

drawn to Le Chambon's late Protestant minister, André Trocmé, "a violent man conquered by God." As Protestants in a Catholic country, the Chambonnais empathized with persecuted outsiders. But, Hallie notes, it was Trocmé's tenacity in uniting the townspeople behind a belief in the preciousness of human life that spurred them to heroism, year in and year out.

**TRUTH IN HISTORY**

by Oscar Handlin  
Harvard, 1979  
437 pp. \$17.50  
L of C 78-24157  
ISBN 0-674-91025-7

**BEEN IN THE STORM  
SO LONG: The Aftermath  
of Slavery**

by Leon F. Litwack  
Knopf, 1979  
651 pp. \$20  
L of C 78-24311  
ISBN 0-394-50099-7

In 1862, Abraham Lincoln told Horace Greeley that if freeing blacks would end the Civil War, he was for it; if tolerating slavery would do so, he was for that. The Great Emancipator's "ambivalence" has tantalized many a scholar. In this collection of essays on the historian's craft and on U.S. history, Harvard's Oscar Handlin issues heartfelt admonitions to his colleagues (sample chapters: "How to Count a Number," "How to Read a Word"). His targets: academic infighters, "quantitative" historians who selectively scrutinize data, scholars with over-riding ideological biases, and authors aspiring to the bestseller list. Books published after 1965 on blacks and slavery come in for special criticism. Consider Lincoln's alleged ambivalence, says Handlin; he points out that Lincoln had the Emancipation Proclamation on his desk when he wrote to the New York newspaper editor. The President's words were aimed only at persuading loyal slaveholders to fight for the Union. The historian's task, suggests Handlin, is deceptively simple: "Put the evidence in order . . . [Bring] it as close as possible to correspondence with the occurrence in the past."

*Been in the Storm So Long* is history that Oscar Handlin would approve. Berkeley historian Leon F. Litwack provides a sweeping view of Southern society, 1863-67. Interviews with ex-slaves conducted during the New Deal Federal Writer's Project, contemporary newspaper accounts, diaries, and letters make the reader a witness to a complex social and cultural breakdown. Most of the 4 million ex-slaves, writes Litwack, "were neither 're-

bellious' nor 'faithful'" toward their former masters. Rather they were "ambivalent and observant"—"Folks dat ain' never been free," one of Jefferson Davis' slaves is quoted, "don' right know de *feel* of bein' free." Nonetheless, most whites felt betrayed as their former slaves either left or ceased to listen to them. The whites, Litwack observes, had mistaken "the slave's outward demeanor for his inner feelings, his docility for contentment and acquiescence."

*Contemporary Affairs*

**FROM BROWN TO  
BAKKE: The Supreme  
Court and School  
Integration, 1954-1978**  
by J. Harvie Wilkinson III  
Oxford, 1979  
368 pp. \$17.95  
L of C 78-20860  
ISBN 0-19-502567-9

The Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, outlawing "separate but equal" education for blacks and whites, was unanimous. Southern newspaper editor J. Harvie Wilkinson III, a former law clerk (1972-73) to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., examines the disputes—in the courts, on local school boards, among scholars—that have raged over race and education ever since. Between 1954 and the mid-1960s, writes Wilkinson, "the Court's prolonged patience with tokenism was its greatest mistake"; local officials integrated at their own "deliberate speed"—i.e., slowly, if at all. As the Court in the late 1960s and '70s intervened to insist on immediate integration of urban schools, white flight to the suburbs accelerated, black disillusionment deepened. In this thoughtful revisionist account, Wilkinson expresses the fear "that no solution fair to both races, supported by both races, and advantageous to both races can be humanly devised." He sees hope in the Court's 1978 5-to-4 decision in the "reverse discrimination" suit filed by a white man, Alan Bakke. By denying racial "quotas" but upholding "affirmative action" in school admissions, contends Wilkinson, the Court (deciding for Bakke in an opinion written by Justice Powell) pointed the way to balancing legitimate claims of discrimination against those of merit.