

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

dispatches from this government to several European courts. He took an active interest in public affairs and watched them with an eagerness which one would hardly expect from his exclusive order of life.

It was his habit to make frequent reports by letter to his superiors beyond the sea. Many of these were compiled in volumes, some of which were translated into English, as they had been written in French. But these have been out of print for several years, leaving the field an open one for the present work. None of his published works would seem to have approached the present volumes in completeness and accuracy. Unimportant matters have been omitted, while hitherto unpublished letters have been carefully translated and added. A large map accompanies the present work showing the location of the various Indian tribes, the military posts, the missions established by Father De Smet, and the routes he traveled during the long years that he labored in the Rocky mountains. As a whole, the work is a most important one to the Society of Jesus, as presenting a history of the missions established by this able and most untiring and zealous missionary. He was so just in his dealings with all men, his influence over the Indians so great, that our government on many occasions sought his aid in making peace with the hostile tribes. He frequently received the most complimentary acknowledgment of his valuable services, from men whose names are now illustrious. Forty years ago, no man, whatever his calling, was better known throughout the valley of the Missouri. These volumes are among the most important ever published in the light they throw upon the manners, customs and modes of life of the Indians. They possess an ethnological value which it would be difficult to estimate. Living among them for so many years, he became intimately acquainted with their mental traits and characteristics. He deemed the Indians "a good people" if they were treated with Christian kindness. His influence over them was unbounded. They knew him as one who never deceived them. He could go with safety among hostile tribes where any other white man would have been instantly slaughtered or inhumanly tortured to death.

One fact gives the work an especial value in any Iowa library, and that is its narration of happenings within our State. He had established an early mission at Council Bluffs, and had crossed the State from east to west. Traveling by steamboat on the Missouri river, he visited many localities within the State of Iowa. Sioux City was one of the places in which he was well known and which he mentions many times. On one of his western journeys he went from St. Louis to Chicago (April, 1861), whence he traveled by the Northwestern railroad to Denison, Iowa. A great flood prevailed from the melting of the snows and he was detained three days at Boonesboro, the capital of Boone county. Reaching "the little village of Denison" with its "one little tavern," he was detained three days more, when five other travelers joined him in hiring a wagon to convey them across the country to Sioux City, about 100 miles distant. From this point he journeyed northwest by steamboat. He makes many

interesting observations on the soil and general appearance of the wide Iowa prairies, saying among other things that "deer and elk range here in good numbers." He seemed to have an intuitive knowledge of the natural history of every region through which he traveled. The information contained in these large volumes has been most conscientiously edited and errors in former publications carefully corrected. To the student of Indian history and life they would seem to be indispensable. They should have a place in every public library. In addition to the map above mentioned the work contains several portraits of Father De Smet from about his 25th year until he was "aged and gray." A large bronze statue was set up at his birth-place, Termonde, Belgium, of which there is a fine illustration.

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*Proceedings of the Academy of Science and Letters, of Sioux City, Iowa, for 1903-4. Volume I. Published by the Academy. Perkins Brothers Co., Printers, Sioux City, Iowa, 1904.*

A Scientific Association existed for many years in Sioux City, but in 1903 it was determined to enlarge its scope and publish a volume of proceedings and original papers. The results of this action appear in a reorganization under the name of "The Academy of Science and Letters of Sioux City, Iowa," and the handsome volume which recently came from the Perkins' Press. This is an octavo of 191 pages which is clearly and beautifully printed, with many appropriate illustrations. Among the latter are excellent portraits of John H. Charles and Judge George W. Wakefield, both of whom recently passed away deeply lamented. No two other men had done more for the cause of science and letters in that portion of the State. The volume contains the constitution and by-laws of the Academy, lists of officers from the beginning of this work, details of the organization, biographical sketches of deceased members, with many scientific and historical papers. Among the papers, that of Hon. C. R. Marks, on the "Monona County, Iowa, Mormons," is especially interesting and valuable. The book is one which will often be referred to in the libraries fortunate enough to possess a copy.

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*Cleiocrinus, by Frank Springer, No. 2, Vol. XXV. Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, January, 1905, pp. 91-114, with one plate.*

A history and description of the peculiar structure and stratigraphic position of certain unique fossils that have been found in the earliest beds of crinoids. The genus was established by a Canadian scientist in 1856, but has been a puzzle to crinologists. Mr. Springer has taken up the problem with his wonderful acumen and with his habits of close and thorough research, and elucidated the relation of this genus to the other forms of the same life that sported in the long ages of the palaeozoic world. This monograph shows the fine patience of his genius, and his

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