

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

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*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-

cently came into the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. This was a most fortunate discovery as Captain Gray's official log was destroyed as waste paper between the years 1816 and 1837. Extracts giving the records of the discovery of Grays Harbor and the Columbia River had been copied and these have been relied upon by all subsequent writers. Here is now published the best available substitute for that lost log.

Through the kind cooperation of the Massachusetts Historical Society advanced proof sheets were furnished to the *Washington Historical Quarterly* and in the January number of this publication all of the important journal which related to the Northwest Coast of America was reproduced and, later, published in separate form with additional notes and introduction. This Boit log of the *Columbia* is destined to occupy a prominent place in the literature of the Pacific Northwest.

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*State Historical Society of Idaho, Seventh Biennial Report of the Librarian.* By JOHN HAILEY. (Boise: The Society. 1920. Pp. 31.)

The slender pamphlet has the usual list of books, papers, pictures, relics and specimens pertaining to Idaho history. There are extracts from the message of Governor Caleb Lyon in 1864. By far the most interesting portion of the report is the farewell message of Librarian Hailey. After saying that he is past eighty-five years of age he continues: "Before closing this report, which in all probability will be my last from this Department that I sincerely love that has so many old time Relics and Pictures of many of my old time friends inside its walls who used to be very near and dear to me, most all of them have passed from this earthly career to the unknown but we hope they have gone to that happy shore where sickness, sorrow, pain, death and parting will be no more."

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*Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association.* (Portland: The Association, 1921. Pp. 77. 75 cents, Address Elena A. Clancey, Treasurer, Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma, Washington.)

This volume contains the Proceedings of the Conference held in Portland, Oregon, September 2-4, 1920. Some idea of the activities of the Pacific Northwest Library Association has been given