

was the predecessor of the Hudson's Bay Company in exploration and trade over large portions of the Saskatchewan and Athabasca districts in Canada, and down the Mackenzie River and beyond the Rocky Mountains to the northwest coast of America. In this book the narration of events of one year is too often followed by that of events and occurrences of previous years, while too much space is devoted to the activities of individual traders of this and other partnerships and also of rival companies themselves. The ramifications of the various organizations among the fur traders were difficult to trace and are difficult to state with clearness, and cannot be followed easily in this book. The author has also depended too much on secondary sources; for instance, the references to David Thompson, whose field operations were especially notable and of permanent geographical value, are too frequently to Burpee's *Search for the Western Sea*.

But the reader, while confused as to the narrative, will feel that he has been given a considerable amount of valuable information and a wide list of sources from which to glean; for the sources mentioned are numerous even if not always used. The real value of the book then lies in its collection into a single volume of data that have been available only here and there and to a few, not all that exist but a considerable number; and especially in the insight it gives into the documents to be found in the Public Record Office and British Museum and other places of deposit in London and in the various Canadian archives. In this the author has contributed a service.

The book is not the last word upon the subject; the author especially disclaims this, for the reason that he was unable to examine the material in possession of the Hudson's Bay Company at London. But, *inter alia*, his lack of familiarity with the field of operations of the company on both slopes of the Rocky Mountains leaves room for another study.

The book contains good indexes, both general and geographical, and the statistical and documentary matter presented in seventy-three pages of appendixes is well selected. The physical make-up of the volume is excellent.

T. C. E.

The Passing of the Frontier: a Chronicle of the Old West. By EMERSON HOUGH. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XXVI.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1918. Pp. x, 181.)

The Forty-Niners: a Chronicle of the California Trail and El Dorado. By STEWART EDWARD WHITE. [*Id.*, vol. XXV.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. ix, 273.)

The Day of the Confederacy: a Chronicle of the Embattled South. By NATHANIEL W. STEPHENSON. [*Id.*, vol. XXX.] (*Ibid.* 1919. Pp. xi, 214.)

Abraham Lincoln and the Union: a Chronicle of the Embattled North. By NATHANIEL W. STEPHENSON. [*Id.*, vol. XXIX.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. xiv, 272.)

The Anti-Slavery Crusade: a Chronicle of the Gathering Storm. By JESSE MACY. [*Id.*, vol. XXVIII.] (*Ibid.* 1919. Pp. ix, 245.)

The Cotton Kingdom: a Chronicle of the Old South. By WILLIAM E. DODD. [*Id.*, vol. XXVII.] (*Ibid.* 1918. Pp. x, 161.)

IF one takes up Mr. Hough's book expecting to find a discussion of the frontier in its historical relations he will be disappointed. The book does not attempt to explain nor to account for the frontier. It has nothing to say about the influence of the frontier on American politics. Its light on conditions of life is chiefly incidental. It does not deal with the frontier in any other stage of its existence in America than in the mid-century period and a little later. Thus it is with the Rocky Mountain region and adjacent territory that we are made acquainted.

Making the necessary allowances for the author's right to limit his subject as he chooses, it must be admitted that he has written an interesting book. He is content to deal with the striking phases of frontier life in the Far West. He has chapters on the Range, the Cattle Trails, the Cowboy, the Mines, Pathways of the West, the Indian Wars, the Cattle Kings, and the Homesteader. None of these subjects is broadly treated. For example, the chapter on the cowboy is a vivid portrayal of a picturesque character in early western life. The Indian wars are not described categorically but some of the important battles are described as illustrations of the fighting. The Indian problem is presented from the standpoint of the man of the frontier, and little sympathy is shown for the Indians, even in such an affair as the so-called "Baker's Massacre". More successful, from the standpoint of the discriminating reader, is the chapter on the Cattle Kings, which takes large views of the subject and sums up in clear language the development of the cattle industry on the half-dry plains. The chapter on the homestead system is also good, but it is less coherent. In general Mr. Hough's descriptions are temperamental, sometimes reaching the note that one finds in the more sober descriptions by such writers as Miss Glasgow or James Lane Allen. As a popular description of a narrow but striking phase of our recent history the book is a success.

More didactic and less temperamental is Mr. Stewart Edward White's *The Forty-Niners*, although it treats of another picturesque phase of our history. It contains chapters on the Spanish régime, the arrival of the Americans, early military and civil law, the discovery of gold, the journey by way of Panama, life in the diggings; and there are several on the development of San Francisco, its mushroom prosperity, its chaotic society, and its Vigilantes of 1851 and 1856. The book has good proportions and is not marked by overstatement. It does not overemphasize

the abnormal, as many books on the same subject have done. Probably the average reader will appreciate most the eight chapters treating the development of San Francisco, more than half of the book. The story presented follows Bancroft's *Popular Tribunals* but it is well told and grips the reader. It is notable for the fairness it displays to the malefactors in office in general, although at this late day it would have been better to have dropped the notion that the swaggering adventurer who happened to be born in the South was in any serious sense a representative of "Southern chivalry". It is true the author disclaims the intention of implying that the Southerners concerned were of the best class in the South, but he proceeds to use terms as if he had forgotten his disclaimer. Finally, it must be said that the description of life in San Francisco in the fifties, which the author gives us in chapters XII. and XIII., is very successful. But the book is distinctly a popular book. To the student of history it is only necessary, in order to show to what extent this is true, to say that the discussion of early international boundary adjustments has no reference to the California line of 1819 (p. 20). It will be remarked, also, that the author puts it mildly when he says: "The status of Oregon had long been in doubt. Both England and the United States were inclined to claim priority of occupation" (p. 20).

In *The Day of the Confederacy* Professor Stephenson gives the public its first clear and readable account of the political life of the Confederacy. Beginning with a chapter on the Secession Movement he proceeds to the organization of the Confederate government and passes on to his main subject, the problems that confronted it and the manner in which they were met. The central theme is Jefferson Davis, his personality and his political career between 1861 and 1865. There is no attempt to deal with the military history of the time, and the critical periods of the war of the Confederacy are merely alluded to. The book is well balanced both as to judgment of men and as to the distribution of emphasis. On the whole the author is not favorable to Davis, although he does not show us another Confederate leader who in his opinion would have made a better president. He takes off some of the cloud that historians have usually hung over Rhett, when he describes Rhett's great mental ability. His chapters on the last phases of the Confederacy have especial interest, for they deal with matters that have been little discussed in other histories.

Perhaps Professor Stephenson is a little less successful in his companion volume, *Abraham Lincoln and the Union*. Here the task is to paint anew what has often been portrayed. It is done with skill and in attractive literary form. It treats of the period from 1854 to 1865, with the personality of Lincoln for the connecting theme. We miss the sense of discovery with which we read about the struggles of the Confederacy; for in dealing with the politics of the fifties and the perplexities of the war president we are on familiar ground. We note, also, that the narrative becomes more colorful, probably because it is hard to present Lincoln

without becoming eulogistic. It is a difficulty the author does not altogether surmount. On the other hand, a popular series like *The Chronicles of America* is no place for that dispassionate discussion of Lincoln to which thoughtful Americans look forward. It seems to the reviewer that the opponents of the President are too severely dealt with when they are labelled "the vindictives". The term is used cleverly and it serves to heighten the light on Lincoln, by way of contrast; but it is hardly just to men who were convinced that they were right. In the game of politics it is never safe to give all the integrity to one side and all the discredit to the other.

Professor Macy's *The Anti-Slavery Crusade* takes up the fight against slavery at the beginning and follows it through its course until the death of John Brown ushers in the Civil War. It is an orderly narrative, told in a straightforward way, with sympathy and admiration for the Abolitionists. The author pronounces it a "patent falsehood that abolitionists of the North were attempting to impose by force a change in Southern institutions" (p. 141). Perhaps he overestimates the likelihood that the non-slaveholders of the South could have been organized for abolition. Of all Southerners they had least sympathy for the negroes, and they were too undeveloped to find leaders among themselves. When a man of ability appeared among them he quickly became a slave-owner under the operation of economic laws. Professor Macy writes clearly and his narrative will please all who have the anti-slavery point of view. They will find little in it to show them how the opposite side defended their position. It is a Garrisonian book without Garrison's sharp tongue.

Professor Dodd's *The Cotton Kingdom* is a study of the planter. After presenting a brief survey of the position of the South in 1850, it proceeds with chapters on the Rise of the Cotton Magnate, the Social Philosophy of the Cotton Planter, Life and Literature in the Lower South, Religion and Education, and the Planter in Politics. The student who knows something about the conditions in the South before the war will lay the book down with the feeling that it presents the results of much careful research condensed into the space and expressed in the manner suited to a popular work. Especially good are the chapters on the cotton magnates and the philosophy of the planter. The pages in which the progress of pro-slavery philosophy is traced from Professor Dew to Chancellor Harper, John C. Calhoun, George Fitzhugh, and others of the period immediately before the beginning of the war stand out with more than ordinary distinction. The chapter on politics deals with facts that are better known to the ordinary reader, but they are well marshalled. However, in saying that the West and the South elected Jackson in 1828, Professor Dodd seems to overlook the important part played by Pennsylvania and New York in the Jackson movement. The triumph of 1828 was so nearly a popular revolution that it is hard to give the chief amount of credit to any sections or to any other issue than Jackson's personality.

Theodore Roosevelt, an Intimate Biography. By WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1919. Pp. xx, 474. \$5.00.)

MR. THAYER'S long friendship with Colonel Roosevelt has made it possible for him to create in his new biography an air of intimacy and reality. The spirit of Roosevelt impregnates it, and is displayed with the literary skill and rhetorical appreciation that belong to the writer's craftsmanship. Like the biography by another Harvard classmate, Charles G. Washburn, it presents a "friend's outlined portrait" (p. xi), in behalf of which Mr. Thayer maintains that we have "fallen too much into the habit of imagining that only hostile critics tell the truth" (p. xii). It is much more comprehensive than Mr. Washburn's sketch, but is not to be compared in this respect with Mr. J. B. Bishop's work, now under way. In its concluding chapters it is a crusading document as well as a biography.

For most of their lives Mr. Thayer and Colonel Roosevelt belonged to different parties, the former being a stubborn mugwump of 1884, who repudiated party regularity, stuck to the issue of independent reform, voted for Wilson in 1912, and revolted against him in 1916. Their political differences only whetted their friendship, which became more intimate after 1909, and was based upon complete unity after the outbreak of the Great War. As passionate sympathizers with the Allies, and believing early entry to be our duty, they hated and despised the Wilson administration. In the last two chapters it is almost impossible to determine whether Mr. Thayer is writing Colonel Roosevelt's life or his own, so frequent are his adjectives and epithets: "variegated", "sanctimonious", "paroxysms of boldness", "ignoble depths", "jelly-fish nation", "infatuation for President Wilson", "vacillating policy", "war by rhetoric", "timidity and evasion". No reticence conceals the fact that Mr. Thayer belongs to the group that "loathes the Administration" and thinks of it as "this curse upon the country" (p. 385).

The biography is throughout an impressionistic picture rather than a work of scholarship. Mr. Thayer has not used any large amount of manuscript material beyond his own correspondence with Colonel Roosevelt and the papers he handled in writing the life of John Hay. His statements of fact would in some instances have been more accurate had he reread that work more carefully. His assertion that the French Canal Company "was glad to sell" its Panama rights for forty millions (p. 182) might have been stated differently after refreshing his memory of that company's long struggle for nearly three times the amount. There are other errors, or interpretations, that invite comment: Roosevelt was not a member of the National Committee in 1884 (p. 43); the available material hardly justifies a sweeping statement (p. 48) as to the character of James G. Blaine; Andrew Jackson did not coin the phrase "to the victors belong the spoils", and may have been better than a