

Miller, and the fourth is a complete calendar of his opinions. The first address, on "The Formation of the Constitution," and the second, on "The Value of Authorities," are good pieces of work. The third address, "Socialism and Society," is of no value except as it throws light on the working of Judge Miller's mind. Socialists, anarchists, nihilists, communists and single-taxers are grouped together and their declared object "avowedly in some cases, in most of them apparently, is the destruction of organized society" (154). Their doctrines, declared the eminent jurist, imply that the man who has made a fortune is a robber and an oppressor of the poor "because he does not divide these things equally among all his neighbors, among his enemies and his friends alike, among the good as well as the evil, among the industrious and the lazy, and among the criminal and the pious" (157).

The books are well indexed and carefully edited, and the State Historical Society of Iowa is to be commended for beginning the series and setting a worthy example for the other State Historical Societies. We need more biographies of the men who lived their lives and played their part in the affairs of our States.

EDWARD McMAHON.

The Great Plains; the Romance of Western American Exploration, Warfare, and Settlement, 1527-1870. By Randall Parrish. (Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Co., 1907. \$1.75.)

The task which Mr. Parrish sets for himself in his latest book is nothing less than to condense within the limits of a single volume the romantic history of "The Great Plains." Geographically, his subject covers that vast area of the United States extending from the Mississippi river to the Rocky mountains and from Texas to North Dakota; chronologically, it subtends the period from 1527 to 1870.

To successfully outline, even in briefest form, the history of this broad field and period, to trace from cause to effect the various movements, and to give to each event its own proper niche and proportion, is assuredly no mean undertaking. Mr. Parrish does not attempt so much, but limits himself to writing what he terms "romantic history." He has not attempted a scholarly work, but frankly states the purpose of the book in the closing sentence of the preface: "It is written largely for those to whom history has been heretofore dry and unpalatable, and my sole

desire is that it may awaken within their hearts a fresh interest in those who were the pioneers in the redemption of the great plains."

An examination of the book shows that the author has consistently adhered to his purpose. He has narrated events and incidents of a romantic character without stopping to consider them in their economic or political aspects. His book will have small interest to the careful student of history, but to the average reader, for whom the work is written, it should prove highly useful and entertaining. Instead of a dry lecture, to which a popular audience objects, here is a veritable moving-picture performance. First upon the screen comes the flora and the fauna of the region upon which are shown the aboriginal tribes of Indians, as it were, upon their native heath. Next in order are shown the first Spaniards and the French explorers, followed by glimpses of the fur traders and the first emigrants. Succeeding pictures illustrate the reign of the prairie schooner, the overland stage, the pony express, army life on the plains, incidents of the Indian wars, the beginnings of settlements, the days of the cattle kings, the building of the first railroad, and the rise of the border towns. The author furnishes running commentary upon the scenes portrayed, and somehow succeeds in reproducing the very atmosphere and spirit of the plains.

A matter for regret is the seemingly small use of source material in the preparation of the book. Quotations scattered here and there throughout the book, as well as the author's note of acknowledgment immediately following the preface, would indicate a too-ready dependence upon the accounts of secondary authorities. To the acceptance of secondary authority may be attributed such a statement as that made upon page 143 as to the purpose of Dr. Whitman's famous ride of 1842-43.

The volume forms, upon the whole, a welcome addition to the literature of the westward movement, if, indeed, that subject can be said to have a literature of its own. During the last few years several historical writers have given attention to the development of Western America, but it still remains a practically untilled field. So recently as the year 1905 the historian, McMaster, in his presidential address before the American Historical Association, refers as follows to this gap in the published records of American history:

"No feature of national existence is more fascinating than the westward movement of population, the great march across

the continent. Yet we have no history of this migration—no account of the causes which led to it; of the founding of great States; of the paths along which the people moved; of the economic conditions which now accelerated, now retarded it; of the ever-changing life on the frontier as the frontier was pushed steadily westward over the Alleghenies, across the valley of the Mississippi and over the plains, to disappear in our own day at the foot of the Rocky mountains." (Annual report of the American Historical Association, 1905, vol. 1, p. 57.)

The growth of Western United States to economic and political importance will draw increasing attention to its history, and the appearance of Mr. Parrish's book at this time is noteworthy. Mechanically, the book is attractively gotten up. The paper and type are good, and the illustrations are excellent. The title page bears the imprint of A. C. McClurg & Co. of Chicago. Western readers are glad to note that this firm, long established in the book-selling, importing and stationery business, has gradually developed a publishing department and is now making a specialty of books on Western history.

CHARLES W. SMITH.