

BOOK REVIEWS

WYATT EARP, FRONTIER MARSHALL. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 1931. Pp. 392.

The new book "Wyatt Earp—Frontier Marshall," by Stuart N. Lake, is the most satisfactory story of the old West that has been published. The biography of this famous peace officer is presented in a vivid, but sincere and dignified manner, and includes a wealth of most valuable, as well as entertaining information regarding general conditions associated with the development of the frontier—particularly in that period when the picturesque buffalo hunters held sway over the vast plans of the middle-west.

I knew Wyatt Earp for nearly a half-century—from 1880 until his death in 1929. I visited him frequently during his final illness, and spoke to him the night before he died. As a last expression of friendship, I was permitted to serve as one of his pall-bearers.

I know the very trying conditions under which Wyatt was called upon to uphold the law in and about Tombstone. Situations demanded a quick, keen brain, unerring judgment, nerves of steel and absolute fearlessness—a test for the best. Wyatt Earp met these tests with equanimity. Wyatt never feared anyone who would face him in the open.

I have often said that one of our greatest assets in the peaceful enforcement of law and order in Tombstone was the personality of Wyatt Earp. The desperado-outlaw element had a wholesome respect for his courage and prowess, and when any of those blustering, pseudo "bad men" come face to face with Wyatt they obligingly quit before shooting began. The result was "peace without victory." The single exception to this rule was the street battle with outlaws on October 26, 1881.

Wyatt Earp played an important and strenuous part in shaping the orderly stride of Empire on its westward course. He well deserves the candid story of his spectacular and colorful career which Mr. Lake has written with such patient care and arduous labor.

I have no doubt that this fine tribute to Wyatt Earp will be eagerly sought and widely read, and that the story will grow in popularity and interest with the passing years—thus securing for this foremost frontier marshal the public recognition and appreciation that his heroic services on behalf of the public welfare have so well merited.

JOHN P. CLUM,

Founder and Editor of The Tombstone Epitaph, (Tombstone, Arizona, 1880); First Mayor of the City of Tombstone, 1881.

BROTHERS IN THE WEST. By Robert Reynolds. Harper and Brothers, New York and London, 1931. Pp. 299. \$2.50.

Although widely advertised as the winner of the Harper Prize Novel Contest for 1931-1932, it is difficult to see why this literary effusion should attain the honor of being classed with its more worthy predecessors.

Undoubtedly it possesses certain merits of style and diction. As to plot, however, its quality is questionable. A rambling, unrelated series of incidents is loosely tied together by discussions of sex. Fortunately, this is a "first" novel. One may hope for better ones in the future from the author.

The two stalwart, lusty brothers, red-bearded Charles and dark David, typify the western frontiersman of the middle nineteenth century. Gradually their magnetic personalities attract to their service a band of devoted followers. Their wanderings and adventures, amorous and otherwise, form the central theme of the novel.

"They remembered themselves, but not where they were born or who might have been their parents. Even as children they had moved through wild countries with wandering folk, and as younger men than now had set out together, following the stars of chance. They hadn't any special ambitions and no long-lasting desires. They had toiled through desert heat, parched and weary; they had stood on the low dunes of the Gulf of Mexico; they had panned gold in California creeks; they had lived with Navajos in their country; they had followed adventures through the ragged Mexican sierras, and many a long trail had found them afoot; they had grown to be plain big men, used to the wilderness, to day and night, and any sort of weather; they had been hungry and thirsty together; they had been drunk and ribald together; they had enjoyed women and left them; they had kept each other warm lying body to body under a buffalo robe on high plateaus. In all things, they were brothers together."

This quotation indicates the general style and plot sequence of the novel. Here and there, pictures stand vividly out from the medley of rough frontier life and horse-play: the pioneer Smith family and its fate; a Mexican hacienda; an abandoned mission and its padre; a wide expanse of blazing desert; a spacious mountain meadow. Such pictures do much to relieve the sordidness upon which the author loves to dwell.

Perhaps, indeed, the best quality of the book lies in its glowing descriptive passages. Reynolds, clearly, knows his West and his Mexico. As he reproduces them with pitiless realism, one willingly follows the picturesque trail of the brothers through the West, for the sake of seeing another picture just beyond each distant mesa.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

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LIFE IN MEXICO: During a Residence of Two Years in that Country. By Mme. Calderon de la Barca. With an Introduction by Henry Baerlein. New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1931. Pp. xxxviii, 542. \$3.00.

This new edition of an old classic of the nineteenth century is sponsored, according to the publishers, by the Junior League of Mexico City. Although it is reprinted from the original plates, apparently, the work now appears in a much more attractive format, and one more suited to modern readers than was the case with the original, in the old *Everyman's Classics* series.

I first read Madame Calderon de la Barca's collected letters while residing in Mexico, and as a guide-book to social customs and mannerisms of the Mexican people, the work proved as freshly stimulating as it must have been when it was first published in complete form in London in 1843. In the passage of nearly a century, it has lost none of its applicability to Mexican life.

Consisting of fifty-four letters, the collection ranges in the topics discussed and described, from "Mexico in the Morning" to a description of the evil genius of Mexico, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, or as he later had himself styled, "His Supreme Highness." Here and there appears a touch which connects the sojourn of Madame Calderon de la Barca with our own history, such as a brief glimpse of the unfortunate prisoners taken in the Texan Santa Fe expedition of 1841, and a comment on the success of the brilliant actress, Fanny Elssler, who swept audiences off their feet in the United States of the forties. But the book should be read solely for a vivid portrayal of Mexico, the little-changing.

The publishers are to be praised for such a neat, readable reprint of this famous and substantial classic.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

THE GREAT PLAINS. By Walter Prescott Webb, Associate Professor of History, the University of Texas. New York and Chicago, Ginn and Company, 1931. Pp. xvi, 525, maps and illustrations. \$3.80.

For those who desire to read a truly brilliant study and interpretation of the plains and mountain country of the Southwest, no better work could be recommended than Professor Webb's **THE GREAT PLAINS**. Here is the cream of history, of geography, put succinctly into a scholarly and fascinating discussion of the region which has produced the real West. Nearly every page contains shrewd comments upon and analyses of, the factors that have made the West and its society.

So all-inclusive is the work that it would be difficult to say which of its features are most outstanding and noteworthy. Logical-

ly, the subject is introduced by a definition of the Great Plains, as "the High Plains in the center, the Prairie Plains on the east, and the arid mountainous section on the west." Such a broad definition (with which not all students may agree), includes, of course, the Rocky Mountain plateau. The author devotes much space and detail to a discussion of geographic factors and the flora and fauna of the region affecting human life. Equally detailed and revealing is the treatment of the Plains Indians, with an unusually good appreciation of the significance of their becoming horsemen.

Two excellent historical chapters, on the Spanish and American "approaches" to the Great Plains, form neat summaries of the coming of the white man, Latin and Anglo-American, to the area. Why "the Spaniards never did more than nibble around the margins of the Great Plains;" why the myth of "the Great American Desert" arose; why the six-shooter solved the problems of the Texan frontier; and why the South and its economic system were checked by the Great Plains,—all these questions are thoroughly handled in these two chapters.

From a treatment of early Spanish and American pioneers, Professor Webb turns to economic history. His discussion of the Cattle Kingdom and its trails, its expansion and its folkways, is in itself better than nearly any one of a host of entire volumes on the subject. Fully as important is his handling of the vital matters of railroads, fencing (which section contains the best short history of barbed-wire), the problems of water and farming on the Great Plains, and the various homestead laws applying to the region west of the 98th meridian.

The work closes with two chapters on the literature of and about the Great Plains, and the significance of the Plains in American life. Herein are discussed such topics as "Why is the West considered Spectacular and Romantic?;" "Why was the West considered Lawless?;" and "Why is the West politically Radical?" All of these queries, and several others, are most satisfactorily answered.

The chief criticism which occurs to the reviewer is that Professor Webb is unduly influenced by his own Texan environment. Perhaps a fuller treatment of the northern Great Plains and of the Rocky Mountain West would give the volume a wider appeal. He is, however, correct in his assumption that what was true of the Texan plains is in some degree typical of other areas in the Great Plains.

It is safe to predict that some time will elapse before there will appear a better interpretation of the whole range of Southwestern history than is this fine volume. It easily supersedes all previous discussions of the Cattle Kingdom and the homesteader, and as a whole should maintain a permanent place high in the annals of the Southwest.

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ANZA'S CALIFORNIA EXPEDITIONS. Edited by Herbert Eugene Bolton, Professor of American History and Director of the Bancroft Library, University of California. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1930. 5 vols. (I, pp. xxi, 529; II, pp. xii, 473; III, pp. xviii, 436; IV, pp. x, 552; v. pp. xviii, 426.) Illustrations and maps. \$25.00.

Here, in five handsome volumes, are the complete records of one of the greatest epics in the history of the Southwest. This truly profound work, the product of twenty years of patient, scholarly research, provides all students and lovers of Southwestern history with the materials necessary to understand one of its imperishable episodes. Students, librarians and readers who profess an interest in the chronicles of Arizona and California cannot well do without this splendid collection of first-hand accounts of the last great colonial "push" of Spain into North America.

By its general scheme, the work is divided into two main portions, an introductory volume and four volumes of documentary material. Volume I, *An Outpost of Empire*, is a synthetic and vivid account of the two expeditions of Juan Bautista de Anza, 1774-1776, from the Arizona-Sonora frontier to northern California. Part One of this volume, entitled, "The Setting for the Drama," successfully places the founding of San Francisco in its proper relation to the history of the Spanish New World. Part Two, "Opening a Land Route to California," is the narrative of Anza's first or exploring journey from Tubac down to Caborca and thence over the Camino del Diablo to the Colorado and the coast, and on to San Francisco Bay, thus carrying out and extending the explorations of Padre Eusebio Kino in the seventeenth century. Part Three, "The San Francisco Colony," deals with the heroic trek of Anza's 240 colonists from Culiacan to Monterey in 1776, and with the actual founding of San Francisco in that year. Part Four, "Anza and Palma in Mexico," describes the return of Anza and Garcés to the Pimeria and to Mexico. Salvador Palma, who accompanied Anza on his return to Mexico City, was the vigorous and yet mystical Yuma chieftain who figures so picturesquely in the whole story as the friend of the Spaniards.

Volume I, serving as an introduction to the other four volumes of documents, is the editor's own interpretation and summary of the documentary records which compose the bulk of the entire work. It is written in a clear, simple, direct style, and with a rare enthusiasm born of long study in the archives of Mexico and careful personal retracing of the routes of Anza. Beautifully illustrated with photographs, reproductions, and ten detailed maps of the Anza trails, compiled by the editor, it is in itself a worthy addition to any library.

Professor Bolton's metaphor of the dog and its tail helps to place the Anza expeditions in the history of the Spanish Borderlands, and will appeal both to those who are most interested in the role of Spain

in our Southwest, and to those who appreciate the history of Spanish America in its larger sense: "The real Spanish America, the dog, lay between the Rio Grande and Buenos Aires. The part of the animal lying north of the Rio Grande was only the tail." Such a thought-provoking statement helps us to see the Spanish viewpoint toward our Southwest.

Volume II, *Opening a Land Route to California*, contains a group of diaries relating to the first Anza expedition, of 1774. Anza's diary A is his complete diary ("Diario de la Ruta, i Operaciones . . ."), covering the same ground, but not identical with his other two diaries of the expedition (B, Tubac to San Gabriel; and C, return diary), and is taken from the original in the archives of Mexico. It is followed by Anza's diaries B and C. Then come the 1774 diaries of Fray Juan Diaz; Fray Francisco Garcés' diaries of 1774 and his "Brief Account" of the expedition; and Fray Francisco Palou's diary of the expedition to San Francisco Bay. The volume is illustrated by photographs and facsimile reproductions of diary pages.

The third volume, *The San Francisco Colony*, consists of Anza's and Fray Pedro Font's diaries of the second expedition, 1775-1776, and Fray Thomas Eixarch's diary of his winter spent at Yuma and in Sonora, 1775-1776, in preparing the Yuma Indians for the planting of a mission among them. In addition, there are two accounts of the founding of San Francisco in 1776, written by Fray Francisco Palou and Lieutenant Josef Joachin Moraga, both participants in the event. The illustrations are similar to those of Volume II in character. An interesting preface relates Dr. Bolton's personal retracing of the Anza routes, a labor which is also described in the footnotes of Volumes II-IV.

Next to the Anza diaries in point of historical interest, and more entertainingly written, is the complete "Diary of an Expedition to Monterey by way of the Colorado River," by Padre Fray Pedro Font, the incomparable diarist of Southwestern history, which records the entire journey from Horcasitas to San Francisco Bay and return, 1775-1776. Taken from the original manuscript in the library of Brown University, it is now published as Volume IV of this collection. Most fascinating of all the diaries, it is an outstanding item among them. Here are to be found the gossip of the trail, the peoples encountered, the personnel of the expedition, and many a dry, humorous comment. A reading of Font's diary, with its photographs and reproductions, bring back most vividly the days and deeds of those hardy pioneers who were rounding out a frontier of the Spanish Empire in the same years which saw a North American frontier of the British Empire convulsed by revolution. Font's diary is the prize of the entire collection.

The last volume of the work consists of correspondence and lesser documents relating to the expeditions. Herein are found letters

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dating from 1769 to 1777. Many of these letters are from Anza; others were written by Bucareli, viceroy of New Spain and promoter of the California colony as an offset to the advancing threat of Russia; still others by Fray Junipero Serra and other officials and friars concerned with the founding of the California missions. There are numerous facsimile reproductions of the letters. As side-lights on the motives and methods of these empire-builders, the specimens of their correspondence form an admirable supplement to the diaries of the preceding three volumes. And the intelligence and culture which they reflect, quite shake our Anglo-Saxon self-esteem.

Regarded as a whole, one can but praise this excellent group of historical records. Only four of the total of 123 documents have been published before, and these in scattered periodicals. Here is a complete and authentic collection of all of them. The format is simple and attractive, the printing clear, and it is evident that expense was not spared in the effort to make this production a fine specimen of the book-maker's art. Minor errors in printing are so few as to be too trivial to mention. Each volume is fully indexed, and has complete explanatory footnotes, while the editorial preface of each forms an illuminative introduction to the contents.

It should be noted that this work is not the result of mere office speculations by a pedant. It is, on the contrary, the product of diligent out-of-door expeditions, retracing every mile of Anza's journeys through our deserts and mountains. As a demonstration of the unity of Southwestern history, and particularly of the close connection of the annals of Spain, Spanish America, Arizona and California, it should prove to be a contribution of permanent and most enduring value.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.