

The primary purpose of the writer seems to have been the production of a popular novel. Except for an occasional dull conversation, anything that might be expected to weary a reader impatient for the next development of the tale has been carefully eliminated.

Of plot there is little. The play of character upon character furnishes the chief motive force of the story. It is indeed in its drawing of types of character that the chief merit of the book consists, both from the standpoint of the historian and from that of the casual reader. There is here a careful and just appreciation of the qualities of those strong men and women who settled and held the Northwest for the nation. The influence of the missionaries and of those they drew after them is given its full due. To have helped to an appreciation of the services of these early pioneers is in itself justification enough for the book. A story as popular in character, and put out by so well known an author and publisher, is likely to have a considerable circulation and will help, no doubt, to call attention throughout the country to an interesting period in our history.

CHRISTINA DENNY SMITH.

ALASKA, AN EMPIRE IN THE MAKING. By John J. Underwood. (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co. 1913. Pp. 440, \$2.)

In this book the author paints, in very bright colors, a picture of Alaska as he sees it and as others like him will see it in the future. He grows quite eloquent over the resources of that country and the wonderful possibilities of that region. (Incidentally, the Puget Sound country, and especially Seattle, comes in for a share of boosting.) The book has its value in that it shows how certain people regard Alaska; its defect consists in not giving the other side of the story. For the impartial historian the book has no value. The author has not taken pains to consult the best historical books on Alaska, and his chapters on the history of Alaska are very misleading.

FRANK A. GOLDER.

ANTOINE OF OREGON: A STORY OF THE OREGON TRAIL. By James Otis Kaler. (New York, American Book Co. 1912. Pp. 149. 35 cents.)

Under the pseudonym of James Otis, Mr. Kaler has written the story of a supposed trip over the Oregon Trail in the year 1845. While the narrative is fictitious, it is carefully based upon known historical and geographical facts and furnishes a useful supplementary reading book for