

BOOK REVIEWS

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS. By Edward S. Curtis, Edited by Frederick Webb Hodge. (Seattle, Edward S. Curtis, 1915. Volume X. Pp. 366, illustrations, 74. Portfolio X, containing 36 large plates. \$3500.00 for completed set of twenty volumes and twenty portfolios.)

As former volumes of this monumental work have appeared they have been noted in this Quarterly. Our readers are therefore well aware of the facts that Volume I contains a foreword by Theodore Roosevelt and that the field research was conducted under the patronage of J. Pierpont Morgan. On reaching the half-way station in this wonderful literary and scientific journey, Edward S. Curtis, the author, sent a letter to the University of Washington, which with his usual dignified self-restraint gives essential facts as follows:

“Volume and portfolio X of ‘The North American Indian’ is now being sent to you. I feel that this volume is in many respects worthy of special consideration. The Indian life of the region covered presents many unique and even startling phases. These hardy, sea-going people had developed the ceremonial life until it was a veritable pageant. It is, perhaps, safe to say that nowhere else in North America had the natives developed so far towards a distinctive drama.

“With these people we have our best opportunity to study ceremonial cannibalism in America, also it is here that head-hunting seemed to have reached its height. Taking the head as evidence of success in war or plunder was common along the shores of the Pacific, from the Columbia River to the region of the Eskimo; but the Kwakiutl and their neighbors, the Haida, appear to have excelled in this practice. Strange as it may seem, the further the coast tribes had developed in culture which tended towards civilization and the greater their vigor, the more pronounced their warfare and the taking of heads. The poor and lowly tribes could scarce risk war raids, whereas the more powerful and aggressive tribes, rich in canoes and slaves, could well take the hazard of warfare and thus add further to the wealth of their chiefs, by securing more slaves, and, at the same time, add to their tribal standing by the taking of heads. As you will see by the text of the volume, slavery was an important institution.

“No volume of the series has required an equal amount of labor in the collecting of data, and in few places have I been so fortunate in

securing information needed. The book is, in bulk, somewhat thicker than the average while in actual words, it contains double the amount of material as in former volumes. Deeming the data collected of the utmost importance and not wishing the book to be noticeably thicker, we have had special paper made, which is thinner than that formerly used.

"The pageant-like ceremonies of the life, their great canoes and ocean-shore homeland, have afforded rare material for pictures. Again, their rich ceremonial life, combined with their skill in carving and fertile imagination in the designing of ceremonial paraphernalia, furnishes costume material not found elsewhere.

"Quite aside from the extraordinary features of the volume, I feel that it occupies an unusual position in that it is the half-way goal in our undertaking. I believe every subscriber of the work will share in the feeling of satisfaction. We have reached this point, and we know that each volume, as far as material permitted, has grown stronger than the previous one.

"Volume XI is ready for publication and it is hoped it can be completed by the end of the year. There is but little further work to do in the preparation of volume XII and its publication can be taken on as soon as volume XI is free from the press."

It is difficult for the present reviewer to maintain an equal self-restraint in commenting on this unique work. It is absorbing the life of a vigorous, energetic man of great talent and is surely destined to be one of the world's real monuments in book form.

As the author has said, the present volume is greater both in bulk and in value than any of the nine volumes that precede it. To those familiar with the excellence of these former volumes, this is strong praise.

As indicated in the caption, there are in the volume and portfolio one hundred and ten illustrations,—those marvels that the world has long since recognized by the familiar name of "Curtis Indian Pictures." At this rate the subscribers to the completed sets will pay less than two dollars each for the pictures alone and it is well known that some of the pictures have sold for forty dollars each when purchaseable at all.

But the pictures, wonderful as they are, by no means comprise the entire value of the work. The text is winning an ever warmer and more sincere valuation at the hands of the best authorities in America.

The printing by The Plimpton Press, Norwood, Massachusetts, and the binding by H. Blackwell are as near perfection as could be desired. The Librarian of Guildhall Library, London, has pronounced these to be the finest specimens of book-making extant, except the "Miniatures" by J. Pierpont Morgan.

Seattle certainly has reason for increasing pride in the achievements of this dignified citizen, Edward S. Curtis.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

JOURNAL KEPT BY DAVID DOUGLAS DURING HIS TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA 1823-1827. Together with a particular description of thirty-three species of American oak and eighteen species of *Pinus*. With appendices containing a list of the plants introduced by Douglas and an account of his death in 1834. Published under the direction of the Royal Horticultural Society. (London: William Wesley and Son. 1914. Pp. 364.)

The extended title of this volume gives a very good idea as to just what it contains. Its contents naturally fall into three groups.

The first group consists of Douglas's own accounts of his journeys. These are mainly day-by-day accounts of his expeditions and give lists and brief descriptions of the plants collected, notes on their habits, accounts of his adventures, and interesting comments on the regions through which he passed. The first one deals with his travels in Eastern North America in 1823. The second is a general sketch of his journey made to Northwest America (1824-1827) under the auspices of the Horticultural Society of London. The third is the detailed journal of this expedition including the overland trip from Fort Vancouver to Hudson Bay and the return from there to England in a whaling vessel. The fourth comprises a partial account of his second expedition to Northwest America (1830-33). This was the expedition on which he continued his journey to the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands, where he met his death July 12, 1834.

The second group consists of two articles descriptive of groups of American plants, written by Douglas. The first of these articles, "American Oaks," consists of an annotated list (accompanied by a key) of the known species of American oaks of eastern North America, mainly those that he saw during his journey in that region in 1823. To this he has added at a later date an account of an oak (*Quercus garryana*) which is limited to the Pacific Coast region. This species Douglas named in honor of N. Garry, an official of the Hudson Bay Company. The second article is a description of "Some American Pines." To this genus, at the time that Douglas wrote, were assigned not only what we now call pines, but also the Douglas fir, the noble fir, the lovely fir, the white fir, the western hemlock, and the Sitka spruce. The advance of morphological knowledge since that time has made it evident that these cannot all be classed under the genus *Pinus*, but are more naturally classified under five different genera.