

contact" and the expression "and/or."

One of the numerous things that set Judge Curran apart from his colleagues is his readiness to take elections philosophically. He has been in campaigns, without being of them. When a man who is running for the office of Mayor of New York, or for any other office in the city, for that matter, is endlessly aware of the humorous aspect of each moment of his life, he can be neither a master politician nor a self-idolater. Of all the jobs Henry Curran has had, the job to which he seems most happily suited, temperamentally, is the one he currently occupies, a chief magistracy. To watch the sidewalks of New York from a vantage point, and to be able to improve those sidewalks in whatever way he can—his own amiably eccentric way, as a rule—is a dish that pleases him. In a way this autobiography might be called an auxiliary guide to New York. A book beguiling and wise, that has very little to say about the city's architecture, but a great deal about its fascinating people. Including, and it must be remembered that the adjective is the reviewer's, Henry H. Curran.

James Reid Parker, author of "Academic Procession," is currently writing the *Forbes, Hathaway, Bryan & Devore* law stories for The New Yorker.

## A Panorama of Christianity

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANITY: Vol. IV, *The Great, Great Century, 1800-1914*. By Kenneth Scott Latourette. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1941. 516 pp., with index. \$3.50.

Reviewed by CRANE BRINTON

PROFESSOR Latourette's great work is nearing completion. His first three volumes dealt with the expansion of Christianity in its first eighteen centuries. His last three, of which this is the first, will deal with a single century, the nineteenth, which he very properly concludes in 1914. In this volume, he limits himself to Europe and the United States. He is concerned neither with the history of theology, nor in the ordinary sense, with Church history, but with the history of Christianity as a missionary enterprise.

So enormous is his material that for pages and pages he has to fall into a kind of catalogue, an encyclopaedic listing of missions, circuits, revivals, colleges, dioceses, and associations. Into this endless series of names and dates little color and life can penetrate. The Mormons move like disembodied spirits from Kirtland to Nauvoo and on to Deseret. John

Humphrey Noyes, in a bare sentence, "established a Christian communistic society at Oneida, New York." It is true that a footnote sends the reader to books where he can find the color and the life with which this "Yankee saint" was abundantly endowed. Had he done nothing more than to unite systematically material nowhere else brought together, Professor Latourette would deserve the gratitude of every student of modern history. He does, however, do a great deal more.

For, in addition to giving us these scholarly listings of the facts about the expansion of Christianity, Professor Latourette pauses now and then to give a sociological interpretation of the impact of organized Christianity on the world, and of the world on organized Christianity. In his earlier volumes he has supplied at least the minimum of intellectual and institutional history, so that the reader familiar with the whole work knows what Professor Latourette means by Christianity. Here he sums up such forces as agnosticism and rationalism, nationalism, socialism, militarism, and many other "isms" and relates them to the growth of nineteenth-century Christianity. The bones of his logical framework stand out clearly, a little in the classroom manner, and his terms often have the lack of precision so frequent in the social sciences. But there is meat here, and good sense. The extraordinary multiplication of sects in the United States he rightly sees is not in itself a sign of weakness in American Christianity, but rather a sign of youth and strength.

This book should remind the skeptical and the indifferent as well as the prophets of doom among us of a simple and often forgotten fact. Since the French Revolution, Christians in the technical and measurable sense of membership in an organized body of worshippers have multiplied proportionately far beyond the very great natural increase of world population. There were in 1914 many more Christians than in 1789, not only absolutely, but relatively. Many grave problems are still left unresolved when you have made that statement. Perhaps most Christians in 1914 were not "real" Christians. Perhaps totalitarian national faiths have since then further undermined Christian faith. Perhaps knowledge of contraceptives will do more damage to Christianity than did knowledge of Voltaire and Tom Paine. But all this is speculation, some of it speculation in neglect of the facts Professor Latourette has so ably brought to our attention.

**"THE RIVER RISES** is recommended as a great picture of New England in transition, and as a fine, rich drama with about as good invention-structure, struggle and humor as anyone is likely to find."—*Saturday Review*.

by

*Helen Abbott Beals*

"It is not often that one comes upon a novel so fresh, so convincing, so thoroughly enjoyable. Sensitive, dramatic, it gives the lie to those who hold New England is necessarily dour."—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*. \$2.50

**THE MACMILLAN COMPANY**  
60 Fifth Avenue New York City

## War and Politics

**WAR BY REVOLUTION.** By Francis Williams. New York: Viking Press. 1941. 158 pp. \$1.50.

**THE MALADY AND THE VISION.** By T. R. Fyvel. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1941. 276 pp., with index. \$3.50.

Reviewed by PETER F. DRUCKER

MR. WILLIAMS'S little book has one great virtue; it is not content with analyzing the past and with distributing blame. It knows that it is the future that really matters. At the same time it shows unusual realism and detachment regarding the war and peace situation. It takes great courage today for an Englishman to admit that this war cannot be won except on the Continent and it is convincing testimony of the fact that England at war is almost freer and more democratic than was England in peace.

Mr. Williams's thesis is not very different from that recently expounded by Professor Laski; namely, that this is a war which can only be won by social revolution, both in England and on the Continent, a social revolution which will realise true democracy. Mr. Williams differs from Professor Laski mainly in a greater devotion to the political and strategic details. The focal idea of his book is the proposal to make London the

center for a European revolution, carried by refugees from Hitler Europe.

Very few people who know Europe and who understand the present situation will quarrel with Mr. Williams on the thesis that it is just as important to win the peace after this war. But like his predecessors, Mr. Williams does not know how such a peace could be won. His program is the 1928 program of the Right Wing of the British Labor Party, unchanged with all the trimmings. Certainly, that liberal dream of the 1928 League of Nations Union was a noble dream. But there is no reason why a program which failed in the comparatively simple and benevolent circumstances of 1928 should work in the bitter and grim reality which Europe is going to face after this present war.

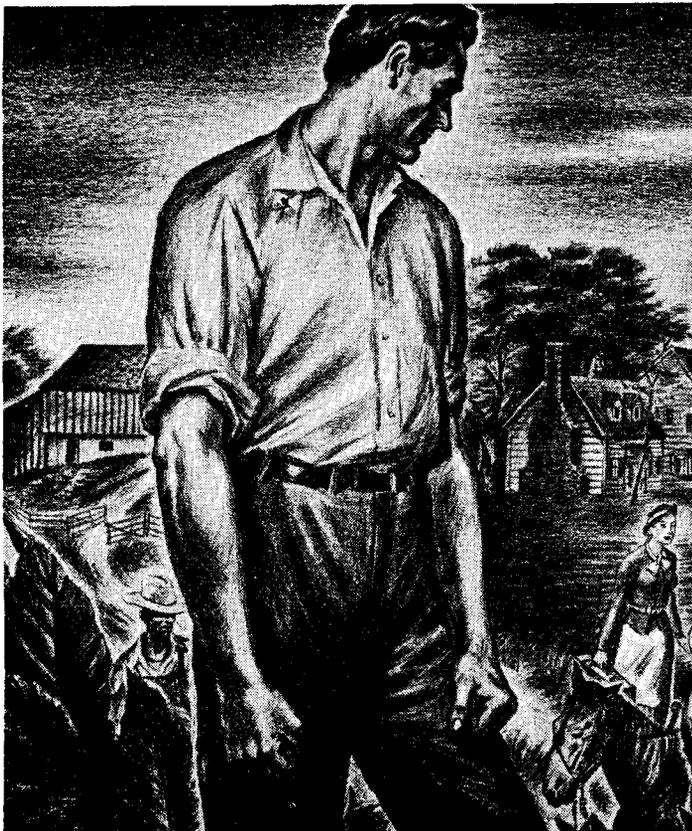
If Mr. Williams is disappointing in his actual political program, Mr. Fyvel, another Englishman, is disappointing in both his analysis and his program. This might have been an interesting book had it come out three years ago, when it really seemed to matter who bore the responsibility for Munich or for the collapse of the French Popular Front, or for the failure to act in Manchuria. Today, it is not even really important any more to know why France collapsed. Mr. Fyvel spends many pages complaining bitterly about past mistakes. He does not even attempt to contribute anything to the future, short of reminding us not to forget the problem of the colonial peoples.

## Author, Author!

**Long Distance Costs Money.** *Quentin Reynolds* ("The Wounded Don't Cry") has returned to his post as London correspondent for *Collier's*, on a convoy vessel, leaving behind him the manuscript of his London diary, which will be out within a few months. Shortly before sailing, Mr. Reynolds was received by President Roosevelt in his office at the White House. While he was there the President put through a trans-Atlantic call to another eminent statesman who is also an author, *Winston Churchill* ("Blood, Sweat, and Tears"). Mr. Reynolds was slightly startled when, after a conversation, he heard the President say to the Prime Minister, "I'll have to hang up now. My three minutes are up!"

**War in Four Months?** *Edgar Snow* ("The Battle for Asia") recently arrived in New York from China with his wife, *Nym Wales* ("Inside Red China"). Mr. Snow, who was the first American newspaper man to visit the Chinese Soviets, back in 1936, and whose predictions about the course of war in Asia have proved to be in the main correct, is anxious to go on assignment to South America. He wants to go immediately because he is convinced that the United States will be at war with Japan within four months and then, he believes, most sources of news to the south will be clamped shut.

**And Red All Over.** *Richard Wright*



CHAPEL HILL  
announces a distinguished first novel:

# First, the Fields

By CHARLES WOOD

NOVELS of the present-day South deal, usually, either with the "decayed aristocrats" dreaming of departed glories, or with the derelicts who live in hovels along tobacco road. **FIRST, THE FIELDS** is the first to portray the real Southerner — intelligent, tough-minded, self-reliant, a member of the small planter class. Set against the fascinating background of the tobacco industry, is the dramatic story of the conflict between "the land" and a woman — as these two opposing needs struggle for the possession of Hugh Winton. \$2.50

*The University of North Carolina Press*