

Review

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ested in the work in Virginia. His next years were spent at Buffalo, Virginia, where he preached and wrote, seeking to show the underlying similarity between the church of England and his own. His final work was in North Carolina, where he was the "first missionary and gospel preacher."

Dr. Herndon has rendered a service in bringing to light this new and carefully marshalled work on this colonial pastor. His book is sound, factual, and erudite.

Bluebell, Montgomery County

JOHN JOSEPH STOUT

Thomas Paine. Representative Selections, with Introduction, Bibliography, and Notes. By HARRY HAYDEN CLARK. (New York: American Book Company, 1944. cli, 408 p., and notes. \$1.60.)

Tom Paine's writings are good to read. They are considerably better than the books people have written about him. This little volume contains his best works, introduced by an interpretive essay perfect of its type. The book is so small it will fit into your pocket, which Howard Fast's novel and W. E. Woodward's biography will not, and of its accuracy, reliability, and taste there can be no question.

Assuming (correctly, I think) that the facts of Paine's life are easily enough available, Mr. Clark devotes his introduction to an account of the intellectual development of the Thetford staymaker into the world revolutionist. Four principal influences shaped Paine's religious and ethical views: Quakerism, Newtonian deism, Greek and Roman writings, and ancient oriental religions, with which he had some acquaintance. Freemasonry furnished him contemporary allies. His political philosophy stemmed from his religious and ethical system. It was an optimistic philosophy, based on the inherent altruism of man in nature, and the rights nature conferred upon individuals. Reason was its method—he was a child of the Enlightenment—and a written constitution was its proper measure. The purpose of government was to act positively for the general good.

Of course, he opposed mercantilism, and of course he favored commerce and manufacture. Paine was truly as much a forerunner of J. Q. Adams as of Jackson. He was both a practical and a theoretical humanitarian; he relied upon education to save the world. One good schoolmaster he reckoned was of more use than a hundred priests.

Mr. Clark handles all these issues, and those of literary style, with authority. Special students will find the introduction, tables and bibliography very helpful. The general reader, however, will probably go at once to the text where he will find that splendid sturdy courage, the core of Paine's being, glittering in an age when men faced a fearful responsibility: "These are the times that try men's souls . . . Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered, yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

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J. H. POWELL