

ing was not, "Buffalo Bill" being picturesquely alive. The bloody years on the plains before and after the coming of the Union Pacific are described from the information obtained from eye witnesses and participators in the conflict. The Bozeman Trail, a government road from Fort Laramie north to Bozeman, Montana, a seat of war from the time of its conception to its death, carries the interest through several chapters, harrowing albeit historically accurate. With the gold discoveries in South Pass and a detailed description of the building of the Union Pacific, every mile of its progress being contested by the red men as it passed through Wyoming, then a Territory in 1867, -8 and -9, volume 1 ends saying "what happened in 1869 will be detailed in the next volume of this work." It is to be deplored that financial reverses and poor health did not permit the author to complete the contemplated and well organized work. What he has given to historical readers is well worth their perusal, bringing with it a reward of profit and real pleasure if hardships, privations and dangers of frontier life and the death of the pioneer without direct rewards for his daring and enterprise is ever pleasing reading.

GRACE RAYMOND HEBARD.

---

THE WINNING OF THE FAR WEST. By Robert McNutt McElroy, Ph. D., Edwards Professor of American History, Princeton University. (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914. Pp. x.; 384. \$2.50.)

The title of this work calls to mind at once Roosevelt's *Winning of the West* and suggests comparisons. As a matter of fact, the present work is intended as a continuation of Roosevelt's, but one misses in it the intimate and understanding appreciation of pioneer life which gave to the older work its greatest charm. This difference is due in part to the briefness of Dr. McElroy's volume and in part to the limitation expressed in the sub-title, viz., "A History of the Regaining of Texas, of the Mexican War, and The Oregon Question; and of The Successive Additions to the Territory of the United States, Within the Continent of America: 1829-1867." It is, therefore, a study of such national action and international relations as have resulted in additions to the territory of the United States.

Of the fourteen chapters comprising the volume, three deal with the independence and annexation of Texas, eight with the war against Mexico, and one chapter is given to each of the following: Oregon, The Organization of the New West, 1848-1853, and The Purchase of Russian America.

The story of the independence of Texas begins by frankly and accurately showing Jackson's interest in annexation and the co-operation that

obtained between Jackson and Sam Houston to the end that Texas be made independent and then annexed to the United States. A number of hitherto unused Jackson letters let in new light and re-emphasize the violent antagonisms existing between Jackson and John Quincy Adams. Jackson's private letters and his public messages seem to show him working at cross-purposes, but in reality he wanted Congress to take the initiative and he laid his plans to force them to do so (p. 48). The opposition of Adams and the growing feeling in the north that the whole scheme was another attempt to steal "bigger pens to cram with slaves" delayed annexation because it endangered the Democratic party's supremacy.

The chapters dealing with the Mexican war are vividly and interestingly written for here Dr. McElroy is at his best. One closes the work with a feeling that many of the historians have done us an injustice by ignoring the heroic in the Mexican War. Too much space is ordinarily given to attempts to prove a slaveholder's conspiracy that does not exist. Polk is frankly set forth as an ardent expansionist and this is as it should be, but the present reviewer believes that Dr. McElroy is in error in his attempts to justify him in claiming the disputed part of Texas. The Treaty of Velasco, which was signed May 14, 1836, by the Captive Santa Anna did not recognize Texas as a free and independent state "with a boundary extending to the Rio Grande." (p. 28). The treaty simply provides that "the Mexican Troops will evacuate the Territory of Texas, passing to the other side of the Rio Grande del Norte." The secret treaty, made at the same time and place, provided among other things that "limits will be established between Mexico and Texas, the Territory of the latter not to extend beyond the Rio Bravo del Norte," (Niles' Register, Vol. 69, No. 98). Whatever may be thought of the negative and indefinite character of these Treaties they are hardly a justification of the view that the disputed Territory was American soil after the annexation of Texas. Similarly, Polk's claim to the disputed Territory because it "had been represented in the Congress and in the Convention of Texas," and "is now included within one of our congressional districts," and within our revenue system (pp. 139-140) satisfies no one. It may mean simply that others besides Polk were willing to take disputed territory from a weaker neighbor. It would seem that a fuller statement of the unadjusted claims against Mexico (p. 135) and how they had arisen would be of value.

The chapters dealing with Oregon, the organization of the West, and Alaska, are of course brief, but they are nevertheless well done. The book will find its real place in the literature of the period, probably, as a valuable history of the Mexican War.

EDWARD McMAHON.