

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. GOLDBER.

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

the grades. The book was published but a few months before the death of Mr. Kaler, the well known author of "Toby Tyler" and other stories for boys.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1912, OF THE AMERICAN SCENIC AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY. (Albany, N. Y., The Argus Company, Printers, 1912. Pp. 668.)

This is a report to the Legislature of the State of New York and is devoted mostly to activities of the Society within that State. There are some features of the book, however, of interest to the Pacific Northwest. Pages 255 to 264 are devoted to the National Parks and Monuments with a list brought up to date. Two of the largest in America are within the State of Washington—Mount Rainier National Park, 207,360 acres, and Mount Olympus National Monument, 608,640 acres. Pages 421 to 432 are devoted to The Transcontinental Trails. There is a map and illustrations of this work, including the old Oregon Trail. The article on Stadiums, Ancient and Modern, mentions the great stadium of the Tacoma High School (page 418), and there are two full-page illustrations, one showing Old Woman's Gulch before the stadium was built and the other shows the folk dances at the time of dedicating the completed work.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES ON THE OREGON TRAIL SIXTY YEARS AGO. By Ezra Meeker. (Seattle, The Author, 1912. Pp. 150. 30 cents.)

Under a new title, Mr. Meeker has reissued in cheaper form "The Ox Team," first published in 1906. Considerable change has been made in the arrangement, but apparently no new material has been added.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1913. Pp. 11; 20; 128.)

These are three pamphlets containing the Opinion, Minority Opinions, and Hearings and Arguments in the matter of the application of the Rainy River Improvement Company for approval of plans for a dam at Kettle Falls. The same Commission has issued other pamphlets giving rules of procedure and reports on the Livingstone Channel in the Detroit River. The Kettle Falls case refers to the State of Washington. The hearing was held under the Treaty between the United States and Great Brit-