

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*The State of Missouri, an Autobiography, edited by Walter Williams for the Missouri Commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Press of E. W. Stephens, Columbia, Mo., pp. 592.*

Missouri—"pronounced Miz-zoo-ry"—is here presented as fifth of the United States in population and wealth, as first in potential resources, and geographically as the central commonwealth of the Union. The story is told in a fine blazonry of facts, figures, maps, pictures, and portraits. Seventy pages are given to the history, government, climate, geology and physiography of the state; 75, to agriculture, live stock, horticulture, dairy and poultry; 50, to manufactures, mining and transportation; 24, to education, church, art and press; 20, to fauna, plant-life and fisheries; 74, to a description of the cities of the state; 228, to the 114 counties, two pages to each of them; and 45 pages to additional statistics of the state, and its exhibit at the Exposition.

For the first thirty-three years of its existence the state was crippled in its growth by slavery. Illinois grew more rapidly. When a strip of Iowa was thrown open to settlement, there was a larger migration thither than to Missouri. Although there was no large increase in the number of slaves brought into the state, its whole social and political life was dominated by the "peculiar institution." Southern statesmen now acknowledge that the question of slavery in Missouri shaped the course of American history for forty-five years. Thus the Hon. William B. Bate, of Tennessee, said in the Senate of the United States, January 20, 1905, that in the case of Missouri, "that fire bell was struck in the night which continued its funeral peals from 1820 to 1865." The repeal of the Compromise of 1820, under which Missouri had come into the Union, was nowhere supported with more spirit, or welcomed with so much eclat as in Missouri. The instructor in History, in the State University, says in this volume, pp. 24-25, "The South in general believed that it was the intention of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, unexpressed it is true, that Kansas should be slave, and Nebraska free. Thus the Missourians would resent any interference with slavery in Kansas as prejudicial to their welfare and as a violation of natural justice." It was in this faith and with these convictions that citizens of Missouri went into Kansas to establish slavery, and that by their votes they put it into the "Lecompton Constitution."

While it may be unbecoming to raise those things out of their graves, at the same time it should not be forgotten that a most notable and forever memorable opposition to the extension of slavery, and to the repeal of the Compromise of 1820, came also from Missouri, though it proved the political downfall of the greatest public man in the history of that State. Because of that opposition, the name of Thomas Hart Benton was cast out as evil by the people of Missouri, who had almost idolized him for thirty years. Time, however, sometimes redresses great wrongs, and truth, crushed to earth, rises again. Another spirit has come to another genera-

tion of the people of Missouri. Invited by Congress, in common with the other states, to place in the capitol at Washington statues of two of its citizens, "illustrious for historic renown and distinguished services," the legislature of Missouri, without a dissenting voice, made choice of Thomas Hart Benton and Francis Preston Blair (a man of kindred sentiments, of similar fates, and of the same high moral tone), for that honor. Their statues were presented to Congress, February 4, 1899, when Senators Vest and Cockrell, and representatives of Missouri, who had themselves been political antagonists of Benton and Blair, joined in tributes to their high character and great services. This volume says that "Missouri has developed farther and faster in the last quarter of a century than in all her previous history. Her wealth has increased enormously." Iowa, the first free state west of the Mississippi, rejoices in the alignment of Missouri by her side under the auspices of freedom, and in the magnificent prospect of growth and renown now before "the central commonwealth of the Union."

W. S.

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*Life, Letters and Travels among the North American Indians, of Father Pierre-Jean De Smet, 1801-1873. By Hiram Martin Chittenden, Major, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., and Alfred Talbot Richardson. Four Volumes, pp. 1624, New York: Francis P. Harper, 1905.*

During the past dozen years the publication of several books of travel and exploration in the middle and far west has thrown a flood of light upon the history of that great expanse of territory. The surpassing value of the labors of Coues, Thwaites, Mrs. Dye, Chittenden and Richardson, in placing these records of the past before the world is quite beyond estimate. Dr. Elliott Coues edited several volumes which were brought out, though in limited editions, by the enterprising publisher of the work before us. We believe that a place next in importance to the History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition will be assigned to the Life and Letters of Father De Smet. He possessed peculiar qualifications for the work which he undertook. To the thorough education which is known to be absolutely essential for priests of the Society of Jesus to acquire, he united the zeal of the devoted, self-sacrificing missionary. Then he was endowed with a stalwart frame, great physical strength, and health which carried him through marvelous perils by "flood and field" and beyond the allotted three score and ten. He devoted his life to the conversion, education and the betterment of the condition of the Indians in the region west and north of St. Louis, and stretching to the Pacific ocean. The field was a large one and the laborers were but few. This made the work of Father De Smet seem simply herculean. He became one of the most widely known men in the west. His present biographers say of him:

Father De Smet's travels were not confined to the western country. He visited many parts of the United States east of the Mississippi, crossed the Atlantic nineteen times and made one voyage around Cape Horn and two by way of Panama in the interest of his work. He was well known, both in Europe and America, and on one occasion was made the bearer of

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