Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon

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the events leading to it, the burgeoning of a centralized federal government, the end of states’ rights and a threat to their individual freedoms. They fought Lincoln and his prosecution of the war at every turn.

Even though Vallandigham never resorted to violent obstruction of the war effort, he was subjected to threats himself and his supporters’ newspapers in Ohio were mobbed and burned. His speeches and writings were aimed only at a peaceful compromise and, although he could be criticized for myopia and wishful thinking, he was denounced as a traitor and “worse than Judas.” Rumors generated by his political enemies labeled him as the leader of a secret and violent anti-war organization. No evidence has since been found to support the charges.

As Klement suggests, Vallandigham never learned the power of nationalism. In its name, his became all but lost in the debris of history.

Because it is a study of rampant nationalism, of smear tactics, of causes which overpower and compromise individual integrity and destroy individual liberties, Klement’s book tells a timely story and one which lends proportion and perspective to contemporary events.

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Herbert J. Gilkey


**CLIFFORD M. DRURY** EARLY RECOGNIZED that there was much in the history and background of the great Pacific Northwest
to be uncovered and rationalized. Starting with the seemingly simple facts available by way of accumulated letters and personal diaries and memoranda, and by sustained digging, Drury has preserved for the record a great deal of information that might otherwise have been lost. Much of this data is recorded in such already-published Drury books as: *Henry Harmon Spalding, Marcus Whitman, Elkanah and Mary Walker, and A Teepe in his Front Yard*.

In his current two volumes, *Marcus and Narcissa Whitman...*, much additional material is included and the author enters into background factors more searchingly than heretofore. Avoiding repetition, Drury's Whitman book's supplement and augment his previous studies. Drury has consistently envisioned his role as that of an objective recorder; his mission being to present facts as facts.

He points out that there have been several complicating factors of the Oregon record. They can be outlined as follows:

1) Language inabilities and communication difficulties between the several tribes of Indians present within the area.

2) The mobility of the Indian mode of living as distinguished from the stable agriculturally oriented farm type existence of the whites.


4) Rivalry between protestant and catholic missionary endeavors.

5) The dual white leadership of U. S. missionary and British fur-trading interests. Perhaps the most complicating factor of all was the conflict between the role of Dr. Whitman as a missionary and Dr. Whitman as a leader in U. S. Colonizing activities. He was both a devoted missionary and a colonizer, an encourager of U. S. western migration.

Dr. Whitman's role in the "Whitman Saved Oregon" controversy remains debatable. Drury's current two volumes contribute much to the pros and cons of that question.

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