

In this the author has followed Louis Delisle de la Croyere, who was with Chirikof on the ship and whose account is given in the appendix.

The illustrations of the volume are reproductions of maps of the period and in an Appendix are papers translated from records of the Archives of Russia and France. The bibliographic notes on original sources and where they may be found, are of special value to students.

The work is more of a critical study of the period than it is of a popular volume for the masses. Much of the material is given in the works of Muller, Coxe, Bancroft, Lauridsen and others who have written on the subject, but this puts it in more accessible form as those works are to be found in but few libraries.

C. L. ANDREWS.

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THE HISTORY OF WYOMING FROM THE EARLIEST KNOWN DISCOVERIES. In three volumes. By C. G. Coutant. (Laramie, Vol. 1. Pp. 712, Illus.)\*

Unfortunately the proposed three-volumed history of Wyoming was only one third written, the first volume appearing in 1890 when it was privately published in Laramie, Wyoming, and printed by the Chaplin, Spafford and Mathison Co. The author becoming ill and the expensive undertaking being impossible, the history was never completed. Much valuable material collected by the author was disposed of by his widow for a history.

Mr. Coutant for many years was a newspaper man traveling extensively in Wyoming in quest of news, making a wide acquaintance with the people of Wyoming and those things that were old Wyoming. An old-timer himself, he associated with those individuals who not only made Wyoming's history but knew the pioneers of the State's earliest days, thus well qualifying himself for the task he had heroically undertaken.

A running resume of the contents of this first volume will more adequately detail the contents of the history than any other form of review. The delineating of the "Spanish Occupation" of Wyoming is the only portion of the text that is not based on authentic history. There are many indications and traditions that the Spanish explorers came as far North as Wyoming in their daring explorations. Interesting speculations are made as to these earliest occupants of the territory now known as Wyoming if we may except tribes of Indians whose flint work shops are

\*The Hudson Book Company, 862 Hewitt Place, Bronx, New York City, announce that a small edition of this work was found stored in the vaults of a western bank. The author had died before completing the companion volumes. Miss Hebard, Librarian and Professor of Economics of the University of Wyoming and an authority on Wyoming history, consented to write the review. It is hoped that she may complete the work by Coutant.—Editor.

still visible on some of the plains of the State. It is generally believed that 1743 saw the first white men within what is now the boundary of Wyoming when the De La Verendryes led an expedition from Canada to the headwaters of the Mississippi across the Missouri into the Yellowstone and Wind River Countries, coming down from the North to a point near the middle of the State not far from the celebrated rift in the mountains to be known as South Pass through which in years to come the thousands of people were to journey on their way to a new country to an unknown West.

Some very recent investigators are inclined to rob Wyoming of this page of early history of the De La Verendryes, the subject being in controversy as to Wyoming's share of "earliest explored." While Lewis and Clark in their epoch making expedition never touched the territory of what is Wyoming on the return from the Pacific, Clark coming home by the way of the Yellowstone, was at one time within forty miles of Wyoming's northern boundary. With him among others were two people whose names are associated with the State's first History, Sacajawea, the little Shoshoni Indian guide, and John Colter, the Indian woman now buried in the cemetery at Wind River Reservation, not far from old South Pass, the white man to be the first to carry back to civilization the wonders of the Yellowstone National Park. The Astoria expedition brings the first known organized body of men into Wyoming when the party in 1811 traversed the state from northeast to middle West. Large excerpts from Washington Irving's *Astoria*, as well as adventures of Captain Bonneville appear in the history. If one wished to be critical, too long quotations fill the books with which the reader might easily acquaint himself elsewhere, occupying valuable space in a book much too large for convenient handling. The return trip of the Astoria party gave to the world the Oregon Trail, which was more than an outline road even in 1812, made by the animals and the Indians in their traveling back and forth for better food and water. The fur traders receive their proper attention and the organization of old Fort Laramie, named for the trapper de La Ramee or plain Jacques Laramie, with the workings of Campbell, Bridger, Sublette, Ashley, Smith, Fitzpatrick and others, lend a fascination to the narrative. Fremont with his indomitable men receive considerable attention when the mountain bearing the "pathfinder's" name was scaled. Here again is much quoting, interesting but adding unnecessary bulk to the volume. The "forty-niners," the exodus from the East of the Mormons, the Idaho and Nevada gold seekers all made Wyoming the broad highway to the land of possible fortunes and probable disappointments. The stage lines and the pony express receive their due attention, for Ben Holliday and Bill Cody both still have friends who knew them in the days when Wyom-

ing was not, "Buffalo Bill" being picturesquely alive. The bloody years on the plains before and after the coming of the Union Pacific are described from the information obtained from eye witnesses and participants in the conflict. The Bozeman Trail, a government road from Fort Laramie north to Bozeman, Montana, a seat of war from the time of its conception to its death, carries the interest through several chapters, harrowing albeit historically accurate. With the gold discoveries in South Pass and a detailed description of the building of the Union Pacific, every mile of its progress being contested by the red men as it passed through Wyoming, then a Territory in 1867, -8 and -9, volume 1 ends saying "what happened in 1869 will be detailed in the next volume of this work." It is to be deplored that financial reverses and poor health did not permit the author to complete the contemplated and well organized work. What he has given to historical readers is well worth their perusal, bringing with it a reward of profit and real pleasure if hardships, privations and dangers of frontier life and the death of the pioneer without direct rewards for his daring and enterprise is ever pleasing reading.

GRACE RAYMOND HEBARD.

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THE WINNING OF THE FAR WEST. By Robert McNutt McElroy, Ph. D., Edwards Professor of American History, Princeton University. (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914. Pp. x.; 384. \$2.50.)

The title of this work calls to mind at once Roosevelt's *Winning of the West* and suggests comparisons. As a matter of fact, the present work is intended as a continuation of Roosevelt's, but one misses in it the intimate and understanding appreciation of pioneer life which gave to the older work its greatest charm. This difference is due in part to the briefness of Dr. McElroy's volume and in part to the limitation expressed in the sub-title, viz., "A History of the Regaining of Texas, of the Mexican War, and The Oregon Question; and of The Successive Additions to the Territory of the United States, Within the Continent of America: 1829-1867." It is, therefore, a study of such national action and international relations as have resulted in additions to the territory of the United States.

Of the fourteen chapters comprising the volume, three deal with the independence and annexation of Texas, eight with the war against Mexico, and one chapter is given to each of the following: Oregon, The Organization of the New West, 1848-1853, and The Purchase of Russian America.

The story of the independence of Texas begins by frankly and accurately showing Jackson's interest in annexation and the co-operation that