

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Papers of John C. Calhoun.* Edited by Robert L. Merriweather. (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1959. Volume 1. Pp. 438. \$10.00)

Here is a volume that includes much of the correspondence and many of the speeches written and made by John C. Calhoun between 1801 and 1817. This covers the beginning period of Calhoun's political career.

The University of South Carolina Press is rendering distinct service in presenting these papers, for John C. Calhoun was one of the giants among American statesmen of his era. A second volume, including the papers of the great South Carolinian when he was at the apex of his career, is understood to be in the process of compilation. The two volumes will undoubtedly prove a veritable storehouse of information for students of the period.

A scanning of the papers of the completed first volume reveals the growth from immaturity to maturity of Calhoun's political and economic thinking. The reader can get an inkling of his character which caused contemporaries to call him "The Cast-iron Man." Calhoun was inflexible once he had made up his mind as to the rightness or wrongness of a proposition.

In his early career he was dedicated to the concept that the United States had a great national destiny. He belonged to that group who believed America and Americans should stand for no affronts or browbeatings from foreign countries.

Many of his writings and speeches of the period covered by this volume are devoted to attacking the New England attitude of non-resistance to British encroachments on the rights of Americans.

Here was a man who believed the nation might be strong and powerful under the powers specifically delegated by the states to the federal government. He did not consider it necessary to give more powers to the federal government in order to attain such goal.

—Elmer L. Fraker

*Oklahoma Historical Society*  
*Oklahoma City*

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*Tecumseh, Destiny's Warrior.* By David C. Cooke. (Julian Messner, Inc. New York, 1959, pp. 192. \$2.95.)

Although he touched Oklahoma but indirectly, the name Tecumseh is well known in the state; and it is important that it not be forgotten elsewhere in North America. Tecumseh, a Shawnee, was the greatest of his tribe. He was a renowned orator and a great leader of his race of men. His visions of empire, not for himself but rather for his people, rank with those dreamed by history's great. Such was not to be through no fault nor lack of effort on his part.

Tecumseh's maturity reached the stage of history at the period of the War of 1812. Based upon his own experience, and his lack of faith in the steadfastness of the word of the new United States, he aligned himself with the British. He brought much to their cause; and in turn, received from them very little, and certainly not, neither at the time nor from history, the appreciation that was and is his due.

The volume is in a popular, light and informal style. However, merit is not sacrificed, and the book makes excellent reading. Author Cooke tells his story well, and we hope the life of Tecumseh will be better known by reason thereof.

—George H. Shirk

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

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