

length, Monroe and Madison. His correspondence with Madison is especially distinguished, beginning in these years and extending throughout their lives as a great source of American history. What Jefferson learned about the Federal Convention and the Constitution and his first reactions to the new frame of government are to be found chiefly in this correspondence.

In issuing an *Index* to Volumes 1-6 of the *Papers*, the first of a series of preliminary indexes, the editors point out its temporary nature and invite all users to report errors and suggest improvements. Certainly a cumulative index is more serviceable than a permanent one in each volume; the ultimate goal is a general index to the entire work. Investigators will be grateful for these aids along the way toward the completion of Julian Boyd's monumental edition of Jefferson's *Papers*.

Institute of Early American History
and Culture

LESTER J. CAPPON

Revivalism and Social Reform in Mid-Nineteenth Century America.

By Timothy L. Smith. (New York: Abingdon Press, 1957. Pp. 253.
Bibliographical essay. \$4.00.)

This book adds another chapter to the recent rewriting of the religious development in the United States during the nineteenth century. Originally accepted by Harvard University as a doctoral dissertation, the manuscript was selected as the Brewer Prize Essay by the American Society of Church History. Now somewhat revised, it has been published by a church press which richly deserves praise for accepting this scholarly investigation.

Timothy L. Smith, now pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene in Boulder, Colorado, early in the writing of this book discovered that "revivalistic religion lay at the fountainhead of our nation's heritage of hope." Contrary to the widely accepted belief that revivalism and perfectionism declined after the early 1840's, the author finds that the revival fervor, which permeated the West, shifted to the urban centers with immigrants, slum areas, and industrial sections. By 1850 "the cutting edge of American Christianity" was the revival promoted by the most important of the evangelical Protestant denominations. So popular had the revivals become, people lived in expectation of their seasonal pleasures and recurring advantages.

The slavery struggle contributed little to the great revival of 1858, but the panic of 1857 left a marked effect. The revival increased religious fervor and brought new and profound changes in American Protestantism. Laymen with wealth, power, and education developed

a brotherhood in which ethics replaced dogma and Arminianism triumphed over Calvinism. Concurrent with this change came a desire for a radical reform in human character, for sanctification by faith, and Christian perfection. Two new sociological factors, the broader role of women in religion and the rapid growth of cities, gave tone and direction to the movement.

For the last five chapters, the author has as his thesis, "Whatever may have been the role of other factors, the quest for perfection joined with compassion for poor and needy sinners and a rebirth of millennial expectation to make popular Protestantism a mighty social force long before the slavery conflict erupted into war." The problem of helping the poor was relatively simple; the paradox of slavery was not to be so readily solved. For many people preserving the church became far more important than freeing the slave. After the Civil War revivalism and holiness prepared the way for the growth of the social gospel.

In an effort to appraise correctly the period between 1840 and 1865, the author seems to have read all the literature bearing on the topic under investigation. Apparently chapters XII and XIII on slavery have been added to the original manuscript, since they are not well integrated into the body of the whole. This, however, is an opinion which should not detract from this revealing study.

Agnes Scott College and Emory University WALTER B. POSEY

Congressman Abraham Lincoln. By Donald W. Riddle. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1957. Pp. vii, 280. Bibliography. \$4.50.)

If Congress was Abraham Lincoln's political college, his conduct was at best sophomoric. However, a study of Lincoln's congressional career points up the excellence of President Polk's leadership and reveals that he was the one "strong" president between the seventh and the sixteenth.

As a Whig congressman from the Illinois seventh district Lincoln hewed to the party line. The military phases of the Mexican War had been completed before Lincoln was sworn in, but his "spot" resolutions introduced to discredit Polk nearly terminated his own political career.

Like many congressmen, Lincoln once in Washington lost sight of his home constituency and fell under the influence of party leaders. Riddle aptly points out that as a congressman Lincoln made some of his most glaring errors in estimating a political situation.

Once Lincoln got immeshed in presidential politics he probably