

SOME PUBLICATIONS

John Brown, 1800-1859, A Biography Fifty Years After. By OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD, A. M., Litt. D. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1910. Pp. xiv, 738. Portraits, plates. This volume constitutes the most complete and satisfactory biography of John Brown which has thus far appeared. The author devoted many years to the gathering of material, and he has presented the subject in a clear and readable as well as scholarly manner. The writer's attitude is one of impartiality. That is, he avoids undue eulogy on the one hand and unmerited censure on the other. The work is well proportioned and contains much new material, and special commendation is deserved by the copious notes and references and by the extensive index. Iowans will be particularly interested in the pages containing an account of the experiences of Brown and his men at Springdale and Tabor, Iowa.

The Iowa. Edited by WILLIAM HARVEY MINER. Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press. 1911. Pp. xiii, 100. Portrait, plate, map. This is the second volume in the series known as *Little Histories of North American Indians*, issued by The Torch Press. After the editor's preface the first forty-five pages are taken up with a reprint of a monograph on the Iowa Indians, by Thomas Foster, which was originally printed in a short-lived publication known as the *Indian Record and Historical Data*. Then follow four appendices devoted respectively to a roster of the Iowa camping circle, the treaties between the Iowa and the United States government from 1815 to 1861, and Iowa synonymy, and a list of the names of some of the more prominent members of the Iowa tribe, excluding half-breeds. A thorough index completes the volume and makes it convenient for reference use. Altogether the book is a valuable addition to the printed material relating to the Indians of Iowa and the Mississippi Valley.

California Under Spain and Mexico, 1535-1847. By IRVING BERDINE RICHMAN. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. xvi, 541. Maps, charts, plans. "The present book, fruit of two years' investigation in California and of much research elsewhere, is designed both for the general reader and for the special student. Its object, first, is to provide, from the original sources, a readable yet concise narrative of the history of California under Spain and Mexico (1535-1847), and second, to equip the narrative with a sufficient apparatus of citation and criticism." The purpose thus stated by Mr. Richman has been amply carried out, for in a sense the volume does for the Spanish period in California what Parkman's works did for the history of the French régime in North America. The author has made a thorough study of the subject and the notes and references, which occupy nearly one hundred and fifty pages, open up a wealth of material that will be a great assistance to other investigators. Furthermore, Mr. Richman has produced a volume which makes fascinating reading as well as being thoroughly scientific and scholarly.

Autobiography of Charles Clinton Nourse. Cedar Rapids: Privately printed. 1911. Pp. 235. Portraits, plates. This volume, the publication of which was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Lowell Chamberlain of Des Moines, was issued in a limited edition for the use of the members of the Nourse family. The book contains, as is indicated on the title page, a record of the incidents of more than fifty years practice at the Iowa bar. The book is divided into twenty chapters dealing with such subjects as ancestry and early life, early experiences in Iowa, important law suits, visits to Virginia and Colorado, temperance and prohibition, regulation of railroad rates, Des Moines River land titles, the A. O. U. W. Controversy, the Brown impeachment case, the breeding of short horn cattle, and the B. F. Allen bankruptcy. While Judge Nourse seldom held official position in the State of Iowa he was for many years a prominent figure not only in the legal fraternity, but in political circles as well. Consequently his autobiography is rich with material of interest and value to the student of Iowa history. The volume has been printed and bound in a very attractive manner.