

present writer the appeal was mainly his wonderful influence with the Indians. His missionary work was indeed successful wherever it had any chance to be, but it pertained to an element of population which has been completely submerged in the flood of colonization. Therefore, while the individual missions took deep root and still flourish, their relative importance is nothing to what their devoted founder at one time confidently expected of them. But their failure to realize his expectations was not in any sense his fault nor that of his system. It resulted from a tremendous movement over which he was able to exercise not the slightest control.

The greatest charm in Father De Smet's work, and, in the writer's opinion, the greatest utility, lay in his power over the Indians during the painful transition from the original tribal life to final subjection to the American government. Some of Father De Smet's exploits at this time must rank with the noblest deeds of heroism in American history. This is particularly true of his visit to the hostile Sioux in 1868. It is no exaggeration to say that no other white man could have performed that feat and lived. It is a beautiful tribute to the uprightness and unselfishness of the great missionary's character that he should have commanded, in a degree so far above that of any of his contemporaries, the affection and confidence of the tribes. And it is a proof which the historian, partial to the white race, will find it difficult to get over that the Indian Question might have been divested of much of its cruelty and savagery if the Indian had been dealt with upon principles of simple justice.

HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN.

---

THE VIGILANTES OF MONTANA. By Thomas J. Dimsdale. (Butte, Montana, W. F. Bartlett, 1915. Pp. 276. \$.75.)

THE VIGILANTES OF MONTANA. By Thomas J. Dimsdale. (Dillon, Montana, Al. J. Noyes, 1915. Pp. 290. \$2.50.)

The Vigilantes of Montana has served for many years as a source of inspiration to writers of stories of Western life. It contains a wealth of incident and local color. Charles Dickens is reputed to have said that it was the most interesting book that he had ever read. The work was first printed serially in 1865-66 in the Montana Post, the first Montana newspaper, of which the author was editor, and appeared in book form in 1866.

The Vigilantes were a secret organization of citizens whose purpose was to rid the mining camps about Bannack and Virginia City of desperadoes. Their activities extended from a time a few months

after the Montana gold rush of 1862 through the year 1865. This account of them was therefore written upon the scene and was practically contemporaneous.

Wilder and bloodier tales have never been told of any frontier mining camp in America. The narrator was a little, mild-mannered, English schoolmaster who could not even handle a gun; as different a type as possible from the rugged men who figured in his account, many of whom were his personal friends. He was able, however, to hold his own in a pioneer community and to describe its events as an actor in them could not have done. His literary equipment combined to an unusual degree the journalist's sense of human interest and the historian's fidelity to fact. His account of the establishment of law and order in pioneer days in Montana is justly prized for its historic value.

The first edition was published in 1866: a second in 1882. These have for some time been out of print and the demand for the book has now been met by the simultaneous appearance of two new editions. The "third printing" by W. F. Bartlett is a *fac simile* reproduction in paper covers of the first edition. Aside from the brief introduction by Librarian John F. Davies of the Butte Public Library, it has no notes nor other added material. The publisher is one of the oldest pioneers in Montana who was a resident of Virginia City in the days of the Vigilantes.

The cloth bound "third edition" is a more pretentious work containing many illustrations, footnotes and a ninety-page "History of Southern Montana" compiled by A. J. Noyes. This so-called history is made up of miscellaneous and detached bits of information relating to events from 1862 to 1865. In addition to reminiscences, many short documents are incorporated, such as letters, notes from court records, deeds, records of miners' meetings, the oath of the Vigilantes, mining laws, and a list of road agents compiled by Professor Garver. Careful proof reading and an index to the supplementary material would have added to the value of the book.

CHRISTINA DENNY SMITH.

---

HISTORY OF SEATTLE, FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME. By Clarence B. Bagley. (Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916. Three volumes, pp. 885+1155. \$25.00.)

Mr. Bagley's life gave him unusual equipment for this task. He came to the Northwest while still a boy. He became a printer and newspaper man and as such he enjoyed the acquaintance of