

## BOOK REVIEWS

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THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN. By Edward S. Curtis. (Published by the author in twenty volumes and twenty portfolios. Vol. IX., 1913. Pp. 227. \$3,000.00 set.)

The people of the State of Washington and especially of the City of Seattle (the author's home city) count it a literary event of the first magnitude whenever a new volume and portfolio of this monumental work by Edward S. Curtis appear. The present volume is particularly interesting to readers in the Pacific Northwest because it deals with the Indians of this section. Like the other eight volumes and portfolios that have appeared before, Volume IX. and its companion portfolio are published in that perfection of the printer's and binder's arts and they carry such an abundance of the author's really wonderful and artistic Indian photographs that words of sufficient praise seem impossible.

The scope of the ethnological work in the volume may be seen from this opening paragraph:

"With a few exceptions, the entire territory west of the Cascade Mountains from the Columbia River northward almost to the fiftieth parallel was inhabited by a multitude of tribes more or less closely related, but all speaking dialects of a common language—the Salishan. In the interior this stock extends even beyond the fifty-second parallel in British Columbia, and occupies a large portion of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana. It is therefore one of the most widespread and most numerous families of North American Indians."

The exceptions referred to are explained in this footnote:

"These exceptions are: the Chinookan tribes on the Columbia; the Willapa at the head of Chehalis river and on the upper course of Willapa river; the Quilliate on the ocean coast at the mouth of the Quillayute river and the linguistically related Chimakum on the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the neighborhood of Port Angeles, Washington; the Makah at Cape Flattery, and the cognate Nootkan tribes on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Bellacoola, a Salish group inhabiting Dean inlet, British Columbia, will be considered in a future volume."

Besides historical material about the various tribes, the letter-press carries a wealth of hitherto unpublished ethnology in the form of myths, legends, and music. And then there are the illustrations. The volume contains seventy-five of these justly famous Curtis Indian pictures. The

portfolio contains thirty-six larger pictures. All are beautifully printed and, of course, they are all carefully selected to illumine the work in the volume. Two or three of the larger pictures, such as "The Clam Digger" and "The Mussel Gatherer," were almost enough in themselves to make Mr. Curtis famous. They were about the first Indian pictures he made and have become well known everywhere.

It is well known that the field work of this great enterprise was in part financed by the late J. Pierpont Morgan. In this volume the author pays a tender tribute to that friend, including these hopeful words: "The effort from now until the final volume is written will be for work so strong that there will be an ever increasing regret that he could not have remained with us until that day when the last chapter is finished."

It is evident from the foregoing that the present reviewer is enthusiastic over Mr. Curtis and his great work. Indeed he counts it a privilege to have cooperated on a number of occasions, including a part of one season in the field. However, the readers of this Quarterly are entitled to his perfect frankness especially in a matter of historical values.

On page 18, Mr. Curtis says: "As a direct result of Governor Stevens' treaty with the interior Columbia River tribes at Walla Walla, war broke out, the first act being the assassination of three miners by members of the Kittitas tribe, a Salish group near the head of the Yakima river" This emphatic sentence is one of several which tend to show that the author has approached a controverted period of history with much less sympathy and appreciation for the white man's problems than for the Indians' grievances. There certainly are two sides to the story. Mr. Curtis has not ignored either side, but in numerous ways he has shown what seems an unfair basis. In a footnote for the above sentence, he says: "For the details of the war in the interior and the events leading up to it, see Volume VII., pages 14-34."

In those eleven pages he makes but little use of the military reports of the day and from the field, though he uses plentifully the memory of surviving Indians. The possible faultiness of such remembered evidence or the downright treachery of the Indians, even towards each other, is shown by Mr. Curtis's quotation on pages 27-28 of Volume VII. where Chief Tamahl was hanged through false testimony of his fellow Indians. In this same record Mr. Curtis touches all too briefly on the duplicity of Chief Owhi and his associates, on the transformation of Colonel Wright from a friend to a butcher of Indians and the ever present controversy between the volunteers under Governor Stevens and the regulars under Genral Wool. To most students of these events it has long seemed settled that Governor

Stevens was more often right than wrong and that he was not at all slow to correct an error when one was discovered.

Governor Stevens participated in the making of ten treaties with the Indians. The inadequacy of the reservations complained of by the Nisqually and Puyallup Indians, he, himself, corrected at a meeting on Fox Island on August 4, 1856. In making the original treaties he was, of course, under instructions from the Government at Washington. He evidently had certain basic forms to guide him as in three treaties—Yakimas, Makahs, and Clallams—he mentions the Omaha treaty as reference. This Omaha treaty was concluded in Washington City on March 16, 1854, and the first treaty made by Governor Stevens was in December of that year. With that and other models he certainly tried to protect the interests of the Government as well as those of the Indians. The fishing and other rights he secured for the Indians have endured to the present time, standing more than one test in the courts.

It is with sincere regret that the present reviewer calls attention to what he deems a blemish in the work of a friend—a work that is surely destined to live in all its essential features for the enlightenment of countless generations.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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THE CRIME AGAINST THE YAKIMAS. By Lucullus V. McWhorter. (North Yakima, Republic Print, 1913. Pp. 56. 35 cents.)

The author and publisher is a strong friend of the Yakima Indians, near, with and among whom he has dwelt for several years. A struggle has been going on for a long between white men on the one side and Indians on the other concerning the Yakima Reservation. This consists of about one million acres of land, owned and occupied by three or four thousand Indians. No land in the state is better than much of this land, which also is located near the center, and is now surrounded by prosperous communities of aggressive and progressive white people. These see themselves hampered by lack of land—suitable, good land, the values of which among them range, for agricultural purposes, from fifty dollars to one thousand per acre. They also see the Indians possessed of a tract that will average three hundred acres to every man, woman and child, not one per cent of which are they cultivating. They have tried and are trying continually to get some of this land, and in doing so they are aiming to get it on the best possible terms to themselves and with little regard, of course, to the rights or wants of the Indians. The story is practically identical with those told of the Indians and whites at Victoria, B. C.,