

BOOK REVIEWS

Francis Parkman's The Oregon Trail. Edited by HARRY G. PAUL.
(New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1918. Pp. 397.)

New proof of the popularity of *Parkman's Oregon Trail* comes from the press of Henry Holt & Co. Notwithstanding the fact that nearly a dozen different editions of this book are already on the market, still another edition is confidently offered to the public. Prof. Harry G. Paul, a skillful and enthusiastic teacher of English in the University of Illinois, has edited this satisfactory school edition. It contains, besides the complete text, a portrait, introduction, descriptive bibliography, notes and a map.

This classic was written just at the time that England had relinquished its title to the Oregon country and the full tide of American immigration had set in. It has little bearing either upon Oregon or the Oregon trail. Parkman makes no attempt to conceal his dislike for the Oregon immigrants, with whom he had as little as possible to do. Nevertheless this well-written narrative of the Great Plains gives valuable sidelights on the experiences endured by the Pacific Coast pioneers of the later '40s.

CHARLES W. SMITH.

The Rise of the Spanish Empire. By ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.
(New York: The Macmillan Company. 1918. Two volumes.
Pp. 529 and 387. \$7.50 per set.)

The author in his preface epitomizes the chief interest his work has for the American student when he says: "To most Americans the principal interest of the subject will inevitably center around Spain's activities as a great conquering and colonizing power; for the increased importance of the countries of Iberian origin has been perhaps the most remarkable political and economic fact in the recent development of the Western Hemisphere."

The history of Spain, forming a background for the western influence, has not been well explored. The author proposes in four volumes, two of which are the subject of this brief review, to carry the story down to the death of Philip II. Practically the entire first volume is devoted to the medieval period. The author succeeds in establishing his contention that "at the greatest crisis of her imperial career Spain has been confronted by a bewildering array of irreconcilable opportunities. In her refusal to choose between them,