

Belles Lettres

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the American Revolution, when the United States and Spain were contesting for control of the Alabama-Mississippi country. The Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws occupied the buffer region, and the reader who follows the story of the new book must admire the heroic struggles of the Indians to preserve their country.

In this crisis they found a red "Talleyrand" to take the helm, who could meet governors Miro and Carondelet, or agents from the American government, on equal terms. This Indian diplomat, Alexander McGillivray, was of Creek-Scotch-French ancestry and of Tory faith. He had little confidence in Spanish promises and no love for the American nation. But he succeeded in playing off one rival against the other to the advantage of the Creeks and their allies. It was not until shortly before his death in 1793 that he was induced to come to New York and conclude a treaty of peace with the United States wherein he was recompensed for his losses.

McGillivray of the Creeks is divided into two parts. In the first part Professor Caughey allots fifty-seven pages to a brilliant account of the vicissitudes of the Creek Nation beset on every hand by enemies, the rise of McGillivray, and the part he played in Southern history during the little known period from 1784-1794. The second part consists of a chronological presentation of the McGillivray letters, edited and annotated. Ordinarily edited documents have little appeal for the general reader, but the McGillivray letters are different. Here the story of a heroic people, the cunning designs of Spanish diplomats, and the attempted frauds of English traders are presented with much the flavor of these early days. The reader will find himself attempting to appraise the character of the Creek leader. Was he a rogue or a patriot? Death claimed him before he could prove his worth in maintaining peace on the border.

The format of the book is up to the usually high standard of the University Press books. The jacket design and binding are in harmony with the general theme, and the paper and printing are of good quality. A chronological table of contents, a selected bibliography, and a comprehensive index add much to the book's usefulness. C. C. RISTER.

▲
Mrs. Edna Muldrow, '18, '27ma, professor of English in Southwestern State Teachers College, Weatherford, has sold a one-act play, *Dust*, to Dodd-Mead and Company. It is to be published in *Best One-Act Plays of 1938*.

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Mary McKinney Frye, '29, Wewoka, is author of a story, *ABC's for the Cherokees*, in a recent issue of *Children's Activities*, a nationally circulated juvenile magazine.

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