

The Uprooted: The Epic Story of the Great Migrations that Made the American People.

By OSCAR HANDLIN. (Boston, Little Brown and Company, 1951. 310 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Bjork

PROFESSOR HANDLIN informs us that some time ago he modestly gave up the idea of writing the history of emigration to America. He seized, however, upon the equally all-embracing theme of emigration as the "central experience of a great many human beings," and this story, he maintains, is a "history of alienation," of temporary rootlessness.

Here is a subject indeed! How inadequately Mr. Handlin has dealt with it is indicated in the first chapter, where diverse groups like English tenant farmers, Norwegian bønders, and Polish peasants are thrown together in such a manner as to suggest that the differences between them are mere bagatelle. And nowhere else in the book is there the slightest justification for the author's presuming to write about European emigrants as a whole. He might, therefore, have been a bit more modest and written frankly about the impact of certain aspects of American urban life on a certain element in our immigrant population during a certain period in our history. Before Mr. Handlin are the materials for a great drama — a drama oddly distorted and made ridiculous by his notion that he is under an obligation occasionally to drag onto his stage characters that just don't belong. Inasmuch as Mr. Handlin has already done something with the city immigrant, he might have written an essay embodying the vital points emphasized in *The Uprooted*.

The present approach is misleading, for the

simple reason that no one — not even a Louis Adamic or an Oscar Handlin — can write about emigration as a whole, whether from one viewpoint or another, except in a tentative manner. The results of research thus far undertaken are much too meager even for the most superficial work of popularization. This reviewer, however, is convinced that an impartial poll of students of immigrant life would find them emphatically denying, as Professor Handlin implies, that adjustment to American life was an endless flow of "tears without laughter."

Nevertheless, *The Uprooted* will be acclaimed — in fact has already been acclaimed — by an uncritical reading public and by reviewers with a prejudice against professional scholarship. In a limited sense this is justified — the book was neatly planned and cleverly executed. It presents a theory that is easily understood and in many respects is in harmony with movie characterizations of some immigrant types. For one very good reason, and despite its many shortcomings, the book deserves a reading: it presents the immigrant as a human being.

THE ROLE OF RELIGION

The Puritan Heritage. By GEORGE M. STEPHENSON. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1952. 282 p. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by William W. Sweet

THE AUTHOR of this vigorously written book has been for many years a professor of American history in the University of Minnesota, and presumably much of the material here presented has through the years been emphasized in the author's teaching of his subject. What he has done here is to put the influence of Christianity where it belongs in the stream of American history, quite in contrast to most American historians who have almost completely left it out. In the light of what this book reveals, it is indeed a strange pre-

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sumption that American civilization can be understood without taking into enlightened consideration the things of mind and spirit. Yet, strange to say, that is exactly what the mine-run of American historians are trying to do.

Professor Stephenson is well qualified to stress this emphasis. Twenty or more years ago he made a study of the *Religious Aspects of Swedish Immigration* (Minneapolis, 1932), and published the results of his research after spending a year in Sweden on a Guggenheim fellowship. The study is a model of its kind, and it throws a flood of light upon one great stream of immigration which has enriched American life, both spiritually and materially.

In this compact volume Professor Stephenson follows the many currents which have gone into the making of our distinctive American heritage. The New England Puritans, the Quakers, the Unitarians, the Methodists, the great Colonial awakenings, the part revivalism has played in taming the West, the many benevolent agencies, the home missionary societies, the tract and Bible societies—all are given cogent treatment in separate short chapters.

The author does not bemoan the fact, as many less understanding writers have done, that by the end of the Colonial period America was dotted with numerous "religious experiment stations." It was such wide religious diversity which put into the Constitution of the United States one of its finest provisions—the guarantee of religious freedom, not "religious tolerance which assumes a privileged church." Unlike the colonies of other colonizing nations, the English colonies were open to all, and thus developed a wide toleration of religious differences.

The volume ends with three chapters dealing with two of the most exciting and controversial issues in American history. One treats of the swarming of the Catholic Irish to the New World and the natural reaction to their coming, and the final two chapters treat of the slavery issue. Both issues put the basic American principles to their most severe test, and neither of them is as yet resolved.

MR. SWEET is widely known for his writings on American church history. He is professor and chairman of the faculty in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

METHODIST CENTENNIAL

Our Fathers Built: A Century of Minnesota Methodism. Prepared by the Historical Society of the Minnesota Methodist Conference, CHARLES NELSON PACE, conference historian and editor. 1952. 254 p.)

Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

METHODISM was introduced into the area now known as Minnesota more than a century ago, first by way of an Indian mission and later through the energetic efforts of circuit riders. So zealous were these itinerant preachers and their successors, and so ideally adapted to frontier conditions were Methodist organizations and methods that the denomination became the largest single Protestant group in pioneer Minnesota. The volume under review is a reflection of the justifiable pride which present-day Methodists feel in their forebears' achievements; it is also designed to "challenge the present generation to like consecration and endeavor."

It would not be fair to judge the book by the standards of critical scholarship. It is not an integrated, balanced history; rather it is a collection of somewhat miscellaneous items written by both designated and anonymous authors, all organized under eight main headings. As such it has obvious shortcomings: names are occasionally misspelled, there are repetitions, the style is not uniform, documentation is lacking, accessible source material has not been tapped, and errors have crept in. For example, the locale of *The Mystery of Metropolisville* was Cannon City, not Dundas, and the Reverend William T. Boutwell, not "Rev. M. Hulburt," was buried near Stillwater. The absence of an index is another weakness.

No doubt the editor is more aware of the book's weaknesses than any reader will be. They were unquestionably caused by factors beyond his control, such as lack of time, inadequate finances, and inability to secure the services of a professional writer. Considering these handicaps, the wonder is not that the volume

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has shortcomings, but that it came off the press at all. Parts of the book have vitality and sparkle, especially the recollections of early pastors, and these will be read with interest by Methodists and non-Methodists alike. Other sections such as those dealing with specific churches and the centennial, together with the appendix, will have appeal for a more restricted body of readers.

The history of Methodism in Minnesota is yet to be written. In the meantime, all Methodists can find in the present volume an impressive story, handy reference material, inspiration, and provocation to wonder with Bishop Cushman whether present-day problems and opportunities are being met "with an intelligence and consecration that are worthy of those who have gone before us."

SOLDIER AS PRESIDENT

Zachary Taylor: Soldier in the White House.

By HOLMAN HAMILTON. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1951. 496 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Arthur E. Bestor, Jr.

ZACHARY TAYLOR'S elevation to the presidency was the reward given to a soldier-hero. His sixteen months in the White House, until his death on July 9, 1850, coincided with a developing sectional crisis of the utmost moment. Whether it is wise to place at the head of public affairs a man without previous political experience is the far-reaching question which Taylor's administration raises.

In this biography, Mr. Hamilton inclines to the view that the choice was a wise one. He thus challenges the interpretation which most historians have given of the period. He is critical of the conciliatory attitude toward the South which Clay, Webster, and Douglas advocated and which produced the Compromise of 1850 only after Taylor was removed from the scene by death. Instead Mr. Hamilton admires Taylor's determination "to fight along Jacksonian lines for the Union as he understood it—regardless of the consequences."

MR. BESTOR is professor of history in the University of Illinois. His latest book is *Backwoods Utopias*, published in 1950.

The author sees nothing reckless in Taylor's readiness to use military force against Texas in the matter of the New Mexican boundary, even though that might have provoked civil war eleven years before it actually came. Mr. Hamilton provides little new evidence to support this unusual judgment, which seems, in the last analysis, to rest primarily upon his personal fondness for Taylor, rather than upon any profound or original reconsideration of the actual historical situation in 1850.

Mr. Hamilton does present a quantity of new source material concerning Taylor, largely of a detailed personal character. His quest for documents has been admirably thorough, but he tends to use them unselectively and thus to clog his narrative. Little that he presents throws really new light on Taylor's administration, and his grasp of the forces at work in the nation is less sure and judicious than that of other writers on the period. His volume is therefore not to be preferred above the corresponding chapters in Brainerd Dyer's briefer but thoroughly scholarly *Zachary Taylor in the Southern Biography Series* (1946)—a book which Mr. Hamilton nowhere mentions.

THE BOYS IN BLUE

The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union. By BELL IRVIN WILEY. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1952. 454 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Philip D. Jordan

SOME TWENTY YEARS after Lee surrendered his command at Appomattox, a Northern officer sat down in a pleasant Ohio sitting room to write the story of the common soldier in the Civil War. Colonel Wilbur F. Hinman's *Corporal Si Klegg* immediately became a best seller among veterans, and the author was complimented by the Grand Army of the Republic for his authentic portrayal of a fictional Yank from the time of his enlistment, through the hardening battlefield years, to his mustering out and struggles for a pension. Thousands of aging infantrymen, proudly wearing the bronze button of the GAR, marched again with Si Klegg, relived foraging and burial details, and chuckled once more at song and story of camp and bivouac.

Only a few years ago, Professor Wiley, a Southerner, set himself to much the same task that occupied Colonel Hinman in 1887, when *Corporal Si Klegg* first was published. Dr. Wiley's initial volume explored the life of Johnny Reb, the common soldier of the Confederacy. Built upon an impressive array of sources, *The Life of Johnny Reb* was a decided contribution to the vast library of Civil War literature.

As the composite picture of the butternut boy took shape under the author's careful scholarship and sympathetic understanding, Dr. Wiley found the plain fighting man of the South coming to grips with the boy in blue. And he realized that to understand the one was to investigate the other. He wanted to become acquainted with the foes of Johnny Reb and to further, he says, "an inveterate interest in the humble folk, the little people, who have always comprised the bulk of our population, but who for that very reason, and for being relatively inarticulate, have appeared only hazily on the pages of history." The result is *The Life of Billy Yank*, a fascinating social history of Federal men under arms.

Wiley's Billy Yank and Hinman's Si Klegg not only complement one another, but, in a very real sense, merge completely and harmoniously. The difference is that whereas Colonel Hinman drew from personal experience with Ohio volunteers, Professor Wiley writes from a foundation of hundreds of diaries, letters, reminiscences, and camp newspapers of the North all the wide way from New York to western slopes. These intimate, personal documents, from which samplings are drawn, reveal the lure of the recruiting sergeant's spiel, expose pleasures and discomforts of camp life, show the marching and fighting and the hurrying up and waiting, demonstrate Yankee reaction to the invasion of the South and to the Negro, describe disease and battlefield wounds, and explain military discipline and courts-martial. The soldier writes of food and drink, of gambling and churchgoing and vice.

The innumerable facets of military life, some cheerful and colorful and others cheap and tawdry, set forth in Billy Yank's own un-

inhibited prose make delightful reading. A sergeant of the First Minnesota, for example, noted in his diary after the fighting at Fredericksburg that his regiment was "scattered from Hell to Breakfast." Another Minnesotan expressed himself vigorously from Chattanooga. "I don't like this country nor the people that live here at all and wouldn't live here if they would give me the best farm in the State and the prettiest Girl in the State for a Wife throwd in. No not I. I had rather live in Minn. with no farm at all."

Such comment, frequently marked by misspelling and disregard for syntax, humanizes the Union soldier and provides candid insight into his longings and prejudices. Collectively, they exhibit patterns of thought and behavior that probably were typical of Billy Yank. Yet Professor Wiley wisely refuses to cast all soldiers from a single mould. He does, however, balance Johnny Reb against Billy Yank and concludes that their similarities outweighed their differences. He says, as did Corporal Si Klegg under different circumstances, "Good lord in Heaven bless 'em, both of 'em!"

IMMIGRANTS IN UNIFORM

Foreigners in the Union Army and Navy. By ELLA LONN. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1951. viii. 725 p. Frontispiece. \$8.50.)

Reviewed by Frank H. Heck

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT to suggest a source or an approach to her subject which Miss Lonn has neglected in this stout but fascinating study of the foreign element in the Union Army and Navy. The author's research, long and tenaciously continued, has been thorough; her conclusions are judicious.

Three introductory chapters describe the foreign-born population of the Northern states in 1860, the attitude of the foreign element toward the war issues, and the motives which led many to volunteer for military service. Numerous regiments and more companies were

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organized by men of a given nationality on the theory that the honor of their group required the establishment of a unit all its own, or that men would more readily enlist if assured that the language of ordinary conversation and perhaps of command would be that of the fatherland. In addition to the well-known German, Irish, and Scandinavian units, others were established by men of French, Scotch, Swiss, Welsh, Dutch, and Mexican origin.

Of the Minnesota units only Munch's, later Pfaender's, First Minnesota Battery, a Turner outfit from New Ulm, Brackett's Battalion of Cavalry, and Hans Mattson's Scandinavian Guards, as Company D of the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was known, were predominantly of a single national origin, though Miss Lonn estimates that almost a third of the men in the First, Second, Fourth, and Sixth Minnesota Regiments were Germans.

Like some of the native-born, certain foreign officers and enlisted men felt that their services were not duly appreciated, or that national prejudice stood in the way of advancement or fair treatment. Still foreigners of almost every nationality represented in the United States served as commissioned officers, and substantial numbers attained the rank of colonel. Some twenty-one became brigadiers and six, major generals. Immigrants served as chaplains, surgeons, musicians, and engineers, often bringing to their service superior training or skill. There were "knights errant and soldiers of fortune," newcomers who had been induced to immigrate for the purpose of enlisting, eager seekers of bounties, reluctant draftees, and some who were recruited under duress.

Handicapped by the fact that basic army and navy records failed to show the birthplace or national origin of large numbers of soldiers and sailors, Miss Lonn has nevertheless produced a convincing study. She is scrupulously careful in her analysis and not at all inclined to make excessive claims for either the numbers, the military qualities, or the over-all contributions of the boys in blue who came from other lands. If she has a favorite nationality, her preference is well concealed.

By the use of soldier's letters, skillfully woven into the discussion, the author helps her readers share with the foreign-born soldiers both the serious and the lighter sides of mili-

tary life. The letters of Corporal Knute Nelson and Colonel Hans Mattson, both in the manuscript collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, have supplied many illuminating passages. Incidentally these letters leave one with a hearty respect for the character and outlook of their young writers. Wartime files of the *Minnesota Staats-Zeitung* and the *St. Paul Press* supplied other useful details.

Miss Lonn's determination to omit no approach which could throw light on her subject has led her into some repetition. One section of the discussion of "numbers and rewards" seems to assume that postwar appointments of foreign-born veterans to civil positions under the national government were primarily rewards for military service, rather than for service to the political party in power. The Bohemian settlement in Saline County is in Nebraska, not Wisconsin, though many of its settlers sojourned for a time in the older state. But these are minor matters. Miss Lonn has accomplished admirably what she set out to do. The book is a monument to her scholarship and perseverance.

FAMILY HISTORY

Three Hundred Years American: The Epic of a Family from Seventeenth-century New England to Twentieth-century Midwest. By ALICE F. and BETTINA JACKSON. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1951. xii, 368 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Lois M. Fawcett

GENEALOGY is a hobby that fascinates and rewards the people who pursue it intelligently. It stimulates an interest in history and gives it personal meaning. Here is a book which demonstrates that the results of a genealogical study need not be tabulated as a mere catalogue of names and dates, but can be presented in an interesting and readable narrative family history. The authors have woven contemporary events into the story, and each family appears in its proper historical setting.

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They were most fortunate in having a remarkable collection of family letters, diaries, and notebooks from which they have quoted freely.

Told in three parts, this is the story of Dr. Joseph and Sarah Jackson Hobbins, who settled in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1854, of their ancestors and their children. Book 1, "Old England, 1536-1854," is chiefly an account of the Hobbins family of Wednesbury, England. Of special interest is the section telling how members of this family considered emigration to a new country, and were influenced to go to Madison by letters and circulars. Book 2, "New England, 1639-1854," is the story of the Jackson family of Newton, Massachusetts. In Book 3, "The Middle West, 1854-1900," life in Madison is described in detail as the family chronicle is brought down to the authors' generation.

The several genealogical charts in the volume are useful and are needed to indicate the relationship of the various families figuring in the story.

NORWEGIAN IMMIGRANT

A Chronicle of Old Muskego: The Dairy of Søren Bache, 1839-1847. Translated and edited by CLARENCE A. CLAUSEN and ANDREAS ELVIKEN. (Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1951. xxi, 237 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by O. Fritiof Ander

THIS DIARY is an important primary source of information about the Norwegian settlement at Muskego in southeastern Wisconsin. The editors undoubtedly would have been happier if Søren Bache had been less restless, had traveled less, and had given a more extensive account of life in the important Old Muskego settlement, which claims many "firsts" in Norwegian-American history.

Bache's story is a refreshing record of a self-centered person with a limited education and a good bank account who went about his own business, traveling and visiting. His diary is almost entirely lacking in expressions of

ethnocentrism so frequently associated with the sentiments of immigrants. The accounts of pioneers are often marked by self-pity and complaints of hardships and poor health. Bache saw a great deal of illness and he was ill himself, but he did not complain. He had little sympathy, in fact, with those who did.

His religious belief he expressed in "Follow your calling in life, but above all else, be virtuous, because virtue brings no one to shame." Part of this virtue was not to help others in need except without proper security. Bache relates that some immigrants had money when they left Norway, but on the way across they helped others until they had to borrow. "Whom could they blame but themselves for getting into a fix like this?" he wonders.

Bache's father, who was well to do, contributed money toward building the first Norwegian Lutheran Church in America — a church which Søren refused to join because he strongly disliked its pastor, C. L. Clausen. It is doubtful that Søren liked any clergyman very well, for he was critical of others. He had a profound disrespect for many of the immigrants — an attitude which makes him seem like a snob; for instance, he never called his hired man by name. Yet, considering his European background, he usually seems sociable, seeking new friends perhaps for a little gossiping. It was only in his associations with Clausen that Bache became really quarrelsome.

The reviewer read *A Chronicle of Old Muskego* with the greatest interest. There must have been many pioneers like Bache — stoical and self-seeking, yet very, very friendly as long as being so did not cost anything. It is disappointing that the reasons for Bache's return to Norway are not explained in his diary. Could he have hoped to become the leader of his countrymen at Old Muskego? He might have expected their respect because of his father's prestige in Norway. Bache was young, though perhaps not too ambitious, and it is not easy to explain his return to Norway.

The diary gives good accounts of routes of travel followed by immigrants after arriving in America, and of Bache's own search for land. The editorial notes add a great deal to the value of the diary.

The Norwegian-American Historical Association is to be congratulated on its latest publication.

MR. ANDER, who is professor of history in Augustana College at Rock Island, Illinois, is an authority on Swedish settlement in America.

CATTLE RANGE IN PICTURES

Trail Driving Days. Text by DEE BROWN; picture research by MARVIN F. SCHMITT. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952. xii, 264 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

IN THE VOLUMINOUS literature of the open range there is no book that attempts to do what this one does—to tell the story in text and pictures of the rise of the cattle business in Texas, its spread northward after the Civil War, and its characteristics in the days before the wool-hat people came along and fenced their quarter sections. Organized in eight chapters—"Longhorns and Pioneers," "Cattle, Horses, and Men," "Rip-Roaring Trail Towns," "The Saga of Dodge City," "The Beef Bonanza," "Billy the Kid," "Free Grass in the Northwest," and "Big Blizzards and Little Wars"—each having about twelve pages of text and twice as many pages of pictures, this eight- by twelve-inch book will stand as one of the best documentary collections of contemporary pictures extant.

The descriptive material preceding the pictures of each chapter is based on the solid works of Osgood, Pelzer, and Dale, and a host of lesser contributors. Frequent quotations are made from published diaries and other sources. The bizarre and the unusual are often given more than passing attention, as shown in devoting a full chapter to Billy the Kid. The style is lively and the narrative is interesting.

It is the photographs, drawings, and paintings, particularly the former, that give this volume its place in the range bibliography. Like all books on the subject, this one omits the vast sheep and horse ranching business, and concerns itself with cattle. Taken from such magazines as *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, early books like McCoy's *Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade*, and from items in private and public collections, these 229 reproductions constitute the best published record of contemporary ranchers, ranch life, and

cattle towns ever issued. Here one can see an early Northern Pacific train loaded with beef, the "Queen of the Jingle Bob," and Charles Russel's historic drawing, "Waiting for the Chinook," as well as others showing the daily life of a cowpuncher. A few of the reproductions strain somewhat to illustrate the text. Can it be that the horse wrangler shown on page 221 is actually stealing a horse as the caption says? The occasional mixing of scenes chronologically and by geographic area, and the failure to include saddles, spurs, and other paraphernalia as single items, may further limit the documentary value of the volume.

The "Contents and Illustrations" lists every reproduction by name and gives the general sources or collections from which it was taken. The bibliography makes note of most of the cowboy books from Abbott's *We Pointed Them North* to Wright's *Dodge City*. Periodicals are listed by name only and do not include author, title of article, or volume. Despite this objection, the book remains an excellent contribution. It succeeds well in its purpose of documenting the cattle business in the days of the open range on the plains.

GIANTS IN STONE

Mount Rushmore. By GILBERT C. FITE. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1952. xiv, 272 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by John Rood

NOT LONG AGO I was at a dinner for a sculptor who is attempting an even more grandiose project than the Mount Rushmore so-called "Shrine of Democracy." In describing his work this sculptor said, "It will be the greatest piece of sculpture in the world!" I turned to my dinner partner and said, "He means the biggest."

This is much the same feeling I have about Cutzon Borghum's last work. It has always seemed to me a rather monstrous affair; a stunt rather than a work of art. To my mind it is a monument to all that is least admirable

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MR. ROOD is a well-known Minneapolis sculptor who is a member of the art faculty in the University of Minnesota. He has published a volume entitled *Sculpture in Wood*.

in the 1920's — a monument to all the "Bigger and Better" slogans of the time.

Gilbert C. Fite has written an interesting account of the Mount Rushmore project and the University of Oklahoma Press has published a well-made, handsome book. No doubt it is historically correct as to what happened when, and as such has its place. However, the wrangles both private and public which surrounded the project do not make pretty reading. The account makes Borglum out to be a rather petty man with a Barnum complex, which is a pity considering that he left a large body of fine work. Yet, because of the size of the Mount Rushmore project, Borglum's name will always be associated with it rather than with the sensitive and beautiful sculptures he made, such as the head of Lincoln at Springfield.

DETROIT DOCTORS

Doctors under Three Flags. By FANNIE ANDERSON. (Detroit, Wayne University Press, 1951. x, 185 p. Illustrations.)

Reviewed by Mary Jane Rodabaugh

THIS IS the story of the development of medical practice in Detroit from 1701 to 1837. Mrs. Anderson has produced more than a mere record of the contributions of various physicians to the growth of medicine in this area. Medical history has been carefully integrated with local history. This fully annotated account brings to our attention the similarity of the diseases and treatments in the Northwest Territory and even the fact that a number of physicians who practiced in Detroit also served in other communities of the territory.

With the first French settlement of this region, the importance of the care of the sick and infirm was recognized. Cadillac attempted to found a hospital, but he was unable to realize his plans, and the first hospital was not founded in Detroit until 1845.

The problems of health and provisions for medical care continued under the British occupation of the area. During this period the

physicians were appointed by the British army and were trained in various European centers. But it was not until 1791 that Dr. Herman Eberts, one of the first medical practitioners to go to Detroit without some governmental or military connection, arrived in the settlement. Born and educated in Europe, Dr. Eberts served the community until 1819. From his case book Mrs. Anderson has recorded an account of this physician's treatments, medicines, and payments.

As the settlement grew, more doctors moved into the area. By the outbreak of the War of 1812 there were five civilian doctors living in or near Detroit. These men were products of the apprenticeship system of medical training. By 1819 they had formed the Michigan Territory Medical Society and had secured an act "to incorporate medical societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery in the Territory of Michigan." By 1837 Michigan had achieved statehood and Detroit had grown into a thriving commercial center. No hospital had been established, however, and it was still impossible for a doctor to acquire his education within the state by any method other than apprenticeship. The regulation of the practice of medicine was still in the hands of the medical societies, but the development of various cults and quacks was proof of their failure.

Mrs. Anderson has made good use of a wealth of material. Her account is thoroughly documented and contains an extensive bibliography. The reader would find an index useful, particularly since there are so many individuals mentioned. This book is truly a contribution to local and medical history.

MINNESOTA FIRST

THE CHAIN of events which made "Minnesota the first state to respond to Lincoln's call for troops" after the fall of Fort Sumter is recounted by Bruce Catton in *Mr. Lincoln's Army* (1951). He points out that Governor Ramsey's presence in Washington on the fateful day gave to the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry the distinction of being the "first regiment to be offered for Federal service in the war." In make-shift uniforms consisting of "black felt hats, black pants, and lumberjacks' shirts of checkered red," the men were mustered in at Fort Snelling.

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THIS section is devoted to comments about articles and books of special interest to the Minnesota reader, whether or not he is historically minded. All items can be found at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Reading HINTS for Minnesotans

THE RUNE STONE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL and other evidences of "Norsemen in North America before Columbus" are discussed by Johannes Brøndsted in the 1950 *Aarbøger for Nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie* (Copenhagen, 1951). Along with the Canadian "Beardmore Find" and the "Newport Tower," the writer examines the "Kensington Stone." Of the inscription on the Minnesota stone Mr. Brøndsted writes: "The doubts of its genuineness expressed by most expert philologists are so strong that for the present we must reject the Kensington stone from the source material of research. As matters stand, one cannot reconstruct American pre-Columbian history on the evidence of this stone."

LAHONTAN'S LONG RIVER

CITING THE disagreements that have existed among students of Lahontan from the eighteenth century down to the present, Viateur Ravary in the *Revue d'Histoire de l'Amérique Française* for March, 1952, has made a searching analysis of Lahontan's account of his discovery of "La Rivière Longue," first made public in the latter's *Nouveaux Voyages*. Lahontan's claim to the discovery of the passage to the West by way of the Long River has long been disputed, but this article is the first systematic presentation of evidence to support the assertion that Lahontan fabricated the story of the stream in order to make his book celebrated and popular.

M. Ravary, in his analysis, poses various questions about the authenticity of information in Lahontan's narrative. For example, when Lahontan returned from "La Rivière Longue" in 1689, why didn't he announce the discovery of an important passage to the West? Why was he silent, even when he could have used

the information to defend himself, until his book appeared in 1703? Some scholars claim that Lahontan really explored the Minnesota River and called it "La Rivière Longue." Why, then, after spending more than a month on the river, did he describe it as straight? Lahontan wrote of tribes of Indians he met on the river and said that there were twenty thousand warriors. Why didn't Nicolas Perrot, who was on the Minnesota a year later, see these same Indians? Why didn't the Indians tell Perrot about so notable an event as the visit of a party of white men? Why did Lahontan go on his expedition in the dead of winter, traveling by canoe?

M. Ravary believes that the answers to these questions add up to the conclusion that the story of the marvelous river is a fabrication, despite Stephen Leacock's assertion that Lahontan, who writes like a gentleman and a man of honor, "wouldn't and couldn't lie."

LUCILE M. KANE

FRENCH EXPLORER

THE TRAVELS of members of the La Vérendrye family in what is now Manitoba are carefully traced by Clifford Wilson in the *Canadian Historical Review* for March. He writes under the title "La Vérendrye Reaches the Saskatchewan," and concludes that the Chevalier made the journey in 1739 "by way of Lake St. Martin and Lake Winnipeg, not by way of the Meadow Portage, Lake Winnipegosis, and Mossy Portage," as most historians have believed.

DOCTOR IN THE FUR TRADE

DR. JOHN McLOUGHLIN'S early experiences as a "Border Chieftain" in the Rainy Lake area are recorded by Grace Lee Nute in

the *Beaver* for March. She deals with the doctor's adventures as a trader in the Minnesota border lake country during the two decades that preceded his removal to Oregon in 1824.

TRADERS' FIREARMS

IN AN informing article on "Gunmakers for the American Fur Company," published in the *New-York Historical Society Quarterly* for April, John E. Parsons reveals that in 1828 the company was handling three types of arms. These were rifles of the "Lancaster" and "English" patterns, and "North West" guns. From the papers of the company, Mr. Parsons has gleaned many bits of information about the use of such firearms in the fur trade of the upper Mississippi, as well as elsewhere. Among his illustrations are two sketches made by Frank B. Mayer at Traverse des Sioux in 1851, showing a half-breed and an Indian carrying rifles.

CANADIAN HALF-BREEDS

NOW AVAILABLE for the first time in English is Marcel Giraud's classic *Le métis canadien, Son rôle dans l'histoire des provinces de l'Ouest* (Paris, 1945). This important work has been translated by Harold S. Boedeker of Blue Earth, who has presented a typewritten copy to the Minnesota Historical Society. Consisting of 1,738 pages, it can be consulted by those who are interested in the society's manuscript division.

MAIL FOR MANITOBA

"THE POSTAL HISTORY of Red River, British North America" is closely related to the history of Minnesota in the mid-nineteenth century, according to an article by Dr. Murray Campbell in the *Papers* of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba for 1951. A map of "Mail Routes" followed by carriers from Fort Garry and other points north of the border shows connections with numerous Minnesota settlements, including St. Peter's, Crow Wing, Sauk Rapids, Fort Snelling, and Georgetown. Among Minnesotans who helped their Canadian neighbors send and receive mail were Norman W. Kittson, Joseph Rolette, and Henry H. Sibley. The boats that carried mail, as well as passengers and freight, after 1859

are the subject of an article on "Steamboating on the Red" by Molly McFadden, in the Manitoba society's *Papers* for 1952. To the same number, J. L. Johnston contributes an article on "Lord Gordon Gordon" in which new material on the British swindler's operations in Minnesota is included.

PICTORIAL MIDWEST

WITH METICULOUS care, John Francis McDermott has assembled all available information about "Samuel Seymour: Pioneer Artist of the Plains and the Rockies," and his findings have been published by the Smithsonian Institution in its *Report* for 1950 (p. 497-509). Since Seymour penetrated the Minnesota country as early as 1823, when he accompanied Major Stephen H. Long on a journey of exploration to the upper Mississippi, the Red River, and the Lake of the Woods, his career is of more than ordinary interest for Minnesotans. Mr. McDermott believes that Seymour "was the first man with any artistic skill to travel through" much of this area "sketchbook in hand, and the first views of many famous spots were no doubt those taken by him."

The same author contributes a well-illustrated account of "Henry Lewis and His Views of Western Scenery" to the April number of *Antiques*. Drawing largely upon contemporary St. Louis newspapers, Mr. McDermott tells of Lewis' trips to the upper Mississippi in the 1840's, and of the panorama, the illustrated book, and the separate paintings in which he recorded his impressions. Of the latter, he writes, only a handful remain today, and the "Minnesota Historical Society has by far the largest collection."

Lewis' lithographs, as well as those of J. C. Wild and Edwin Whitefield, are among the prints discussed by John Ramsay in an article on albums of "The American Scene in Lithograph" in the issue of *Antiques* for September, 1951.

INDIAN SKETCHES

FRANK B. MAYER, the Baltimore artist who recorded both in words and in pictures the events of the Minnesota treaties of 1851, is one of the artists represented in a group of *Letters to Alfred Jacob Miller* which have been

edited by Marvin C. Ross and issued in a mimeographed pamphlet by the Walters Art Gallery of Baltimore. To one familiar with Mayer's sketches of Minnesota Indians a letter, written from Paris on March 5, 1865, is of special interest, for it gives evidence of the artist's continued concern for the subject that attracted him to the upper Northwest. "I am now engaged on my 'Indian Thanksgiving,'" Mayer reports to his former teacher. "It is like a new life to work on something I feel to be my own & I have no higher ambition than to place my name near yours as a painter of Indians for I think that your Indian pictures are the best things of the kind yet produced."

ARTIST-SURVEYOR

THE WORK of John Mix Stanley, the artist who accompanied Governor Stevens on his Pacific railroad survey from St. Paul to the west coast in 1853, is the subject of a detailed chapter of Robert Taft's "Pictorial Record of the Old West" appearing in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for February. Stanley contributed a number of interesting Minnesota views to Stevens' published *Report* of the survey. Among them is a well-known lithograph of St. Paul in 1853. Mr. Taft reports that in 1854, after returning to Washington, D. C., Stanley used his field sketches in the preparation of a panorama of the "Western Wilds."

TRAVELING MISSIONARY

BASED UPON the autobiography of a Methodist missionary who served in the Minnesota Country in the late 1830's is the 1951 Christmas volume published by the Torch Press of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The narrative, which is entitled *Going West: The Pioneer Work of Alfred Brunson*, has been prepared for publication by J. Christian Bay, librarian emeritus of the John Crerar Library of Chicago. Brunson's work among Sioux and Chippewa, on Lake Pepin, at Fort Snelling, on the upper Mississippi at Sauk Rapids and Little Falls, and on the St. Croix is recorded, often in his own words.

MISSISSIPPI IMPRESSIONS

READERS of Minnesota travel literature will be interested in a new edition of Anthony Trollope's *North America*, edited by Donald

Smalley and Bradford A. Booth (New York, 1951). Its publication by Alfred Knopf puts into print once again the English novelist's colorful account of an upper Mississippi steamboat voyage while the Civil War was in progress, as well as of the cities and scenic attractions at the head of navigation. In Trollope's opinion, "the finest stretch of the river was that immediately above Lake Pepin," which he saw in "all the glory of the setting sun. It was like fairy land," he writes, "so bright were the golden hues, so fantastic were the shapes of the hills, so broken and twisted the course of the waters!"

GOURMET'S DELIGHT

TWO RECENT articles on wild rice give evidence of the wide demand for this native Minnesota product, which was once an essential item of diet for red men and traders and is now a delicacy much sought after by gourmets. The narratives, by Edward Taube and Donald Lawrence, appear respectively in the December, 1951, issues of the *Scientific Monthly* and the *Minnesota Naturalist*. Mr. Taube draws upon the writings of travelers, explorers, and traders who mention the grain, and he describes native methods of harvesting and curing it. The conservation of the state's wild rice resources is Mr. Lawrence's chief concern.

INDIAN POETRY

"As my eyes search the prairie
I feel the summer in the spring."

This Chippewa "Spring Song" is among those quoted in a volume on the *Poetry of the American Indian* by A. Grove Day (New York, 1951). For his chapter on the verse of the "Hunters of the Eastern Woodlands," including the Chippewa, the author draws extensively upon the writings of Frances Densmore and Henry R. Schoolcraft.

LITERARY PAUL BUNYAN

THE PAUL BUNYAN of twentieth-century literature and the "disappearing oral hero of the lumberjacks were different creatures, with different origins and histories," writes Marshall W. Fishwick in the winter, 1952, issue of the *Yale Review*. Picturing "The Folk Hero as Tycoon," the writer retells the story of William

B. Laughead's advertising pamphlet of 1914, commissioned for the Red River Lumber Company by Archie D. Walker of Minneapolis. According to Mr. Fishwick, "Walker may be thought of as Paul's literary grandfather." The author cites various attacks on this literary Paul, among them one by Carleton C. Ames published in *Minnesota History* for March, 1940. A contrasting point of view is taken by Rodney C. Loehr in the *Journal of American Folklore* for October-December, 1951. There he presents "Some More Light on Paul Bunyan" based upon material assembled for the Forest Products History Foundation of the Minnesota Historical Society. Stories of Paul's exploits told to members of the foundation's staff in recent interviews are here recorded.

FOLKLORE BONANZA

TWO recent books of special interest to folklore enthusiasts are *A Treasury of Western Folklore* edited by B. A. Botkin (1951. 806 p.), and *A Guide to American Folklore* by Levette J. Davidson (1951. 132 p.). Mr. Botkin's bulky work makes available in a single volume a vast mass of lore relating largely to the Plains and the Far West. The compact book by Miss Davidson contains useful suggestions for the collector, as well as valuable bibliographical references.

INDIAN MEDICINE

DATA COLLECTED by Frances Densmore among the Chippewa on Minnesota reservations is used extensively by August C. Mahr in an article on "Materia Medica and Therapy among the North American Forest Indians," which appears in the *Quarterly* of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society for October, 1951. For example, the author quotes Miss Densmore's description of the "Midé sweating lodge," and explains its medical significance. Some of the objects used by Indians in the treatment of the sick are illustrated with the narrative.

FRONTIER EPIDEMIC

"THE FIRST Contribution to a Medical Journal from Minnesota," written by Dr. George F. Turner and published in the *New-York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences* for

July, 1848, is the subject of an article by James Eckman in the October, 1951, number of *Minnesota Medicine*. The writer not only reprints in its entirety Dr. Turner's report of an epidemic of scarlet fever at Fort Snelling in the winter of 1847-48, but he presents a wealth of information about this pioneer army surgeon and the problems he faced during more than a decade of service on the Minnesota frontier. From St. Paul, Kaposia, and even from far-off Leech Lake, Dr. Turner received appeals for help, and he responded to them all. Such men as Henry H. Sibley and Franklin Steele were his associates at the fort, which is pictured with the article.

GERMANS IN NEW ULM

SOCIAL life in New Ulm in the late 1850's and early 1860's is the subject of a narrative published serially under the title "Deutsche Geselligkeit an der Indianergrenze" in the Sunday issues of the *New York Staats-Zeitung und Herald* from October 7 to November 11, 1951. The author, Hermann E. Rothfuss of Western Michigan College, assembled his material at the Minnesota Historical Society.

GIFTS FROM OVERSEAS

THE ORIGINS of many Minnesota festivals can be traced to the Old World customs of immigrant groups, according to Robert Meyer, Jr., whose *Festivals U.S.A.* (New York, 1950) provides a record of such events for every state in the Union. The St. Paul winter carnival, the canoe derby of the voyageur country, the annual Indian pow-wow at White Earth, the St. Paul Festival of Nations, the Minneapolis aquatennial—all these and half a dozen others are described. The author also provides general information about the state that might be useful to tourists.

MIDWEST FARM LIFE

TYPICAL of farm life in Minnesota as well as in Iowa is the picture sketched by Merrill E. Jarchow of Carleton College in two articles published in the *Iowa Journal of History* for October, 1951, and April, 1952. Appearing under the titles "Life on a Jones County Farm" and "Social Life of an Iowa Farm Family," both are based upon diaries kept from 1873

to 1912 by Sarah Jane Kimball. "One of the most faithful chroniclers of agrarian life in Iowa," Miss Kimball lived on the farm she describes continuously from 1856. Dean Jarchow, who is known to Minnesotans as the author of *The Earth Brought Forth*, a history of agriculture in the state, writes that Miss Kimball's diaries portray "an era when old ways of doing things and old habits of living were being modified and displaced by new techniques and new habits."

FICTION OF THE FRONTIER

"WHAT IS HISTORY worth but for its human interest?" This question, raised by Edward Eggleston in the preface to *The Mystery of Metropolisville* — a novel with a Minnesota setting published in 1873 — is quoted by Robert W. Johannsen in an article on "Literature and History: The Early Novels of Edward Eggleston," published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for March. How Eggleston's experience of the 1850's in Minnesota, "where he mingled with land speculators, gamblers, and frontier politicians," influenced his literary career is brought out by the writer.

THE CASE FOR BUSINESS HISTORY

"MUCH OF the prevailing attitude toward business stems from the dearth of historical information about it," complains Edward N. Saveth in the April issue of *Fortune*. In an article entitled "What Historians Teach about Business," he asserts that "The history of American business has not been written and in its place has sprung up prejudiced notions that the facts alone can dissipate." The historian, however, cannot carry on successful studies without "more cooperation from business than he has thus far received." What he needs especially, Mr. Saveth points out, is access to business records containing the true story of the "plans, aspirations, frustrations, and idealism that are part of the greatest record of material achievement the world has ever known."

FOREST CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION is William B. Greeley's theme in his recent volume entitled *Forests and Men* (1951. 255 p.). Many of his examples are drawn from Minnesota, where ruthless

exploitation by pioneer lumbermen was followed by belated attempts at conservation and reforestation. Legislation looking toward such measures in Minnesota is noted in several chapters. The disastrous forest fires centering at Hinckley, Moose Lake, and Cloquet are mentioned in a chapter on "Smoke in the Woods." How among all the states Minnesota attained its rank as "second in the area of state forests" is explained in a chapter on "Our Public Forests."

MINNESOTA PROPHET

THORSTEIN VEBLEN is one of nine "American Progressives," from Emerson to Theodore Roosevelt, whose ideas are discussed by Daniel Aaron in a volume of essays published under the title *Men of Good Hope* (New York, 1951). That the Middle West in which Veblen "grew up was still a region of protest and rebellion," with "agrarian revolts erupting," is noted by the author, who stresses the influence of his subject's Minnesota background.

RIVER LABORER

THE DEVELOPMENT of water transportation on the Mississippi River system receives some consideration in a study of *Labor-Management Relations on the Mississippi Waterway System* by John G. Turnbull (1951. 53 p.). Published by the University of Minnesota Press for the Industrial Relations Center, the booklet deals largely with labor conditions on the river. Discussions of "Wages, Hours, and Working Conditions" and of "Employer-Union Relations" are sketched against a background of geography and history.

MANUSCRIPT DISPLAYS

HOW THE Minnesota Historical Society utilizes its rich manuscript resources for purposes of exhibition is explained by its curator of manuscripts, Lucile M. Kane, in the *American Archivist* for January. She cites examples of the actual display of documents, or photostatic copies of manuscripts in exhibits like that arranged for the Traverse des Sioux treaty centennial, and she shows also how information drawn from manuscripts can contribute toward an exhibit. Suggested too are possibilities for their use in radio and television programs.



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