

proposals is of great interest to the people of the Northwest. When one recalls that this was written in 1860, nine years before there was a transcontinental railway in the United States, the boldness of the idea is impressive. "Whoever owns Vancouver Island must command the trade of the Pacific and the East." This island, in his opinion, would become the great depot for the exchange of the products of the East and those of the West. It was fitting that Haliburton should have interested himself in renewing the tombstone of Vancouver and that his grave is close to that of the great explorer.

Students of American literature will find in this book much more than the destruction of a myth. They will find the biography of an important writer, accurate beyond all cavil, and yet written in such manner that a real human being can be followed through his whole career as college boy, lawyer, legislator, man of letters, judge, and member of the British Parliament. He will find a careful account of Haliburton's writings. The bibliography and the footnotes will delight the soul of the most exacting scholar. It is to be hoped that Professor Chittick's duties as a teacher will not prevent him from giving us more studies of this kind.

CLEMENT AKERMAN.

Indians of the Northwest Coast. By PLINY EARLE GODDARD. (New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1924. Pp. 176. 1 map; illustrated.)

Although this book is written especially as a guide to the Northwest Coast hall at the American Museum of Natural History, it stands as one of the finest brief accounts of a North American Indian group. The author has made a thorough study of the literature and in the summer of 1922 visited the territory under the guidance of Dr. C. F. Newcombe, erstwhile curator of the Provincial Museum at Victoria and an "old timer" on the coast.

The book will be of interest to historians of the Pacific Northwest because we have here for the first time an adequate account, briefly given, of the aboriginal life of this entire area. The volume deals with the native life from the border of Washington to Alaska. In the first chapter the author surveys the aspects of the country and its early exploration. This is followed by a splendid section on the economic life of these tribes, pro-

fusely illustrated with cuts of specimens at the Museum. The unique wood work technique is dwelt on at length, together with the more customary industrial pursuits. The chapter on social and political organization represents the most discriminating work in the book. The social organization and ceremonial life of these tribes is among the most complex and elaborate developed by any Indians north of Mexico. From a mass of descriptive detail the author has chosen the most significant points and presented them in a clear, concise manner. These tribes have a rigid caste system based on hereditary privileges and the accumulation of wealth. The chief is the one who has inherited and acquired the largest amounts. In order to retain his prestige he has to display his wealth by giving potlatches. In the winter months a person's clan and village affiliations were dropped and he sat in the potlatch house with the members of his secret society and participated in their ritual. It has taken ethnologists many years to unravel this shifting system of associations.

The art of the North Pacific coast people falls into two classes, the geometric designs used by the women in basketry, clothing decoration and weaving, and the semi-realistic art used by the woodcarvers. The subjects for this last named art are taken from the mythology and family traditions of the people. One of the privileges of the chiefs and other people of high rank was that they could display their family crests in carvings and paintings on their houses, on grave posts and on personal belongings. The canons of this art have been studied in considerable detail of which Goddard gives an excellent resume.

This sketch should be of great help to all who seek information on the aboriginal culture of this area, but who have neither the opportunity nor the need of dealing with the original sources. For many tribes there is excellent and fairly extensive material at hand; the author availed himself of this to the best advantage. The book shows fine press work and has very ample illustrations.

ERNA GUNTHER.

History of the American Frontier. By FREDERIC L. PAXSON
(Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1924. Pp. 598. \$6.00.)

Theodore Roosevelt's "Winning of the West" is the story of the conquest of the frontier; Frederick Jackson Turner's book on "The Frontier in American History" is a brilliant interpretation of the frontier and its significance; Frederic L. Paxson's recent