BOOK REVIEWS


The very handsome octavo edition of Sacajawea, a guide and interpreter of the Lewis and Clark expedition, with an account of the travels of Touissant Charbonneau, and of Jean Baptiste, the expedition pappoose, by Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard, Professor of Political Economy, University of Wyoming; author of The Bozeman Trail, Washakie, Pathbreakers from River to Ocean, etc., just off the press of The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, California, is a credit both to Miss Hebard and to her publishers.

The prodigious amount of research; the tracing of every available clue to the history of this most famous Indian woman since the days of Pocahontas; and the conclusions drawn, indicate that the Sacajawea buried on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming is the veritable character so often mentioned in the journals of Lewis and Clark as the guide, almost the saviour of that first exploration by white men across the future continental United States.

The fact that the polygamous French guide, Touissant Charbonneau, had two Shoshone wives and that one of them died and was buried in North Dakota is well presented, and exhaustive evidence is given to prove that Sacajawea, mother of the boy Jean Baptiste, eventually accompanied her people to the Shoshone reservation and ended her days in Wyoming. It was the good fortune of myself, author of The Conquest, The Story of Lewis and Clark, to meet in St. Louis Captain William Clark Kennerly, then an old man, who knew personally Baptiste both as a child in St. Louis, where he was being educated by Governor Clark, and at Fort Laramie where he was employed as a guide to overland expeditions in the '40's all as related in the story here given. I was introduced to Captain Kennerly by the Clarks in whose family I was a guest while writing The Conquest thirty years ago.

A question about three children may arise. When I wrote The Conquest I called Sacajawea's pappoose "the little Touissant" after his father, as no name was mentioned. After my book was published I came across Clark's letter calling the baby Baptiste. Later I discovered there was really a "little Touissant," child of the other Shoshone wife. Also, there was a boy named Bazil that
I came very near putting into The Conquest, the son of Sacajawea's deceased sister that she adopted and who later became a minor chief among the Shoshones. This incident is given in Biddle's Journal of Lewis and Clark, re-written at the request of Clark with the aid of George Shannon of the expedition who explained and amplified details for Editor Biddle, including the spelling, Sacajawea.

Altogether, Miss Hebard's authoritative work on the heroine of the Lewis and Clark expedition is a most valuable addition to Americana, touching as it does so many hitherto unwritten details of her life and wanderings. The European journey of Baptiste Charbonneau to the Court of Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, and his six years of residence there, all dug out of ancient archives in Stuttgart, with illustrations by Prince Paul's artist, adds a touch of unexpected romance.

Statues, tablets and other memorials that arose after the publication of The Conquest are carefully listed in Miss Hebard's Sacajawea proving that the Indian girl belongs not to any one state or locality but to the entire west from St. Louis to the Ocean. North Dakota rightly claims her as its earliest heroine, honored with a statue on Capitol hill at Bismarck. Montana claims her as its primeval maiden who knew the mountain passes through which she led the American soldiers. Idaho claims her jointly with Montana with a tablet at the very top of Lemhi pass between the states. Washington remembers her with Lake Sacajawea at Longview on the Columbia. Oregon erected a classic statue at Portland. And at last Wyoming discovered her in old age, an Indian woman who carried Jefferson's medal and sat among the chiefs. More and more her name will shine as Miss Hebard's monumental work comes to be known. Absorbingly entertaining, every library should possess a copy of Hebard's Sacajawea.

EVA EMERY DYE.


This prodigious work is the product of a lifetime of industrious study of one northern interior British Columbia language, a member of the far flung Na-dene (also known as Athabaskan) linguistic stock. Adjacent dialects are also known to the author.