

V. CHURCH HISTORY.

The Pilgrims and Their History. By Roland G. Usher, Ph.D., Professor of History, Washington University, St. Louis. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1918. 310 pp. \$2.00.

Professor Usher has succeeded not only in producing a very readable story, but has made some additions to our knowledge. His claims in the latter direction are modest. Dexter and other scholars have spent an infinite amount of labor upon this event, and, as Professor Usher says, it is not likely that any substantial additions will be made in the future to what they have discovered. The author takes an unusual view of some features of the history. For example, he denies that there was any serious active persecution of the Pilgrims before they left England for Holland by either the church or the state, and he seems to establish his contention. Again, he maintains that the body which emigrated to Holland was much smaller than is generally supposed.

But the real contribution of the book is not that it adds materially to our knowledge. It is rather that the author has made so readable and so vital a story. He has studied into the details of the life of the Pilgrims and the conditions of living, and has succeeded in reproducing these vital elements in a remarkable degree. Avoiding the technicalities of history in his presentation of his material, he has everywhere preserved the scientific attitude. The work is well done.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

Wesley as Sociologist, Theologian, Churchman. By John Alfred Faulkner, Professor of Church History in Drew Theological Seminary. Methodist Book Concern, New York and Cincinnati, 1918. 193 pp. 75 cts.

The title of this small volume exactly describes its contents. It is a study of the great evangelist and reformer in the three aspects of the title. Dr. Faulkner is one of the ablest and most accomplished historical scholars of the Methodist Church in America and has made Wesley his constant study. He is in his investigations, fair and fearless in his judgments, clear and full in his statements. He is, therefore, peculiarly well fitted to deal with these disputed aspects of the life and work of the great founder of Methodism. He corrects in this book some of his own earlier opinions.

It is not so generally known that Wesley was deeply interested in the social conditions of his day, keen in his observations and

analyses and often shrewd and far-sighted in his suggestions for improvement. This Dr. Faulkner has brought out very effectively, pointing out those suggestions that were visionary and those that were to bear more practical fruit in the future.

Wesley had little interest in systematic theology, nor was he a theologian as was Calvin. But he was interested in truth, and earnestly maintained "sound doctrine" as to the great essential doctrines of the Christian religion. At the same time he made no set of religious opinions a condition of membership in his societies.

One of the most controversial phases of Wesley's life was his relation to the English church and to the formation of independent societies that grew into the various Methodist churches of the world. This thorny question Dr. Faulkner handles judiciously and admirably. He points out that Wesley was utterly inconsistent, trying to remain in the English church and at the same time constantly doing things, as, for example, sending out lay preachers, which were contrary to the theory and practice of that church.

For all who are at all interested in these phases of Wesley's life this small volume will prove to be illuminating and very helpful.

W. J. McGLOTHLIN.

American Civil Church Law. By Carl Zollmann, LL.B. New York, Columbia University, 1917. 473 pp. \$3.50 net.

It is claimed that this "volume is the first attempt compactly and logically to set forth the legal aspects of these relations [between the state and the denominations] as they have been developed, defined, and illustrated by the federal and state constitutions, by hundreds of statutes, and by thousands of cases" (p. 3f). So far as the reviewer knows, this claim is fully justified. No former volume known to him is comparable to this in the fullness and thoroughness of the treatment of this complex and important subject. Moreover, "it rests on a direct study of the primary sources of information", as is attested by multitudes of references to constitutions, statutes and decisions. Indeed, it represents vast labor in the way of investigation and reflection.

It is not a mere digest of the material that has been studied. Rather an effort has been made to trace the development and history of the various aspects of church law, to show the forces and considerations that have been influential in shaping this history, and the present method of applying legal principles to the concrete questions that arise in our American life.