

BOOK REVIEWS

Journal of a Fur-Trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri 1812-1813. By JOHN C. LUTTIG, Clerk of the Missouri Fur Company. Edited by Stella Drumm. (St. Louis. Missouri Historical Society. 1920. Pp. 192.)

Manuel Lisa, of St. Louis, was the most prominent figure in the fur trade on the upper Missouri river during more than a decade after the return of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Beginning in 1808 he established several trading posts along the waters of the upper Missouri or its tributaries, among them one named Fort Manuel and located on the west bank of the river close to the line which now divides the states of North and South Dakota.

Of the party which started from St. Louis on May 8, 1812, to build this fort, for trade with the Arikaras, the clerk was John C. Luttig and his journal contains diurnal entries up to March 5, 1813, continuous for nearly ten months. It gives an accurate account of the dangers, vicissitudes and successes incident to traffic with the Sioux Indians at that time, and brings to notice many names that appear in other literature upon the subject. The original journal is in the possession of the Missouri Historical Society and the editorial work in the book has been done by the librarian of that Society. The quality of paper used and the skill of the printer render the volume a handsome addition to any library; there are many and ample foot notes, many valuable biographical sketches in the appendix, a fine index, and a map.

The chief item of interest to Pacific Coast readers is the record this journal gives of the death and burial place of Sacajawea, the woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Party in 1805-06. Much mystery has attached to the later career of that faithful woman but is now cleared away (the editor deals with that to some extent). She died December 20, 1812 at Fort Manuel and was buried there.

T. C. ELLIOTT.

The Splendid Wayfaring. By JOHN G. NEIHARDT. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1920. Pp. 290.)

John G. Neihardt, whose "Song of Hugh Glass" was so favorably received two years ago, has now embodied similar material for us in a different form. "The Splendid Wayfaring" he intends

for use in the public schools. It is a narrative of the explorations of the Ashley-Henry men in search of a middle route to the Pacific, and as such should go far to extend our popular knowledge of the earliest explorers. The discovery of the South Pass and the Great Salt Lake, and the crossing of the desert to California have yet to become as widely known as the Lewis and Clark exploits.

Jedediah Strong Smith is the person referred to as Our Hero. His service in that capacity appears intermittent because the story follows now one and now another band of explorers. But reconsideration of the whole book leads to a truer appreciation of his importance. It has been Mr. Neihardt's aim to win recognition for a pioneer of exceptional character and achievement.

The book is not distinctly juvenile. It occupies a position somewhat out of the usual plane, between the historical romance and the accepted history text-book. Like the latter, it demands constant reference to the map, and like the former, it contains much that is delightful and unforgettable. The first few chapters are a description of St. Louis, the fur trade, the westward movement, and are written with stirring power and imagination. As the travellers progress up the river the writer confines himself more closely to his authorities, the chief of which is Dale's "The Ashley-Smith explorations". It has been greatly relied upon. There are elaborations in the way of scenery, taken in part from the journals of Harrison G. Rogers. Where conflicting evidence impedes the advance of the story, Mr. Neihardt has steered a single course by accepting the most likely thing and passing on. At the end there is a "List of Sources".

HELEN D. GOODWIN

Massachusetts Historical Society, Proceedings, 1919-1920. Edited by WORTHINGTON C. FORD. (Boston: The Society. 1920. Pp. 358.)

This venerable and honorable Society, founded in 1791, has published this Volume LIII "at the charge of the Waterson Fund." The book is rich in biographies of and tributes to historic New England men.

The most extensive article in the book, pages 217-275, is of great value to the Pacific Northwest. It is John Boit's journal of the history making voyage of the *Columbia*, 1790-1793. At the age of sixteen, John Boit was made fifth officer of that vessel under Captain Robert Gray. Boit kept a day-to-day journal which re-