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## Otis Skipper to Jim, 18 May 1960

O. C. Skipper

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May 18, 1960

Dear Jim:

Shortly before receiving my copy of The Journal of Mississippi History in which you review my De Bow, I got a letter from Joe Baylen of State University. He endorsed your appraisal enthusiastically. You understand the book, and appreciate the problems I faced in producing it. The extensive information on current literature in the Review, embodied in an earlier draft of the manuscript, had to be greatly reduced. Extant sources leave B. F. De Bow a shadowy figure. Frank Luther Mott regretted these lacunae. The amount of my research amazed Harry Williams, and won extravagant praise from the late Frank Owsley, but Fletcher Green noticed only that there were sources not used. He should be measured by his bibliography in the light of his opportunities to be a productive scholar.

The problem of integrating the biography with the history of the magazine was, as you recognize, difficult. A topical method of organization would have been much easier, but Schlesinger advised me, and I think correctly, to follow the chronological order. My organization worried Edwin Miles in the Mississippi Valley, but he admitted his inability to suggest a better arrangement.

You can appreciate my interest in my reviewers, and especially my gratitude for the best one.

Cordially yours,

  
O. C. Shipper