

Opening a Highway to the Pacific, 1838-1846. By JAMES CHRISTY BELL, JUNIOR. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1921. Pp. 211. \$3.00.)

Readers of the *Washington Historical Quarterly* will find in Dr. James C. Bell's *Opening a Highway to the Pacific* a new interpretation of the events leading to the acquisition by the United States of the Oregon country. An examination of the volume shows a thorough command of the literature bearing upon the subject. Several rare and unusual sources have been effectively employed. In addition to this new material, all of the more useful and generally accessible items seem to have been well covered.

The author's avowed purpose is to discover the motives that actuated the immigration to Oregon, especially during the later thirties and earlier forties. He diagnoses the "Oregon Fever" and finds that neither politics nor religion were essential factors. He concludes that the fundamental cause of the phenomenal exodus to Oregon was agrarian discontent. Over production in the Middle West and the hope of better markets in a new country led forth these pioneer settlers. As a class they were substantial farmers and mechanics looking for relief from a financial emergency. They were not radicals but rather conservatives, seeking a new geographical location but not a changed position in society.

As a study of economic motives, the reviewer regards this volume as a substantial contribution to Oregon history. The main flow of the author's argument, however, is impeded by extraneous material. To a general reader this material adds background and atmosphere; to the student it is a source of vexation and delay. As a whole the volume is attractive; illustrations and a map are provided. The author is especially to be commended for full and accurate citations to the numerous authorities consulted.

CHARLES W. SMITH

The Study of American History. By VISCOUNT BRYCE. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1922. Pp. 118. \$1.50.)

There could have been no better choice for the inaugural lecturer of the new chair of American History, Literature and Institutions, established by the Anglo-American Society in 1920, than Viscount Bryce, much beloved by both Americans and his own

countrymen. This chair has been named from the donor of the gift, Sir George Watson, and will not be confined to any one institution in England, nor to any one lecturer, but is designed for a series of lectures by both British and American scholars. This lecture will serve as an able introduction to the study of American History, for Viscount Bryce has touched on all the main tendencies in our national life with discriminating pen. The influence of our vast natural resources, the nature of our Revolution, and of our Civil War, our changing immigration problem and the effect of our constitution—all these he has dealt with briefly and to the point. The lecture should serve as an indication of the general tone, the spirit, of the foundation, for it is a fine plea for Anglo-American understanding and unity, not through formal alliances so much as by striving in joint responsibility of the English-speaking peoples for a use of their influence "to guide the feet of all mankind in the way of peace". No better message could have been given by one whose work has shown such complete understanding of both peoples, nor could any plea have been more liberal in tone than this kindly farewell word from a real scholar who so recently passed this way into eternity.

EBBA DAHLIN

The Cowboy; His Characteristics, His Equipment, and His Part in the Development of the West. By PHILIP ASHTON ROLLINS. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922. Pp. 353. \$2.50.)

This book is a second attempt to present the cowboy in his true light as a factor in the development of the western part of the United States. About twenty-five years ago, Mr. Emerson Hough published his *Story of the Cowboy* in which he endeavored to disabuse the American people of the illusions it held concerning the cowboy and to call attention to the sturdy qualities of industry and resolution which have made the latter a force in American history. With all regard to the comprehensiveness of Mr. Hough's work, Mr. Rollins believes that another is needed along the same lines for "the 'movie man' still continues his work of smirching the cowboy's reputableness".

Mr. Rollins has spent a number of years in the cattle country and has had an opportunity of intimate acquaintance with its people. Opening his book with a brief history of the development of