

historical manuscripts, newspaper clippings, etc." The material listed includes political and military history, descriptive writings, and collected genealogy and biography. It excludes natural history, educational and religious history, excepting that references to the history of the old original churches are given, and it also leaves out, as beside the point, the history of institutions, societies, and industries, town, city, and state documents, directories, maps, addresses, sermons, individual biography, genealogies of individual families, and official manuscript records in the hands of their legal custodians, which are described in the reports of the state record commissioner. General works are given first; then, in order, the material under the counties, which are alphabetically arranged, and, under the counties, the material relating to the towns, which are alphabetically arranged, likewise. The arrangement is convenient, and the use of the work is facilitated by an index to localities which gives both their present and obsolete names. In the body of the work the names of the localities are followed with outline statements of the original designation of the territory in question, date of incorporation, changes in limits, etc. This information, for the most part, is based on that contained in the *Manual* of the Massachusetts general court; certain changes have been made when they seemed necessary, but, in these cases, the authority is not named. That Mr. Flagg has been generous in defining the scope of his undertaking is apparent to anyone at all acquainted with the extent of the literature of the local history in a state in which historical and antiquarian interest has been developed as in Massachusetts. The results of his industry are highly successful. Some of his spoils may have escaped, it is true, though his drag-net has been thrown far out, and local investigators and antiquarians have helped him draw it in. This, however, can best be told in the practical use of the *Guide*. But, in bibliography, he is either a hopeless optimist or else a beginner who dares use the word "complete". Mr. Flagg went into a field that had been explored by Colburn so long ago as a quarter of a century, and has well accomplished a necessary task. The mechanical features of the book are pleasing.

W. A. S.

*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, second series, volume XX. (Boston, the Society, 1907, pp. xviii, 614.) This volume contains the proceedings of the society from January 1906 to March 1907, inclusive. Refined scholarship, literary experience, and good taste characterize its contents; but it cannot be said that they make an important addition to historical knowledge. One-fourth of the volume is taken up with biographical sketches of deceased members. So important are these deemed that, no such sketch of Charles Sumner having, it appears, been inserted in the series during the thirty-three years since he died, one is now printed in the present volume, surely a superfluous attention to a member whose life has been so amply recorded

elsewhere. Yet there is good reading in these sketches, and finished appreciations of a sort not common in the United States. Another fourth of the volume is taken up with portions of the correspondence of William Duane, moderately interesting. They make it possible to estimate the real calibre and attainments of one who was, it is well known, a power in his time, and illustrate, to a world still unduly impressed with the value of newspaper writers, the pithy saying of Oxenstjerna, *Nescis quantilla prudentia homines regantur*. Of the rest of the volume a large part is contributed by the president of the society, Mr. Charles Francis Adams, and the most interesting thing in it is his discussion, apropos of Fitzmaurice's *Life of Lord Granville*, of the causes by which Great Britain was prevented (and barely prevented) from recognizing the Confederacy. Next most interesting is Mr. F. B. Sanborn's somewhat disorderly account of St. John de Crèvecoeur.

*Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College; with Annals of the College History.* Volume IV., July, 1778-June, 1792. By Franklin Bowditch Dexter, Litt. D. (New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1907, pp. 752.) Doubtless the plan and character of Dr. Dexter's work have already become familiar from the preceding volume. The collegiate year is taken as a unit, beginning with the annals, then follows a list of the graduates of that year, followed by brief biographical sketches of these in alphabetical order. A list is given of all works which the subject of the sketch may have published (the predominance of sermons is noticeable), also a list of authorities consulted in the preparation of the sketch. The biography is oftener than otherwise simply a chronicle of the man's career, though now and then there are more definite portrayals of character. In examining the lists of graduates for these years we meet with several noteworthy names. For instance, in the class of 1778, there is Joel Barlow, "Noachus" Webster, and "Oliverus" Wolcott; in the class of 1781 "Jacobus" Kent; in that of 1785, Return Jonathan Meigs and "Timotheus" Pitkin. The annals are very brief, usually not more than a page for the year, yet in the lines and between the lines we get frequent and vivid glimpses of the times, manners, and men at Old Yale that interest even those who are not her sons. We see also the trials of the country reflected in the tribulations of the college. For instance, in the year 1779-1780, "at Commencement Professor Daggett presented to the Corporation an earnest remonstrance on account of the inadequacy of his salary in this time of inflated prices". The preparation of this work has involved wide research into a great variety of sources, and Dr. Dexter deserves large credit for the service he has done for the history of Yale.

*The Story of Bacon's Rebellion.* By Mary Newton Stanard. (New York and Washington, The Neale Publishing Company, 1907, pp. 181.) In spite of the considerable darkness that has surrounded it, "Bacon's Rebellion" in Virginia in 1676 has always drawn the attention of