

BOOK REVIEWS

LIBERALISM IN MEXICO, 1857-1929. By Wilfrid Hardy Callcott. Stanford University, California, Stanford University Press, 1931. Illustrated. Pp. xiii, 410. \$6.00.

The author of LIBERALISM IN MEXICO established a reputation for authority on the subject of Mexico some years ago, with his CHURCH AND STATE IN MEXICO, 1822-1857. The present work continues, in a sense, the story of the struggle between liberals and conservatives in our neighboring republic.

As may be readily appreciated, this work is mainly a political history of Mexico in the past seventy years. It must be conceded that Professor Callcott has handled a great mass of statistical material in a competent fashion. His style, however, is rather dry, and his treatment factual. Perhaps such an approach is necessary for such a topic, but Mexico's political history, considered in the light of its social background, is no less colorful than the life of her people, and could be made much more interesting than the author has made it, without the sacrifice of authority. He has, however, thrown considerable light upon several of Mexico's outstanding political leaders, such as Plutarco Elias Calles, and to that extent his book will be found stimulating.

The work closes somewhat abruptly, with little interpretation of its statistical compilations. A fairly complete and useful bibliography is a noteworthy feature, which will recommend the book to students of Mexican history.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

OUTPOST OF EMPIRE. *The Story of the Founding of San Francisco*. By Herbert Eugene Bolton. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1931. Illustrations and maps. Pp. xxii, 334, xvii. \$5.00.

This fine specimen of the book-master's craft is a reprint of the first volume of ANZA'S CALIFORNIA EXPEDITIONS. As the introductory volume of that splendid series (reviewed in the *Arizona Historical Review* for January, 1932), OUTPOST OF EMPIRE proved to be an able summary of conclusions drawn from the documents published in the following four volumes. It has, therefore, been re-issued separately by the editor as his own interpretation of the Anza and Font documents.

Beyond noting changes in the format of the work as now published, little need be said concerning this new edition. A few trivial errors in the first edition have been corrected. It must be admitted that the slightly ornate format is no great improvement over that of the first edition.

For the reader of history who cannot afford to invest in a set of ANZA'S CALIFORNIA EXPEDITIONS, this introductory volume

provides a useful and readable substitute. The illustrations and maps alone are well worth the price.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

LOWER CALIFORNIA: A CRUISE. *The Flight of the Least Petrel*. By Griffing Bancroft. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1932. Illustrated. Pp. xi, 403. \$4.50.

An ornithological journey around the coasts of a little-known peninsula, is perhaps the obvious characterization of this interesting volume. But it contains a wealth of information outside the fields of ornithology and archaeology. It would be difficult to recommend a more graphic, intimately told narrative of travels through one of the continent's most obscure regions.

Herein is to be found a wide range of description, geographical, historical, scientific and sociological. One is carried from the border town of Tijuana through the San Diego water front and southward along the great peninsula of Baja California, in a fifty-foot motor boat. Ensenada, Sierra de San Pedro Martir, Vizcaino Bay and Desert, and historic Magdalena Bay, are some of the points touched upon or described by the voyagers in the *Least Petrel*, along the west coast of the peninsula, with many a useful and interesting sidelight upon the folkways of the coast dwellers. The Cape region is discussed in full detail, as are the pearl fisheries and the wild, mysterious islands of the Gulf of California. A particularly charming discussion of Mexican pueblo life is given in the four chapters devoted to San Ignacio, and the work closes with comments on the region of the Colorado Delta.

To the casual reader who seeks chiefly entertainment, it may seem that the book is too cluttered with ornithological data. But the reviewer found this fault much more easily forgiven than the space devoted to unnecessarily bitter railings against certain of the writer's less enthusiastic and hardy companions. Aside from these points, there is little to criticise adversely in this work, if one accepts it simply as a book of travel. Where the writer attempts historical narration, he is occasionally badly beyond his depth and mistaken in his statements. The excellent map and illustrations form a particularly good feature of the book.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN MEXICAN RELATIONS. By James Morton Callahan. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1932. Pp. xi, 644. \$4.00.

Residents of the Southwest are naturally interested in the relations between the United States and Mexico. They should find a most useful treatment of our past relationships with our neighboring republic in this comprehensive work by Professor Callahan.

The volume presents an effort to cover the entire period of our

contacts with Mexico, down to the year 1931. Naturally, some of the topics discussed in the closing chapter, "The Latest Decade of Adjustment," are of such a nature that no final decision can yet be made upon them. But the recent proposal by an Arizona senator, for the purchase of a portion of northwestern Mexico, is judged in the same light, by the author, as that in which the Mexicans themselves viewed it.

Possibly some general estimates of our relations with Mexico would have added considerably to the value of the work. One cannot help feeling that a scholar who has made such a thorough study of his subject as has Professor Callahan, should draw some broad conclusions from his researches. But the work is strictly a narrative, with little interpretation or expression of opinion on the part of the author. It must therefore be judged as it is—a straightforward, unemotional compilation of facts. This is not to disparage the work, however, since it is undoubtedly valuable simply for its new material and its array of evidence.

The book is excellently documented, with full references, and has obviously been prepared with much more care than most previous works on the subject. It is a great improvement over the work of J. F. Rippy, both in make-up and usefulness, and is more up to date and authoritative than the works of Rives and others. If Professor Callahan has been unable to cover certain special periods of our past relations with Mexico as well as did some of his predecessors in this field, he has at least produced an unusually convenient and practical reference work on the subject as a whole. A few more maps showing details of some of our boundary disputes with Mexico might have added to the clarity of the work.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

PILGRIMS OF THE SANTA FE. By Agnes C. Laut. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1931. Pp. xi, 363. \$3.50.

Obviously intended to induce a quick and ready sale, this volume is attractively bound and illustrated. But one wonders why the literary content should not have been of a quality commensurate with the appearance of the work.

Unfortunately, it must be admitted that Agnes C. Laut's work in *PILGRIMS OF THE SANTA FE* is distinctly inferior to her previous productions concerning the West. Possibly this deterioration is owing to the fact that she has entered a field of historical writing quite different from that in which she won distinction, or it may be that the work under consideration is indicative of only a temporary lapse of literary skill.

Part One, "The Spanish Conquerors," abounds in ridiculous and unnecessary errors, such as the implication that Cabeza de Vaca was the first white leader to view the mouth of the Mississippi, or that Coronado's expedition ranged far west of the Colorado into California. This section, too, is characterized by a puerile, rambling and sentimental

treatment of Southwestern history. Part Two, "The French Open a Caravan Route to Santa Fe," is half devoted to a romanticizing of the career of Juchereau de St. Denis, and half to a prosy discussion of the life of the Pueblo Indians, much inferior to C. F. Lummis' or Leo Crane's account of them. The author has seen fit to drag the Mormon emigrants of Utah into her discussion, apparently to fill up space, and she devotes a needless number of pages to laudatory accounts of "the heroic duties of the little patrols" maintained by the American army in the Southwest.

Those who prefer to read pseudo-history with a pervading saccharine content will perhaps be pleased with such a wholly unimportant collection of journalistic babblings. To rational people it is a matter for regret that the author of CADILLAC and THE OVERLAND TRAIL should have strayed so pathetically from her usual standard of work.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.

THE FRENCH IN SONORA (1850-54). The Story of French Adventurers from California into Mexico. By Rufus Kay Wyllys. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1932. Pp. xii, 319. \$3.50.

The soundness of scholarship in this work is vouched for by the name of the press and the fact that Dr. Herbert E. Bolton is chief editor of the series of publications to which it belongs. This work deals with the entrance into Sonora, Mexico in the early fifties—with and without the encouragement of the Mexican government—of Frenchmen from California for the purpose of planting colonies and exploiting mines. It relates, also, the adventures and disasters of certain ambitious adventurers who desired to bring about a revolution in Sonora in order that they might set up a government of their own—notable among them being the Count Gaston de Raousset-Boulbon, who finally faced a firing squad on the shore at Guaymas. The author summarizes the main points as follows: "First, Mexico's need of adequate frontier population and defense; second, the availability of Latin Europeans in California for the military colonial scheme; third, the economic motives which drew most of the California French to Sonora; fourth, the perversion of a harmless French penetration of Sonora into a rebellion led by a daring French adventurer; fifth, the persistent efforts of this same adventurer (Count de Raousset-Boulbon) to push his plans still farther by taking advantage of a change of government in Mexico and of the mistakes of the new régime; and, sixth, the series of fortuitous circumstances which made it possible for him to have a last desperate fling at the game of empire—and his failure."

The French in Sonora has all the earmarks and apparatus of research scholarship, together with many illuminating illustrations. The author is familiar with the geography of Mexico, as he has spent much time there collecting his material from original sources, making but one

slight error when, in a footnote on page 60, he states that Cocospera Valley lies along the San Miguel River, whereas it is actually along the river of the same name. San Miguel River takes its rise to the eastward beyond an intervening range of mountains. To Arizonians it is an added interest that the facts set forth and the incidents related have to do with the immediate region in which they live, and that much of the action takes place in towns and localities first civilized by Father Kino. At the time, the Gila River was still the northern boundary of Arizona.

Not a quarter of the important historical material on this region has been brought to light and presented in accurate and interesting form as handled in this work. Dr. Wyllys, who is head of the social science department and professor of history at the Arizona State Teachers College, Tempe, is a welcome addition to the thin ranks of Arizona historians.

FRANK C. LOCKWOOD.

DAYS IN THE PAINTED DESERT AND THE SAN FRANCISCO MOUNTAINS, a guide by Harold S. Colton and Frank C. Baxter. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, 1932. Pp. ix, 113, ill., index. \$2.00.

Here for the first time becomes available a practical lay traveler's guide to a region little-known, inaccessible and fascinating to tourist and native alike. Emanating from a scientific institution, the book is authentically and carefully organized. The first part of the guide is devoted to brief chapters on geography, climate, flora, fauna, geological and archeological history, etc. Among these is an excellent discussion of the history and culture of the principal Indian nations of the Painted Desert, the Hopi and the Navajo. Finally, the authors catalogue twenty-seven trips by which the country may be best enjoyed. Notes of the trips include mileage, accommodations, historical locations, and cross references to other trips. The array of information is capped with four appendices: *Hints for Amateur Archeologists*, *Maps*, a list of scientific names of animals named in the book, and *Bibliography*. A valuable chapter is that of useful information in regard to the trips. The Painted Desert is a country of fine drifting sands, and sand driving can be both trying and costly to the driver inexperienced on such a footing. The authors might have added to their list of expedients when stuck in the sand that of laying blankets or gunnysacks under and before the rear wheels. The new type of very large pneumatic tire, sometimes called "air wheels" is a boon in Painted Desert transportation.

SIDNEY KARTUS.

FORT HALL ON THE OREGON TRAIL, by Jenny Broughton Brown. The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1932. 467 Pp, 117 Illustrations. \$2.50.

Fort Hall was a fur-trading station built by Nathaniel J. Wyeth in 1834, about fifteen miles north and a little west of where Pocatello,

Idaho, now stands. It served as a place of defense against the treacherous Blackfoot Indians and a harbor and center of information for the early emigrants. It played an important part in the long contest between the United States and Great Britain for the commercial control of the Northwest, and was a rendezvous for mountain men, explorers, hunters and trappers.

Focusing attention upon Fort Hall as a point of arrival and departure and a palpitating historic nerve-center, the author marshals the whole kaleidoscopic procession of explorers, soldiers, trappers, fur-traders, missionaries and emigrants who led the way into the Pacific Northwest during the first half of the last century. Perhaps no more vivid and colorful array has been known to modern history, and no aspect of this interesting and turbulent life is omitted by the author.

In the course of the narrative nearly every great early Rocky Mountain and northwestern figure moves across the scene. There are brief studies of Captains Lewis and Clark, Dr. John McLaughlin of the Hudson Bay Company, Alexander Ross, Peter S. Ogden, Captain B. L. E. Bonneville, Jedediah Smith, the trapper *par excellence*, Jason Lee and Dr. Marcus Whitman, the heroic and beloved missionairis, Ezra Meeker, Joseph Meek, Father De Smet, Fremont, and Nathaniel J. Wyeth himself, Oregon pioneer of 1832 and builder of Fort Hall.

The one hundred and seventeen pictures illustrate the scene: Indians, trappers, hunters, wild animals, magnificent mountain landscapes, moving accident by field and flood. These graphic features of the book, together with numerous lively and colorful extracts from letters of that period, pioneer diaries, and personal narratives of men and women who lived the life that they describe, give peculiar animation and picturesqueness to the work.

Mrs. Brown combines literary clarity and vivacity with patient and wide-ranging research. The book is well organized and there is a good index. Because of its color, the book should have particular value as supplemental reading for scholols.

FRANK C. LOCKWOOD.

PIONEER DAYS IN ARIZONA. *From the Spanish Occupation to Statehood.* By Frank C. Lockwood. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1932. Pp. xiv, 387. \$4.00.

A summary of the studies and reflections of an able thinker and writer is presented in this interesting collection of essays on various subjects relating to Arizona. Dean Lockwood has attempted a composite picture of not only the traditions but as well the institutions of the Copper State. He brings to his task a literary touch and a journalistic skill which render his book far superior to such previous efforts as Robinson's *Under Turquoise Skies* or *The Story of Arizona*. In spite of displaying a somewhat flowery style, *Pioneer Days in Arizona*

is much more readable and useful for the casual visitor to Arizona or the general reader than any other popular work of the type thus far produced. Well-chosen illustrations add to the interest of the book.

The essays are arranged in a roughly chronological manner. An introductory discussion, "Catching Archaeology Alive," endeavors to make use of some of the more recent archaeological researches in Arizona. The two chapters following deal with "The Spanish Cavaliers" and "The Mission Fathers in Arizona." In connection with the story of Fray Marcos de Niza and Esteban, the author has evidently not consulted the latest piece of research on the subject, by which it appears quite possible that neither Fray Marcos nor Esteban ever saw Arizona. He fares better in tracing Coronado's route and in the chapter on the missionaries, although the latter contains one or two slight errors.

The chapters on "American Hunters and Trappers in Arizona," "Army Operations in Arizona," and "American Pioneer Settlers," are good estimates of these phases of the state's tradition, albeit they contain some material that is not at all new or fresh. "The Beginnings of Civil Government," "The Story of Apache Warfare in Arizona," and the "Story of the Mines of Arizona" are, in the reviewer's opinion, the best in the book.

Most of the remaining seven chapters are devoted to recent or present-day Arizona. In general they are correct and carefully written, and four of them seem especially designed to appeal to the tourist or the newer resident of the state. Some of them are apparently revisions of the author's previous writings.

One who desires a broad, popular account of Arizona's past and present cannot do better than to delve into Dean Lockwood's book. Its genial, conversational approach fully balances the occasional misprints, and the mistakes of fact are for the most part of no great importance. The volume is cordially recommended to readers of *Arizoniana*.

RUFUS KAY WYLLYS.