

BOOK REVIEWS.

Pioneer Days on Puget Sound. By Arthur A. Denny. Edited by Alice Harriman. Illustrated. (Seattle: Alice Harriman Co., 1908, 103 pp., \$2.)

The appearance of a reprint of Arthur A. Denny's "Pioneer Days on Puget Sound" is an event of more than ordinary interest. The original volume was privately issued by the author in 1888 and distributed among his friends. It was printed by Mr. Clarence B. Bagley, still living in Seattle, who states that the edition was small, probably 300 copies, although he is not sure of the exact number. Whatever the number may have been, it was much depleted the following year in the great fire of 1889.

Mr. Denny, being one of the founders of the City of Seattle, and always prominently identified with its development, was in an excellent position to write of its history. This he did in the straightforward narrative of eighty-three pages, which he published under the title of "Pioneer Days on Puget Sound." Mr. Denny was a discriminating and careful observer and he aimed at scrupulous accuracy. His book is deservedly prized as an authoritative source of information upon the early history of Seattle and Puget Sound. Its intrinsic worth, the small number of copies, and the fact that it has never been on sale to the public, have all combined to make it extremely rare and difficult to obtain.

It was, accordingly, with great interest that local students of history read the announcement in the Publishers' Weekly of March 14, 1908, vol. 73, p. 1126, that "The Alice Harriman Co., of Seattle, Wash., announce for early publication the first of a series of reprints to be known as 'The Puget Sound Historical Series.' The first book to be reprinted is Arthur A. Denny's 'Pioneer Days on Puget Sound.'" The book has promptly made its appearance and it becomes a duty to compare the reprint with the original for the benefit of students who do not possess the original edition.

The first impression one gets from the new edition is very favorable. It is printed on good paper from excellent type and is well bound in neat green covers bearing an attractive design in the center of which appears the well-known portrait of the

author. It is an exceptionally well made book and reflects credit on all who had part in its production. In size, it is some three times that of the original, suggesting the addition of much new material.

The editor's preface, however, is singularly non-committal as to what has been attempted in the reprinted edition. It is not stated that any additions have been made and the reader is left to infer that the original text has been followed without change. Unfortunately, such is not the case.

Mr. Denny's simple narrative has been broken up into a dozen chapters, each with a chapter-title and a motto after the style of certain works of fiction, and all without the slightest indication that the chapter formation, titles and mottoes are not the work of the author. Further than this, paragraphs have been subdivided and even sentences have been broken and recast into new ones. Marks of punctuation have been added to suit the taste of the editor. As a sample of the extent to which this work of revision has been carried, the first paragraph of the book will serve. Mr. Denny's first paragraph has been broken into four paragraphs. His first sentence has been cut into three sentences. In spite of this cutting up process, it has required the insertion of five additional commas to make this first paragraph satisfactory to the editor.

Nor has she been content with such revision. On page 16, line 6 from the top, of the original, appears the words "very small" in italics. The reprint, p. 33, line 3 from the bottom, ignores this added emphasis, though why no reason is given. A still more serious offence is the alteration of spelling without warning or excuse. The author's Nesqually has been uniformly amended to Nisqually. Mukilshoot is changed to Muckilshoot. Lake Kichelas, p. 75, becomes Lake Kitcheles, p. 92 of the reprint. Gansevort, p. 69, is changed to Gansevoort, p. 87. In one case only has the slightest hint been given of change of spelling and in this case no change had been made. On page 92 of the reprint, an asterisk after Naches Pass, line 12 from the top, refers to a foot-note, which says, "Official spelling U. S. Board on Geographical Names." Reference to the corresponding sentence of the original, p. 75, line 3 from the top, shows that in this case no change had been made, but that the two spellings are identical. The spelling of the original is that sanctioned by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names in every case but one, namely, on p. 45, line 9 from the bottom, where it is printed Nachess Pass.

This has been corrected in the reprint and here on p. 64 evidently belongs the foot-note which is superfluous on p. 92.

As another example of lack of fidelity to the original should be noted the disappearance of the addenda slip on final page 83, which calls attention to five errors for correction. These corrections have been made in the body of the reprint, but with the editor's usual freedom from restraint. Take for example the first item of the errata requesting the substitution of Wm. Hebner for William Hefner, as printed on p. 33, line 5 from the bottom. A reference to the corresponding sentence in the reprint shows neither of these spellings, but a third one—William Heebner.

In fairness to the editor, it should be stated that there were corrections that were needed, but they should have been given in notes with authority and reason for the change. For example, two dates were erroneously given in the author's text. The first of these occurs on page 64, line 11 from the bottom, where the "21st of October, 1855," should be the 28th of October, 1855. The other one is on p. 69, line 9 from the bottom, where "January 25th, 1855," should be January 26, 1856. These errors have, in fact, been corrected in the reprint, but without one word of explanation or comment.

From start to finish, Mr. Denny's narrative has been revised as a schoolboy's composition is worked over by a conscientious teacher. Evidently the editor has not the qualifications needed by one who would reproduce works of historic worth, but evidently she is imbued with the idea of an editor's importance. The name Harriman appears on the cover and in the book no less than eight times, exceeding in number even that of the author's name in similar positions of prominence.

What the editor wished to accomplish is not clear. The preface gives no statement as to the purpose of the reprint, but to furnish an accurate reproduction of the author's work was apparently no part of the plan. For the person who possesses the original, the new work will prove a serviceable supplementary volume. Very praiseworthy diligence has been shown in the collection of photographs, which have been copiously added to the book. Some of these are exceedingly rare and all are timely and helpful. An index, also, has been made which adds greatly to the working value of the book. Some useful information is supplied by way of foot-notes, but their value would have been greatly enhanced if the editor had thought it worth while to give authority for her statements. Opposite page 80 is a reproduction of an interesting "Sketch made by Lieut. W. S. Phelps of the

'Decatur' (afterwards Rear-Admiral of the U. S. N.), during the Indian troubles of 1855-56."

At the end of the author's text has been included without comment a list of "Chronological Notes" relating principally to the early settlement of Seattle and King County, and signed by six pioneers, fac similes of whose signatures are given. What is the meaning of these chronological notes and why are they included? The document is dated January 1, 1880, and is clearly no part of the book which it antedates by eight years. Authoritative and valuable it certainly is, and although it has been elsewhere printed (Seattle "Argus," December 21, 1901, volume 8, page 6,) it is worthy of insertion as a commentary upon the care and method exercised by Mr. Denny in safeguarding the main facts relative to the early settlement of Seattle. Facts in regard to this document, telling how and why it was prepared and placed on file, would have made an extremely interesting editorial note. Barring such facts, it loses the best part of its meaning as an addendum to this work.

Mr. C. D. Boren, the only survivor of the signers, is not now in Seattle, but from others familiar with the case it is learned that Mr. Denny's purpose, as carried out in this document, was to collect the absolutely fundamental facts pertaining to the city's earliest history and to have them accurately and precisely set down and signed by those still living who participated in the events recorded. This was in fact done, and the statement was filed away in a secure vault for no other purpose than to safeguard the history of the region covered, at least to the extent of this brief chronology. One incentive, probably, for putting the record upon paper at that time was the work of Hubert Howe Bancroft, who had visited Seattle in June, 1878, (See Bancroft, H. H., *Literary Industries*, 1890, page 541,) while collecting material for his history of the Pacific States.

CHARLES W. SMITH.

Jefferson Davis. By Wm. E. Dodd, Ph. D. [*American Crisis Biographies.*] (Philadelphia: Geo. W. Jacobs, 1907, pp. 383.)

This life of Jefferson Davis is another evidence of the historian's growing interest in the events of our tragic Civil War after the passions of the period have largely passed away and time has made possible a more correct perspective. The clue