

whatever of prosperity or economic depression accompanies or follows political action. Moreover, few of them have had the training necessary to accurately trace cause and effect in economic affairs" (p. 180).

Although the greater part of the book is devoted to a description of the economic life of the people at different stages of their development between 1765 and 1860, including such topics as colonial economy, internal commerce, transportation, manufactures, currency, the settlement of the West, and the organization of labor and capital, a large share is devoted to an economic interpretation of American political history. Economic depression and the reluctance to pay due to the unorganized and dispersed state of society account for the Revolution rather than denial of political rights or a stamp tax. "Economic conditions . . . wrecked the old Confederation; while prosperity . . . smoothed the way for the establishment of the new government and insured its extraordinary success." On the other hand, the tariff, in spite of the dominant rôle it has played in politics, is held to have had but a relatively slight effect upon economic development. The discussion of slavery contains some fresh and suggestive views: the scarcity of capital, rather than the institution itself, is held responsible for many of the economic evils usually ascribed to the latter. Professor Callender distinguishes carefully the various economic and social classes in Southern society, and pays special attention to the small non-slave-owning farmer. All in all, the volume will be found stimulating and informing, in spite of the strictures upon historical method.

*A History of the United States and its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time.* By ELROY MCKENDREE AVERY. In sixteen volumes. Volume VI. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers. 1909. Pp. xxxiv, 478.)

THIS volume of Dr. Avery's large popular *History of the United States* covers the period from 1776 to 1787—from the Declaration of Independence to the conclusion of the work of the Constitutional Convention. The military campaigns about New York, of Trenton and Princeton, of Brandywine and Germantown, of Saratoga, of Valley Forge, Monmouth, and Newport, of the struggle for the South and the closing scenes at Yorktown—these leading features of the war are treated of in one-half of the chapters devoted to the volume. One chapter is given to Foreign Relations and the French Alliance, one to European Complications and the Armed Neutrality, one to the Navy and the War on the Sea, one to the Finances of the Revolution, one to the Tories, and one to the New Governments, state and confederate, that were organized during the struggle. The titles of the chapters, sometimes figurative, are suggestive of large studies, but the content of the respective chapters is not found to be extensive, as the paper is heavy, the type is large, the margins are wide, and the maps and illustra-

tions are numerous. The brief chapter on the Loyalists of the Revolution contains fewer than three thousand words, and it is rather surprising to note that in the bibliography on that chapter Professor Van Tyne's well-known work on that subject is not named, though that author is made responsible in the body of the text for the statement that "fifty thousand loyalists were drawn into the military service of Great Britain." It seems that even a lazy reader of a popular history would be pleased to note in what work an authority on the subject has set forth his opinion. The chapter, however, sums up briefly the salient and most interesting features of the Tory controversy, without the addition of anything new. In the chapter entitled Peace there is a good summary of the peace negotiations of 1782, obviously written with a view of bringing out the interesting personal, not to say spectacular, features of that great achievement in our history. The chapter closes, while discussing the disbanding of Washington's army, with a rather unusual recognition of the services of negro troops in the Revolution.

The "critical period" of the Confederation is treated of under the title Disabled and Drifting. The chapter does not present a consistent constitutional study but consists rather of a miscellany of topics usual to the period, so that the reader will hardly be led to appreciate the real significance of the Confederation as a chapter in the growth of nationalism and union. Likewise in the concluding chapter entitled Building the Ship, the character of the problem before the Convention of 1787 and the permanent political and constitutional significance of the issues at stake are not sufficiently indicated to answer the needs and purposes of the serious reader, not to mention the inquiring student. The volume falls short chiefly on the constitutional side. The period covered by this volume is highly important for the consideration of the great central controversy of our history—the conflict between state sovereignty and nationality. The reader of Dr. Avery's volume will hardly obtain a due appreciation of that controversy. The formation of the Confederation—the account of which might lead to a narration that would be too dry and technical for the author's taste—is disposed of in this large work in a brief paragraph (p. 57); and the students of our national history will not greatly respect the dictum that until 1781 the Continental Congress "exercised the political power of the country and was recognized by all the colonies as *de jure* and *de facto* the national government". Maryland's services in the formation of the Union are not recognized. Reference is made to the fact that she was the last to ratify the Articles, while her important reasons are withheld from the knowledge of the reader. Toward the last of the volume (p. 399), in the chapter on Opening the West, it is mentioned that Maryland "held up the articles of confederation until she was assured that the western lands should become common property" for future independent states—an act that is regarded as a "perilous cutting away from the almost universal notion of supreme state sovereignty",

and "the first expression of an idea that has overwhelmed the theory of union on which the articles of confederation were based". The author speaks of the fierce indignation aroused against Maryland on this account, which led some to favor her division "between the neighboring states and erasing her name from the map". This is certainly not an adequate presentation nor an enlightening interpretation of one of the most important and significant controversies in the beginnings of our constitutional union.

In the Opening of the West there is a commendable account of the early United States land surveys, describing the work of Thomas Hutchins, geographer and surveyor-general, together with an exposition of the Geographer's Line and the reservation of section 16 for public schools. This account is accompanied by a finely executed map of the Seven Ranges made on the Geographer's Line running due west from the point where the west boundary of Pennsylvania intersects the north boundary of the Ohio River. North and south lines, six miles apart, were to divide the territory into the seven ranges, and east and west lines into townships.

The volume is richly illustrated and as a specimen of the book-maker's art it fully maintains the standard set by its predecessors. In this respect it is a distinct credit to the author and the publishers. There are nearly four hundred illustrations, counting the maps, which are of uniform clearness and excellence, and the autographs, which are always interesting, while but few of the illustrations are fanciful. There are nearly fifty portraits, many of them of decided historical value, including, besides the frontispiece of Stuart's Washington, interesting portraits of Generals Sullivan, Schuyler, Kosciuszko, Wayne, Stark, Morgan, and George Rogers Clark, and of André, Vergennes, Paul Jones, Brant, Arnold, and Peggy Shippen.

Speaking again from the criterion of historical content, while the work does not present a very serious study of our political and constitutional development and while the proportions and interpretations of the author may be criticized, the volume, on the whole, may be said to have fairly accomplished its purpose—that of presenting in popular form, the salient, important, and significant personages, aspects, and events of the times with which it deals.

*Cornelius Harnett: an Essay in North Carolina History.* By R. D. W. CONNOR. (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company. 1909. Pp. 209.)

MR. CONNOR has attempted neither a biography nor a history, but he has given us, as the title reads, an essay in the history of the Revolution in North Carolina, with the career of a leading actor in that struggle for its central theme. It is not a philosophical essay, but a brief and attractive narrative of the events in which Harnett took part. Within the limitations the author has given himself it is a very satis-