

THE COST OF EMPIRE. By Sarah Pratt Carr. (Seattle, The Stuff Printing Concern, 1912, pp. 23, 35 cents.)

This is the libretto for the opera "Narcissa" by Mary Carr Moore. The author and composer, mother and daughter, live in Seattle. The theme comprises one of the most romantic incidents in the history of the Pacific Northwest. If the opera meets with the success that many people expect for it, there is no doubt that it will start another wave of discussion over the "Whitman Myth." In the synopsis the author says: "The story follows history almost exactly, departing from it only in trifles and in compressing events, to fit the necessities of stage portrayal." In spite of this avowed purpose, the author has not been contented to abide by the abundantly heroic portions of the story, which are undisputed, but has made prominent the so-called political purpose of the winter's ride. That is the crux of the "Whitman Myth." It has been sadly shattered by recent investigations.

Perhaps we should not hold an opera to strict historical standards. Many are avowedly built on myths. It is certainly wise to cordially welcome so serious an effort in this field by a writer and composer of such unmistakable talent.

SEATTLE PARK COMMISSIONERS' EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT. Compiled by Roland W. Cotterill, Secretary. (Seattle, 1911, pp. 112.)

The City of Seattle has been taking an advanced position among American cities in the matter of parks and especially in the adjuncts of playgrounds and boulevards. This report is therefore the more important, as it contains statistics and data from 1890 to 1911. The report is illustrated and carries a valuable map of the city.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY. By Captain George R. Clark, U. S. N., William O. Stevens, Carrol S. Alden, and Herman F. Krafft. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1911, pp. 505, \$3.00 net.)

This work has no direct bearing on the Pacific Northwest, the peculiar field of the Washington Historical Quarterly, but it has a number of references to such warships as the Olympia, Oregon, and Washington. Brief mention is also made of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition.

THE AMERICAN LUMBER INDUSTRY. By The National Lumber Manufacturers' Association. (Chicago, Leonard Bronson, Manager, 1912, pp. 238, \$1.00.)