

BOOK REVIEWS

The Mingling of the Races. By G. M. TREVELYAN. (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1934. Pp. 192. \$1.35.)

This brief account is a splendid addition to the many popular books dealing with the history of England. Professor Trevelyan draws upon an inexhaustable fund of knowledge of social, economic, religious, and intellectual history and produces a clear picture in lucid language. Many passages reveal the sure touch of a skillful artist who knows how to decorate a story with telling phrase and the right kind of detail. Not the least fascinating among the many pleasant passages is the account on pages 110-112 of the Scandinavian invasions. In no other work can a reader find in the brief compass of 191 pages so splendid a picture of the important formative history of the English people to the death of Henry I in 1135. The book should be read by all whose conception of English history during this remote age has been derived from Green. In no better way can he get a realization of the immense progress which historical studies have made during the past two generations.

HENRY S. LUCAS

The Irrepressible Conflict, 1850-1865. By ARTHUR CHARLES COLE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1934. Pp. 468. \$4.00.)

Professor Cole's work is a part of the series on the "History of American Life," edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger and Dixon Ryan Fox. It provides an unusually interesting and valuable contribution both in its adequate documentation, and in the comprehensive discussion of social and cultural development. It is not an easy task to re-interpret the forces that divided North from South. Here are the many threads of the story of division. Economic factors are recognized and described, but more as a part of a popular tendency, that is, taking the attitudes of various classes into account. It is in some ways a study in public opinion.

The two civilizations developed in contiguous territories along quite different lines. These differences affected politics, but political platforms and campaigns exhibited the external event, not the backgrounds or cause. Professor Cole appreciates the importance of the Middle West in the period. He has used a vast number of news-

papers, memoirs and diaries, thus reaching the life of the people of the time. In the "Critical Essay on Authorities," a lengthy bibliography is of invaluable aid to the student of this period, especially because of the penetrating analysis of the material. The interests covered include all phases of activity: labor, immigration, religion, philanthropy, woman's rights, literature, and the fine arts. In consequence, an unusually rich and varied procession of individuals and groups are described. Some of the material has never before been presented and is extremely valuable in completing the details of the usual picture of the life in the period drawn with a few heavy strokes. Not only are details added, the picture is changed from the over-simplified economic-political type and becomes much more adequate since the details describe the life of the people rather than the parades of the parties. In the chapters on the Civil War, the emphasis is on the man in the ranks, not on the generals.

It is nearly a century since Marx wrote his essay on "The Holy Family" in which he interpreted religion in the light of economic factors and emphasized every-day life. The success of the economic interpretation has increased tremendously our knowledge of the life of people, but not until recently has the American historian rounded the presentation by including social and cultural factors. In the period from 1850 to 1865, there was so much humanitarian striving, so much that was new in literature and education, that a political or economic history fails to explain the nature of the "irrepressible conflict." A volume as comprehensive as Professor Cole's is therefore of great value in explaining the differences between the northren and southern civilizations. The southerners "sickened at the name" of a free society consisting of "greasy mechanics, filthy operatives, small-fisted farmers, and moon-struck theorists." The northerners who were anti-slavery considered slavery a moral wrong because of its effect upon white people and free labor. The differences between these two opinions constituted "the irrepressible conflict," led to bloodshed and civil war, and heralded modern America.

EBBA DAHLIN

Five Fur Traders of the Northwest. Edited by CHARLES M. GATES, with an Introduction by Grace Lee Nute. (Minneapolis: Published for the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Dames of America, by the University of Minnesota Press, 1933. Pp. 298. \$3.50.)