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THE SOUTHERN COLONIES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1607-1689, by Wesley Frank Craven (A History of the South, ed. by Wendell H. Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter, Vol. 1). Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1949. Pp. xv, 451. \$6.00.

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## Reviews

**THE SOUTHERN COLONIES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, 1607-1689**, by Wesley Frank Craven (A History of the South, ed. by Wendell H. Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter, Vol. 1). Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1949. Pp. xv, 451. \$6.00.

This is not a History but a commentary. Instead of retelling the already well-told story of Virginia, Maryland, and Carolina beginnings, the author has chosen to restrict his attention, or at least his emphasis, to certain features which he might hope better to interpret or more clearly to explain. His choice has fallen for the most part on land policies and government; among the subjects neglected are Indians, geography, boundaries, diseases, architecture, crops and trade. It is not a book, then, for the general reader desiring a rounded narrative but for the scholar who already has his facts well in hand.

Spanish colonization influenced the later English attempts chiefly by establishing a route to America, by the transmission of Spanish crops, and by the utilization of native products. Gilbert and Raleigh were motivated not by a desire to explore for the Northwest Passage but by a hope of producing in America the things England needed. Virginia also was designed from the beginning as an agricultural colony. It had a planned economy that called for compact settlement, orderly expansion, and the production of certain crops which England lacked. This planned economy failed because the company, depending on the merchants for funds, had to consent to crops that would sell instead of insisting on crops which were needed, and because in order to attract settlers the company was compelled to grant liberties and privileges antagonistic to its plans. As long as Virginia was failing the members of the company were fairly united; it was only when the colony showed symptoms of succeeding that it became worth while to quarrel about the management of it. The Sandys administration, however, was no more financially successful than that of Smith, and the King in 1624 delivered the grateful colony from a hopelessly insolvent company.

The founding of Maryland was one of the earliest indications that the fears of England were turning from Spain to the Netherlands. Like the earlier Virginia and the later Carolina, it was privately promoted because the state was yet unwilling to supply funds. From the standpoint of the proprietor Maryland was pri-

marily a real estate speculation. In order to secure settlers he borrowed from Virginia the headright system and local self-government, and added to these religious freedom. Baltimore planned the economy of Maryland as the company had that of Virginia, but, as in Virginia, individualism made short work of it.

Virginia and Maryland were neutral in the English Civil war because they depended on the King for their charters, present and prospective, and on the London merchants for their commerce. Royalist sentiment in Virginia arose not merely from sympathy for the King but also from fear that the Parliament might incline to re-establish the company, the leaders of which were ardent for the Puritan cause. Because of her commercial dependence on London, Virginia submitted to Cromwell but the terms of submission were such as to leave the colony virtually independent. The independence Virginia prized, however, was not provincial independence but independence for the county. Professor Craven's discussion of county development and administration in Maryland and Virginia is enlightening and forms a fitting foundation for Professor Sydnor's treatment of a later period. Virginia retained its liberties under the Restoration. It also retained its loyalties and the author is unable to detect in Bacon's Rebellion any anticipation of the American Revolution.

The men to whom King Charles granted (possibly with reluctance) the area called Carolina had the same plans as did the London Company and Lord Baltimore, but intended to carry them out with settlers obtained not from England but from the other colonies. They, too, planned for compact settlement, orderly expansion, and production of needed crops. Their "Fundamental Constitution" looked to these ends as did the Manorial System in Maryland. Both failed before the impact of frontier individualism. The failure was hastened in Carolina by the swift development of Indian trade, leaving as its chief trace the hegemony of Charleston in the colony.

R. S. COTTERILL\*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW: TEXT, CASES AND OTHER MATERIAL, by Jefferson B. Fordham. Brooklyn: The Foundation Press, Inc. 1949. Pp. xxx, 1060. \$8.00.

The adoption of the title, "Local Government Law," for a new casebook on Municipal Corporations implies that the editor is offering something more than a new book in an old field. Déan

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