, in a state of nature, will find it in these pages. No more frank, and appallingly ghastly, photograph of the daily life of the trader in an Indian community has ever been made. The book is for the student of primitive society, the investigator of social origins, and not for the delicate stomach of the general reader. As a contribution to the literature explanatory of the process by which civilization and savagery intermingled and the Indian was exploited, the book is of the first rank.

Alexander Henry, the fur-trader whose journeyings are here related, was the nephew of the Henry who figures in the pages of Parkman. His career affords some additional light upon the methods of the Northwest Company, as well as upon the social conditions mentioned and he was

present at the transfer of Astoria to the British, and gives us an account of the proceeding.

Dr. Coues' notes are voluminous. A vast mass of personal names has been collected, much of it worthless, except perhaps to the local historian; but with this there is abundant evidence of the editor's familiarity with the local geography and with the natural history of the region of the travels. On its historical side and on its anthropological side the work might be improved by an editor of other qualifications.

FREDERICK J. TURNER.

*The Struggle between President Johnson and Congress over Reconstruction.* By CHARLES ERNEST CHADSEY, Ph.D. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. VIII., No. 1.] (New York: Macmillan Co. 1897. Pp. 150.)

To say that this book treats of the most interesting and important, and at the same time most tragic event in the civil history of the United States, is not overstating the fact. It is a very complete summary of the mass of Congressional legislation on that delicate and exciting topic, and clearly and forcefully illustrates, not only the extraordinary gravity of the issues of that time, but the varying stages of the process of the reconstructive legislation of Congress rendered seemingly necessary by those issues, this recital ending—as the closing chapter of the book, as it was the close of the record of the Reconstruction era—with a brief chapter on the impeachment of Andrew Johnson in 1868.

In the matter of Reconstruction, and the development of the successive and progressive stages of legislation and changes of conditions that marked its progress, this volume is the most complete presentation of the facts of the history relating thereto, that has ever been grouped in the same compass. It presents also a striking illustration of the advance of public sentiment of that time from a very moderate and conservative to an extreme position. That record of legislation is of itself a quite complete history of the processes of Reconstruction, and is emphasized and rounded out and brought to conclusion by the chapter on the impeachment, and with a moral that will never be forgotten, nor its solemn admonition ever cease to impress the statesman or student of history.

The presentation thus made illustrates, clearly and forcibly, and in historical order, from the beginning to the end of the recital, as the war progressed to conclusion and exigencies developed by changing conditions, the progress of the sentiment of the North from the very moderate position originally occupied by Congress, representing the great mass of the people, to the extremes of public opinion and public demand for what may be termed "obliterative" legislation that characterized the closing year of the war and the year of Reconstruction that followed. It shows that even from that extreme but not illogical sequel of the strife, a still further advance was made, as the strife over Reconstruction continued, to the assumption by Congress of the power to declare and