

BOOK REVIEWS

The Narrative of Samuel Hancock. Edited by ARTHUR D. HOWDEN SMITH. (New York: Robert M. McBride & Company, 1927. Pp. 217. \$3.00.)

Mr. Smith takes especial delight in the fact that the *Narrative of Samuel Hancock* is published as the first book in the Argonaut Series which he is to edit. With such enthusiasm for the narrative as—"Crude, naive, ungrammatical, it is yet salty with the magic of endeavor"—the editor asks: "Who was Hancock?" Quite seriously the editor adds: "And I take this opportunity formally to appeal to the descendants of Oregon and Washington pioneers for any information they may chance to possess concerning Hancock, his wife or their children—supposing them to have been blessed with offspring."

The editor cites Bancroft's *History of Oregon* for verifying information about Hancock. If he had also turned to Bancroft's volume entitled *History of Washington, Idaho and Montana*, he would have found one of Bancroft's longest biographical sketches devoted to Samuel Hancock, bringing the record down to his death in 1883. This volume by Bancroft is dated 1890. He here also mentions his possession of a copy of the Hancock manuscript entitled *Thirteen Years Residence in Washington Territory*, to which he makes this reference: "In the spring of 1849 Hancock went to California for gold, where he had a great many adventures, if we may credit the marvellous stories contained in his *Thirteen Years.*"

That same doubting note will rise in the minds of those who read this newly published *Narrative of Samuel Hancock*. Western survivors will rejoice that the book is published but they will smile and conclude that the dear old pioneer author tried to make his book a best seller by touching up the experiences recorded.

In regard to the request for information about survivors of the Hancock family, it may here be recorded that Samuel Hancock and his wife had no children of their own but they adopted Virginia, William and Susan, children of Mr. Hancock's brother Daniel and Sarah A. (Arthur) Hancock his wife. This Mrs. Hancock is especially remembered as an unusually fine woman. She was a cousin of T. S. Arthur, the author, and a second cousin of Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States.

Of Samuel Hancock's three adopted children, two survive. William died many years ago. Mrs. Virginia M. Herrmann is a woman of much property in Okanogan, Okanogan County, Washington. She has had experiences with Indians, as pioneer school teacher, cattle raiser, and business woman that would match some of the incidents recorded by her adopted father. Susan Hancock lives in Seattle. She has been sadly unfortunate in financial matters. She formerly possessed one of the original copies of her adopted father's manuscript and hoped to be its publisher. She will undoubtedly be surprised to learn that it is now published by another.

The scope and content of the book as now published may best be shown by the reproduced title-page of the original manuscript as follows: "The Narrative of Samuel Hancock. Being a description of his overland journey to Oregon in 1845: his adventures and sufferings: his escape from the Indians: his gold seeking expedition to California and encounters with robbers there: the wreck of the *Cayuga* and his near starvation: and his life as a trader among Indians together with an account of his captivity among the savages: a description of the war dances, marriage ceremonies, methods of house-building, medicinal practices, whaling, fishing, and other manners and customs and also a recital of the massacre of Whitman and the other missionaries, and of the facts connected with the proposed murder, by the Indians, of himself and Lieutenant Lawson's party. Originally written by Hancock in longhand at Whidby's Island and dated February 17th, 1860."

The overland route is shown by a valuable map entitled: "From a New Map of Texas, Oregon and California with the Regions Adjoining, compiled from the most recent authorities and published by S. Augustus Mitchell, Philadelphia, 1846."

In addition to the regular first edition of the book sixty-five copies have been printed on large paper, each of which is numbered and boxed and offered at \$15.00 a copy.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

The World Encompassed. Edited by N. M. PENZER. (London: The Argonaut Press, 1926. Pp. lxxv+235. \$6.23 postpaid.)

Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World. By HENRY R. WAGNER. (San Francisco: John Howell, 1926. Pp. 543. \$10.00.)

Francis Drake and Other Early Explorers Along the Pacific Coast.