

BOOK REVIEWS

History of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance of 1851. By MARY FLOYD WILLIAMS. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1921. Pp. 543. \$5.00.)

Papers of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance of 1851. Edited by MARY FLOYD WILLIAMS. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1919. Pp. 906 \$5.00.)

California has had a history quite as dramatic and colorful as that of any other State in the Union. The frenzy and excitement following the great gold rush of 1849 called into being the Vigilance Committee of 1851. The work accomplished was vigorous and effective as against wrong-doers. Since that time it has been a live theme of conversation and writing by Californians everywhere.

As may be easily inferred from the above titles, the records are now set forth in type for the enlightenment of the present reader and for the use of all future historians. The larger of the two books contains the minutes, miscellaneous papers, financial accounts and vouchers of the Committee. The volume is thoroughly indexed making the mine of information quickly available. This work is Volume 4 of the "Publications of the Academy of Pacific Coast History."

The other volume is a history based upon the documents mentioned above and upon other prime sources. The author records one source of her inspiration for the monumental work on the dedicatory page as follows: "To the memory of my father, Edward C. Williams, a Lieutenant in Stevenson's Regiment and a loyal citizen of California from 1847 to 1913." In addition to inspiration Miss Williams has had an abundance of intelligent industry. Her books will live and serve.

On page 416, we read: "During the years 1855 to 1870 gold rushes like that of 1849 sent prospectors by the thousands into Idaho, Montana, Eastern Washington, and Oregon." These experiences are briefly discussed and other references to the northlands are made. The great bulk of the book, of course, deals with California. This work is Volume 12 of the "University of California Publications in History." Professor Herbert E. Bolton is the general editor of both series of publications.

EDMOND S. MEANY.