

of the Little Big Horn. Hence Custer's forces were not massacred, as W. A. Graham clearly shows in his thrilling "Story of the Little Big Horn." A poorly organized Indian Bureau had made it possible for the entire army of Sioux to come into possession of the latest model repeating-arms and ammunition. Misinformation and ignorance as to the position and numbers of the hostile Sioux were likewise instrumental in this tragic event.

"No authentic witnesses save the Sioux have ever appeared and their accounts are at such variance that it is impossible to reconcile them." For this reason no attempt is made to give the story from the Indian point of view.

The mystery that still enshrouds the event has been the cause of heated controversy. "Whether Major Reno was justified in leaving the timber, whether his movement to the hills was inspired by cowardice, whether his conduct throughout the action was craven, are questions about which there will be dispute as long as the battle of the Little Big Horn is remembered. This narrative is not intended as support to either side; it simply endeavors to state the haps as they happened." The burden of proof for all facts has been left to the evidence found in personal letters from members of General Terry's company, unpublished manuscripts, the Army and Navy Journal and the testimony given before the U. S. Reno Court of Inquiry. The testimony is freely quoted in the numerous notes. Sketch maps aid in following the movement of the regiments.

Lieutenant Colonel W. A. Graham writes with clearness and directness and is free from bias or prejudice. Most praiseworthy from the layman's point of view is the high interest sustained from the beginning to the end.

ELVA L. BATCHELLER.

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*The American People—A History.* By THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER, Edwards Professor of American History, Princeton University. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926. Pp. VIII. 486. \$5.00.)

This is an exceptionally well written one-volume history of the United States. From his first chapter, dealing with Aboriginal America to the last on "Problems—Solved and Unsolved," Mr. Wertenbaker holds the reader's interest and attention. His style is graphic, his subject matter well chosen. He has skillfully put into a single volume all the essential facts of American history and yet he has had room for a certain amount of valuable

detail. He introduces no new or unusual material. In point of view and interpretation he follows the conservative path. There are no footnote references nor a bibliography. The value of this book lies in the fact that he has written an interesting story. There are no new contributions in subject matter nor in the method of treatment aside from the literary style.

ERMA NELSON.

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*History of the United States of America.* By HENRY WILLIAM ELSON, A.M., Litt. D. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1926. Pp. 996. \$3.75.)

The first edition of this book was published in 1904, and it has been very widely used as a supplementary text, and by the general reader. From time to time reprints of it have been made to supply the demand but until the present it has not been revised. The original was literally full of errors and misstatements of facts, but this revision has eliminated them. The new book follows the general lines of the first edition but there have been many restatements of the subject matter. In some cases the chapters have been entirely re-written and new materials have been added. The writer frankly admits a modification of view point and has been helped by numerous friendly criticisms. Barring a certain journalistic style reminiscent of the "sob-stuff" of the metropolitan dailies which many people believe essential to arousing an interest in history, the book has been well done. It has had a very wide circle of readers and it is gratifying to note the great improvement in accuracy.

EDWARD McMAHON.

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*The Writing of History.* By JEAN JULES JUSSERAND, WILBUR CORTEZ ABBOTT, CHARLES W. COLBY, and JOHN SPENCER BASSETT. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926. Pp. 143. \$1.50.)

The Executive Council of the American Historical Association, realizing that the writing of history in the United States was not in a satisfactory state, caused to be appointed by the Association in 1920, a special committee consisting of Jean Jules Jusserand, then Ambassador from France, Doctor Charles William Colby and Professor Wilbur Cortez Abbott. Two years later, Professor John Spencer Bassett, Secretary of the Association, was added to the committee. After planning the work each member submitted to the others his own conclusions. It was