

years of his military career, and opened for the exclusive benefit of this writer. The quotations were really from reminiscences of Diaz's military career related by him to one of his friends a score of years ago, and privately published by the latter. Their circulation has been limited, and the publication of extracts from them in this English biography seems to have inspired a reproduction in Spanish of selections from the reminiscences, together with what is termed "an essay in psychological history", viz., the anonymous author's rather prolix interpretations and interpolations, *Porfirio Diaz (Sept. 1830-Sept. 1865), Ensayo de Psicología Histórica*. (Paris and Mexico, Bouret, 1906.) We are given the hint that, for some reason or other, the reminiscences will probably never be made public in their entirety, at least in their original form. But the anonymous author partly promises to conclude the biography from the year 1865.

*From Trail to Railway through the Appalachians*, by Albert Perry Brigham, Professor of Geology in Colgate University (Boston, Ginn and Company, pp. 188) is an interesting, unpretentious effort to correlate, within a space suitable for youthful students, the geography and history of the eastern United States. The author, without underrating physiography, is of the opinion that geography in the schools should return somewhat to human interests. Beginning his narrative with Boston and the Berkshires, Professor Brigham passes in turn to the valleys of the Mohawk and Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna, Ohio, and the Great Valley and mountains of Virginia and the South. With anecdotes and with illustrations, many of the features and much of the life, past and present, of these regions, are presented in a form suitable to the readers for whom the book is designed. The narrative avoids the precise divisions of a text-book. Roads and the westward movement are its main topics; and the geography is not taught formally, but is interwoven with the story.

In connection with the bi-centenary celebration of the birth of Franklin, Dr. Julius F. Sachse has issued *Benjamin Franklin as a Free Mason* (Philadelphia, 1906, pp. viii, 150). The work, compiled at the request of the Masonic Grand Master of Pennsylvania, is an exhaustive treatment of the Masonic side of Franklin's career. As early as 1734, Franklin was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania. In addition to his activity in the lodges of America, he was interested also in those of England and, still more, in those of France. Franklin carefully retained all his French lodge notices and correspondence, but of the American and English, next to none can be found.

*Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1766-1769*. Edited by John Pendleton Kennedy. (Richmond, 1906, pp. xlv, 372.) Proceeding backward from the Revolution, the librarian of the Virginia State Library brings out the third volume of his handsome series of the journals of the Burgesses. He seems to count it as embracing the journals of five sessions; but as his phrases are obscure and in part

erroneous, it may be well to set forth the exact nature of the sittings of 1766-1769. A new House convened November 6, 1766, and sat until December 16, when it adjourned to March 12, 1767. On that date it re-convened, and sat till April 11, when it was prorogued. Since the interval in the winter had been due to adjournment and not to prorogation, all this constituted but one session. The second session of this assembly lasted from March 31 to April 16, 1768. It was then prorogued, and subsequently dissolved. This ended that assembly. A new House of Burgesses was elected in November, 1768, and sat from May 8 to May 17, 1769, when it was dissolved by Lord Botetourt. This, which Mr. Kennedy calls "the first session of the Assembly of 1769", was more properly the sole session of the first assembly of that year. What he calls "the second session of 1769" was the first part of the first session of a fresh assembly, November 7—December 21, 1769, for on the last-named day it adjourned, without being prorogued, till May 21, 1770, when it resumed its session, of the second part of which Mr. Kennedy gives the journal in another volume. If the editor had more completely grasped these distinctions, he would have made better work of his lists of members.

In these three sessions and a half, the Burgesses carried on some of their most important contests and discussions. What with the external conflicts aroused by the British revenue acts and the internal conflicts brought on by the defalcation of Speaker Robinson and the separation of the offices of speaker and treasurer, there was no lack of contentious matter for the training of young statesmen for an approaching revolution. Of these struggles, and of those over the Indian boundary line, with the Six Nations and the Cherokees, the editor gives an account in his introduction. It is not always clear and well written, but it embraces a number of highly interesting documents, some of which, we believe, have not before been published. It would have been instructive if we might have had a firmer treatment of the case of Speaker Robinson. In later times Jefferson and Edmund Randolph and the biographers of Henry and Lee seem to have read into the matter a legend of party contest foreign to ante-Stamp-Act Virginia. An agricultural state without violent divergences of interest will often present few traces of political party. Mr. Bryce, in his *Impressions of South Africa*, pointed out this fact in the case of the Orange Free State, and that its natural tendency is to throw power into the hands of the presiding officer of the popular assembly. This seems to be the explanation of Speaker Robinson, when coupled with the fact that he was also treasurer of the province.

*Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789.* Edited by Worthington C. Ford. Volume VII., 1777, January 1-May 21. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1907, pp. 374.) In Mr. Ford's seventh volume the most important matters are those connected with the Articles of Confederation and with finance. The latter is illustrated