

esque characters in the history of that State. Holladay is shown to have controlled five thousand miles of stage lines. In the text, page 296, may be found this comment: "Ben Holladay made money fast and spent it lavishly. After he had accumulated a snug fortune he went to New York to live, where he built a magnificent residence a few miles out on the Hudson. Subsequently he built an elegant mansion at Washington and resided there during the sessions of Congress. While holding so many important government contracts it was to his interest to be at hand when matters vitally affecting his business interests were under consideration in Congress. During this same period he also owned and operated steamship lines to Oregon, Panama, Japan and China."

As in a number of other cases, the publisher adds to the announcement of this book: "Issued in a limited edition, printed direct from type and the type distributed. It will not be reprinted."

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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*British History for American Students.* By WILLIAM THOMAS LAPRADE, Professor of History in Duke University. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1926. Pp. 913, \$4.25.)

The basis of this work is the author's belief that the primary aim of historical study ought to be the acquisition of understanding rather than mere information about unconnected facts. The book is therefore offered as a suggestive interpretation to stimulate thought rather than as a narrative of British history complete in itself. This point of view necessitates, of course, the construction of a proper balance between statement of fundamental fact and the presentation of interpretative material. The author's problem of omission and inclusion is difficult; the solution is not unsuccessful. This is due in large measure to the fulfillment by the author of an underlying prerequisite, the presentation of adequate apparatus for further studies. While the bibliographies provided are somewhat limited in scope, they nevertheless are up-to-date and mention as a rule the choicest works of recent origin. (Why is A. B. White's *The Making of the English Constitution*, omitted?). The inclusion of Geographical Notes emphasizes that phase of the subject and incites to further investigation.

Professor Laprade's work is a product of the latest type of historical scholarship. It is a synthesis of those political, economic, social, religious, cultural and scientific forces which have shaped the destiny of the British people and which they have themselves

developed. Cultural phenomena are an integral part of the process: they are regarded as "inseparable from the political and economic forces of which they were so largely both the expression and the products."

Another purpose of the book is revealed in its title: it is based on the assumption that, in view of inescapable limitations in time and space, the topics presented for study by American undergraduates "ought to be those aspects of the past of Englishmen that are also vital parts of the past of Americans and that the material to be studied ought to be organized from the point of view of an American rather than of a student of another nationality." With this latter clause the reviewer is not wholly in agreement; but that Professor Laprade's method has not led him unduly to sacrifice historical objectivity is shown by his rejection of Professor G. B. Adams's well-known estimate of the importance of Magna Charta on the ground that "This notion of a law superior to the government belongs to American rather than to English constitutional doctrine."

O. H. RICHARDSON.

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*Indian Sign Language.* By WILLIAM TOMKINS. (San Diego: The Author, 1926. Pp. 77. Paper, \$1.00; Buckram, \$2.00.)

The present publication is a useful addition to the comparatively few works on Indian sign language. It is arranged in dictionary form and is fully illustrated. It has been officially adopted by the Boy Scouts of America and is admirably adapted to use by boys and girls.

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*Old Lewis County, Oregon Territory.* By NOAH B. COFFMAN. (Chehalis: Privately Published, 1926. Pp. 28.)

Mr. Coffman prepared a careful address for the meeting of the Southwest Washington Pioneers held at Rochester, Thurston County, on August 12, 1926. This address he has strengthened with tables of statistics from old tax books and by a roster of pioneers. He has selected a few valuable pictures for illustrations and has put the whole into beautiful paper covers. It is just the kind of essay whose merit will cause it to be prized by all collectors of Northwest Americana. For many years Mr. Coffman has been esteemed as one of the most dependable and worth-while citizens of Washington.