

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

by many entries relating to the bills of credit of the Continental Congress and the states, loans, lotteries and prices. The conclusion of the former matter is not to be had till the journals for November appear, but its progress is shown by many entries, among the most interesting of which are the amendments presented by Thomas Burke of North Carolina, May 5. Portions of Burke's abstracts of the debates, from the *North Carolina Records* and from manuscript, are printed in the foot-notes to the records of certain days.

*Naval Records of the American Revolution, 1775-1788.* Prepared from the Originals in the Library of Congress by Charles Henry Lincoln, of the Division of Manuscripts. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1906, pp. 549.) No one should suppose that the United States government possesses, indeed no one should suppose that there anywhere exists, any such body of records of the maritime warfare of the Revolution as it possesses for the warfare on land. The latter was waged in a continuous series of campaigns, each of which, however ragged in execution, had some degree of unity in plan and course. Not so the naval warfare. The efforts to establish a United States navy were unsuccessful. In view of the overwhelming sea-power of Great Britain, not only could there be no fleet-action, but before long it became apparent that individual American public vessels had but a very limited scope, and probably a brief career before them. Maritime endeavor was maintained on a large scale, but it was almost altogether confined to privateering, rich in profits, but not prolific of permanent historical record. The Library of Congress therefore, while it possesses the letter-book of the Marine Committee and its successors, the reports of various committees on naval subjects, and not a few interesting naval letters, confesses to having but a fragmentary body of material. More than half of the present volume is taken up with notes of the bonds of letters of marque, catalogued to be sure in such a manner as to bring out with extreme care and skill all the data they contain, but not capable of illuminating naval history beyond a certain degree. The other papers calendared are of more public importance, but must be supplemented by the John Paul Jones Papers, which Mr. Lincoln has already calendared in the same faithful and intelligent manner, and by the papers of Robert Morris and other uncalendared parts of the library's material. The mode of calendaring and the full index of names make the volume a guide to the careers of individuals as well as to the raw material of the naval history of the Revolution.

The Library of Congress has also undertaken the great task of calendaring the Washington Papers, *Calendar of the Correspondence of George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, with the Continental Congress*, prepared from the Original Manuscripts in the Library of Congress by John C. Fitzpatrick, Division of Manuscripts (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1906, pp. 741). When the Library published its *Calendar of Washington Manuscripts*, in 1901,