

severe pace for the one who may hereafter attempt to complete the record since statehood.

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*J. Ross Browne: A Biography.* By FRANCIS J. ROCK. (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America, 1929. Pp. 80).

The author, Francis J. Rock is a Priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. His book was submitted as a dissertation in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree at the Catholic University of America.

J. Ross Browne had a remarkable career as public officer in various parts of the world and as a pioneer literary man on the Pacific Coast of America. In the latter capacity he was fearless, sarcastic and humorous. One of his essays, mentioned by Father Rock on page 61, was entitled: *The Great Port Townsend Conspiracy, Showing How Whiskey Built a City*. Browne is compared with Mark Twain and Lieutenant Darby, the famous Army wit, who as "John Phoenix," wrote the popular book *Phoenixiana*. The author says: "Phoenix and Browne snapped out their sentences, often in a nervous fashion, and it is difficult for them to remain solemn for any length of time. Browne, therefore, though for most part different in subject matter, reads more like John Phoenix than like Mark Twain."

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*Frederick West Lander, Road Builder.* By E. DOUGLAS BRANCH. (Reprint from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. XVI., No. 2, September, 1929, Pp. 172 to 187).

Scant information is available for a personal biography of General Lander, though Mr. Branch has assembled much about his professional career as an engineer. He was a member of the staff with Governor Isaac I. Stevens in 1853 while making the famous railroad surveys. He did not agree with his chief and early in 1854 appealed to the Legislature of Washington Territory for authority to undertake some independent surveys. The author says, page 174: "Lander and his brother Edward, then Chief Justice of Washington Territory, may have been anxious to have real estate values in Seattle advance; certainly in his report he was emphatic that Seattle was the most likely terminus, and quoted Captain George B. McClellan and Governor Stevens to substantiate his own preference. Again, he may have foreseen the profitable eminence which the expedition brought him. Again, he may have been thoroughly infected with the altruism of expansion. Lander was quite capable of uniting within himself all three motives."