

BOOK REVIEWS

ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1853. By D. B. Ward. (Seattle, Bull Brothers, 1912, pp. 55, 50 cents.) This is an attractive little booklet bound in paper and knotted with silk cord. It was intended for members of the pioneer's family and his friends, though a few copies were offered for sale in the local market. The journal is dedicated "To the Prairie Schooners of 1853 and their sturdy pilots." For half a century the author's children and grand children had enjoyed the recital of the experiences and adventures of the long journey across the plains and mountains.

He was at last induced to put the story in written form and its first draft was published in *The Washington Historian*, running through the numbers of January, April, and July, 1901. That interesting quarterly ceased publication, copies of it were scarce and so the author revised the story and put it in this present form.

It is one of those plainly written human documents, interesting to any lovers of the West, which the future historian will appreciate when he studies the romantic period of early immigration to the Pacific Coast regions.

PARKMAN'S THE OREGON TRAIL. By Ottis B. Sperlin. (New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1911, pp. 363, 25 cents.)

This favorite in the literature of the West appears in the series known as Longman's English Classics. Though substantially bound in cloth, the price is very low. The editor, Mr. Sperlin, is head of the department of English in the Tacoma High School. He has furnished an introduction, a bibliography, a chronological table, and rather copious notes.

The chronological table is compiled under three heads: "Parkman's Life and Works," "Contemporary History," and "Contemporary Literature." A comprehensive and helpful survey is thus given the reader who may wish to know of the author and his times while enjoying the reprinted book.

The pages of the book are not cramped with the editor's notes. These are gathered on the last twenty-four pages and are easily applied to explain or illuminate certain portions of the text in the light of more recent information.

This edition is useful for schools. It ought also to be welcomed in the public and private libraries of the West where it may not be convenient to have or use the older and more expensive editions.