

Martin. Mr. Nevins now quotes from a manuscript referred to as "a fresh and naive little record," written by Talbot, himself, and found in the Library of Congress.

One of the most convincing portions of this new biography is the chapter devoted to bibliography. The author discusses understandingly the abundant primary and secondary sources used by him. He closes this chapter by reference to a mass of manuscript materials "generously supplied the author by members of the Frémont family." These papers were carefully and gratefully used but the author takes opportunity to say that his main conclusions were reached independently of them, adding: "They did not, in fact, come into his possession until this biography was largely written." It is evident that the author does not wish the reader to feel that he has yielded to the natural partiality of family papers, but he is thoroughly convinced of the historical value of those papers. He says they contain "untouched materials of great historical interest." Everyone will find delight in his concluding sentence about those papers: "He is pleased to think that his efforts contributed in some degree to induce the family, with great generosity, to deposit them in the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California."

EDMOND S. MEANY.

A Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, 1724-1924. By JAMES WICKERSHAM. (Cordova, Alaska: Cordova Daily Times Print, 1928. Pp. 27+635.)

The publication of Judge James Wickersham's *Bibliography of Alaskan Literature* may well be considered a notable event. This book brings together in available and convenient form more than ten thousand references to histories, travels, voyages, newspapers, periodicals and public documents relating to Russian America or Alaska from 1724 to and including 1924. It wholly supercedes the pioneer bibliographies of Dall and Baker (1879 and 1884) and the more recent list of A. H. Brooks (1906). Few if any of the commonwealths of the United States can claim an equally adequate and satisfactory survey of their bibliographical resources.

The preparation of this monumental work began in 1908 when the compiler was sent to Congress as the Territorial Delegate from Alaska. Nearly twenty years of successful and persistent work has been devoted to collecting material and about

two years to the actual task of compiling the manuscript. Associated with the compiler, have been several specialists including such capable men as Mr. Hugh A. Morrison of the Library of Congress and Mr. Richard H. Geoghegan of Fairbanks, an expert Russian linguist.

The scope of the bibliography is indicated by the following statement drawn from the preface: "Every reasonable effort has been made to secure every title of printed books or magazine articles relating to Alaska, and of every book or newspaper printed in the Territory." Many of the references, more than three thousand items, refer to United States government publications. Librarians will especially appreciate the fullness of the citations to these federal documents, including as they do complete congressional designations together with serial numbers printed in black-face type.

The arrangement is alphabetical under subjects, such as: adventure, aeronautics, agriculture, biography, birds, boundary, description, education, explorations, fiction, fur trade, history, etc. Under each subject the entries are alphabetted by author. Each entry is numbered in order, there being a total of 10,380 numbers. A voluminous general index makes reference to the particular number of each item or title.

A survey of the entire literature of any subject is most useful to all who make use of printed materials relating to it. Such bibliographies add range and effectiveness to research and greatly economize the labor of all workers in the field. The importance of this new publication is much greater therefore than that of an ordinary book since it will multiply the usefulness of all existing books relating to Alaska.

The volume is strictly an Alaskan production. It has been published under provision of the Session Laws of Alaska, 1927. The printing was done in Cordova, and the distribution is under the direction of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, Fairbanks (College Post Office) Alaska.

Charles W. Smith.

In the Quest of the Western Ocean. By NELLIS M. CROUSE.
(New York: William Morrow & Company, 1928. Pp. 494.
\$6.50.)

Dr. Crouse is credited with using for his *In the Quest of the Western Ocean* sources not available to the general public,