

After resisting slavery for eighteen years the trustees were forced to yield in 1750. By 1742 rum was being imported and used so publicly that the trustees instructed their secretary in the province to wink at this violation of the law and to discourage seizures, but to see to it that alcoholic drinks were not sold except in houses licensed to sell beer. The Indian act forbade trading with Indians in Georgia except under license obtained in Georgia personally. This caused much ill-feeling in South Carolina, where the assembly published a whole volume on the subject in 1736, but this book studiously avoided quoting the act in full, and the authorities in London overruled the protest. Only very gradually and unwillingly the trustees were forced to modify in practice the complicated and annoying land laws for Georgia, all restrictions being removed in 1750.

All these matters and various others are treated fully and ably by Mr. McCain, who certainly deserves our thanks and congratulations.

The important periodical *Political State of Great Britain* (p. 347 and *passim*) of which there are incomplete sets in the Library of Congress, Columbia University and Harvard libraries, seems to be based, for Georgia, partly on Charleston newspapers.

LEONARD L. MACKALL.

Benjamin Franklin Self-revealed: a Biographical and Critical Study based mainly on his own Writings. In two volumes. By WILLIAM CABELL BRUCE. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1917. Pp. 544; 550. \$6.00.)

To say of Mr. Bruce's work, "At last a good book on Franklin!" would be an injustice to Parton, Bigelow, Stevens, Swift, McMaster, Hale, Ford, Morse, Smyth, Livingston, and many other commentators, expert and sympathetic, who have illuminated various aspects of a many-sided activity. The mere mention of these names, however, will suggest to the Franklinian the special opportunity prepared for the latest biographer. Since Parton's *Life and Times*, a capital performance for 1864, the primary duty of Franklin students has been the correction of the work of the early editors by reference to the manuscripts, and the collection, cataloguing, editing, and publication of constantly accumulating masses of new material. While this task was proceeding, many essays and partial portraits appeared; but Professor Smyth, most diligent of editors, could say as late as 1905, "I believe that no attempt has ever been made to take a comprehensive survey and estimate of Franklin's work."

Mr. Bruce's intention, one infers, was to produce a survey and estimate more comprehensive than that of any previous biographer; and he has been so far successful that nowhere else save in the complete works of Franklin can one find his subject so intimately and amply presented. He makes no profession of radically novel views or unpub-

lished documents. He assimilates and artistically composes materials made accessible by his predecessors, to whom it is a little regrettable that he denies himself the pleasure of offering more than casual and incidental acknowledgments. A substantial work of popularization may well afford a few prefatory pages for the gratification of those who are interested in literary genealogy and for the guidance of those in whom it rouses an appetite for sources. That Mr. Bruce's digestion of the writings of Franklin has not exhausted them, one may ascertain by comparing his index with that of Smyth under the words, for example, Germany, Sweden, and Spain.

The plan of his book suggests, however, that he was less concerned to make an exhaustive summary than a sumptuous representation. Following the chronological order only within the chapters, he disposes his material under the following headings: moral standing and system, religious beliefs, philanthropist and citizen, family relations, American friends, British friends, French friends, personal characteristics, man of business, statesman, man of science, and writer. The topics overlap here and there; a certain amount of repetition is unavoidable; but the method permits great detail with easy and limpid exposition, and is well adapted to display that inexhaustible energy which flowed so full-fraught through so many channels so serenely to the sea. From time to time, furthermore, the cumulative effect of the chapters is happily anticipated by some such synoptic sentence as this, crowding into the consciousness the total significance of Franklin's opposition to the Stamp Act:

To their assistance and to the assistance as well of the great body of wise and generous Englishmen who loved liberty too much at home to begrudge it to Englishmen in America, he brought his every resource, his scientific fame, his social gifts, his personal popularity, his knowledge of the world and the levers by which it is moved, the sane, searching mind, too full of light for bigotry, superstition, or confusion, the pen that enlisted satirical point as readily as grave dissertation in the service of instruction.

The sentence just quoted indicates fairly well the temper of Mr. Bruce's criticism. Every biographer of Franklin, he admits, "seems to adore him more or less in spite of occasional sharp shocks to adoration". This wily American, so seductive in his simplicity, disarms his critics one after another, educates them to a large tolerance, insensibly persuades them that some of their fieriest principles are foolish prejudices, some of their purity mere poverty of spirit, and that a man, like a book, should be judged by his accomplishment rather than by his omissions and his list of *errata*. He attempts to speak with judicial severity of his "unflinching nepotism", his sensuality, his occasional coarseness of speech and rankness of fancy, his senile gallantry, his traffic in slaves, and his verse such as "neither Gods nor men can endure". He even labors the point of his iniquity in treating his illegitimate son like his legitimate offspring, which I should have been disposed to attribute to