

## BOOK REVIEWS

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PAPERS OF JAMES A. BAYARD, 1796-1815. Edited by Elizabeth Donnan. (Washington, American Historical Association, 1915. Pp. 539.)

This is Volume II of the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1913. Though bearing that date of two years ago it is fresh from the press. The book constitutes the eleventh report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. For the year 1913 the members were as follows: Worthington C. Ford, Clarence W. Alvord, Herbert E. Bolton, Julian P. Bretz, Archer B. Hulbert and William O. Scroggs.

As Bayard was one of the five commissioners who negotiated the treaty ending the War of 1812, readers in the Pacific Northwest would be justified in hoping for new light in the papers on the Oregon question. As to this the first test is disappointing. The copious index makes but one citation. There, under date of November 16, 1813, is found: "The Count R[omanzoff] told me after dinner, as he remarked en confiance, that he had information that the British had fitted out an expedition to destroy our settlement at the mouth of Columbia river." The editor, in a footnote, adds: "Astoria, founded 1811, was in December, 1813, occupied by the British vessel Raccoon, sent from Rio Janiero for the purpose."

Meager as is that lone entry, it is important in that it shows that the American commissioners had a hint of the British designs on Oregon a full year before the treaty was signed. It is now known that the commissioners were receiving instructions from the State Department at Washington to insist on Astoria being considered within the ante bellum clause of the treaty, no matter what should happen to the settlement during the war. That hint by Count Romanzoff ought certainly to have strengthened that purpose which was eventually accomplished.

Because of this Oregon contact, readers in the Northwest are interested in the complicated negotiations for the great Treaty of Ghent, to the literature of which the present volume is an important contribution. Most of the correspondence which occupies the book to page 384 pertains to the period of stress and war. Pages 385 to 516 embraces Bayard's European Diary while on the fruitless mission with Albert Gallatin and John Quincy Adams at St. Petersburg and the successful one at Ghent with the same men and also with Henry Clay and Jonathan Russell, who made the commission of five. The participation in those negotiations by Adams,

Clay and Gallatin have been fully treated. The present volume fills a gap that has heretofore existed and deserves a cordial welcome for that reason.

Miss Donnan, as editor, has given evidence of a high grade of scholarship. The footnotes are apt, full and illuminating. Under the modest title of "Preface," she has given in brief but interesting form all the essentials that are available of Bayard's biography. She frankly says: "He was not a great statesman, he had not a mind of marked originality or vision, but he was a careful and judicious lawyer, with a thoroughly competent grasp of the subjects with which he dealt, a sincere and high-minded public servant, and a warm-hearted and amiable man. That he gained not only the respect but also the devotion of those who came into close association with him is clearly shown by the letters, as is also his devotion to his family, the separation from which never ceased to be a source of sorrow to him."

On pages 9 and 10 she tells the story of a search for pictures of the Americans made by P. van Huffel at the time of the negotiation. Dr. J. Franklin Jameson of the Carnegie Institution of Washington visited Ghent in 1912, in connection with the then proposed celebration of the century of peace. He there learned of the pencil portraits by the well known artist. The celebration was abandoned on account of the great war but Dr. Jameson's vigorous search revealed the pictures. They were in the possession of a grandson of Christopher Hughes in Baltimore. Hughes was secretary of the American commission at Ghent and was later United States Minister to Sweden. The rescued pencil portrait of Bayard by Van Huffel in 1814 and an engraving by St. Mémin about 1798 appear as the frontispiece and the only illustration in the book.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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TRAVELS IN ALASKA. By John Muir. (Boston, Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1915. Pp. 327. \$2.50 net.)

Here is a posthumous volume from the pen of the greatest exponent of nature yet developed in the far west. The Scotch boy was moved in early life to Wisconsin where he lived a wonderful boyhood. But his long years of vigorous manhood were lived joyously and effectively upon the Pacific Coast.

The preface of the present volume is written by William Frederic Badé, ripe scholar and Professor of Oriental Theological Literature and Semitic Languages in Pacific Theological Seminary, University of California. He begins: "Forty years ago John Muir wrote to a friend: 'I am hopelessly and forever a mountaineer. \* \* \* Civilization and