Books Reviewed

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BOOKS REVIEWED.

THE RED MEN OF IOWA, BY A. R. FULTON.

The foregoing title indicates but the general scope of this new work. A glance at the table of contents will afford a better indication of its completeness in all that relates to the various Indian tribes who were but recently the sole owners of a domain now constituting one of the richest and most prosperous States in the Union. By way of introduction to the main purpose of his work, the author first gives a general account of the Indians and their hostilities against the whites in the West, including incidents in the early settlement of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and the wars with the Miami and Wabash tribes, in which the great chief Tecumseh was a leading spirit and prominent actor. Then follows a chapter treating of the tribes on the Mississippi, and the relations of the whites with them as the march of the empire gradually approached the borders of the now great State of Iowa. Most of the tribes treated of in these initiatory chapters subsequently became conspicuous in Iowa aboriginal history, and hence it was but fitting that the author should follow them in their defensive struggle against the dominant race destined to supersede them. After a chapter relating to Prehistoric Man in Iowa, as indicated by the remains of ancient earthworks and relics, we have incidents of the earliest definite knowledge of, and intercourse of white men with, the Indians on Iowa soil. The author then proceeds to treat more minutely of the following tribes in their order; to-wit, the Iowas, Sacs and Foxes, Winnebagoes, Pottawatamies, and Sioux, all of whom occupied Iowa soil within its historic era, giving a concise sketch of each tribe, with its migrations, wars, manners and customs, traditions, and religious ceremonies. A full account is given of the Black Hawk War, which resulted in the relinquishment to the government of the United States of the first territory for occupancy by the whites. This is followed with biographical sketches of Black Hawk, Keokuk and other chiefs prominent in our aboriginal history.

Several chapters of the work are devoted to our later Indian history, the border troubles with the Sioux, including a full account of the Spirit Lake Massacre, and the causes which led to that terrible tragedy. One chapter is devoted to interesting personal sketches of white men who were in various ways identified with our Indian history, including agents, interpreters, traders, and others. Not the least interesting portion of the work is a chapter in which are related numerous incidents and reminiscences, some thrilling and some humorous, but all illustrating traits of Indian character. A synopsis is given of the various treaties negotiated with the Iowa Tribes, for their government or for the acquisition of territory. A highly interesting portion of the work is that devoted to our Iowa aboriginal nomenclature. The author has not omitted to give
an account of the remnant of the Fox tribe, usually designated by their ancient name of Musquakies, now residing in the State.

The volume concludes with an Appendix relating to what is known in history as the Pontiac War, or Pontiac's Conspiracy, followed with a sketch of Sitting Bull, some official papers and other interesting matter relating to the general subject. There is also a very full and carefully prepared Index.

The work is beautifully illustrated with portraits of prominent Iowa chiefs and others, all obtained from authentic sources. These are not mere fancy or imaginary pictures, but are engraved from genuine portraits taken from life by eminent artists many years ago, when those chiefs had occasion to visit Washington on official or tribal business. These likenesses of prominent Iowa chiefs are in the main only to be found in one or two very rare publications, now out of print, and the author has been exceedingly fortunate in being able to reproduce them in his work.

The publishers take great pleasure in introducing this book to the favor of the public, and especially to the people of Iowa, for it is an exceedingly interesting and valuable contribution to the history of the State. The author has certainly expended much painstaking research and labor in collecting and arranging the details of his history, and we are quite sure he has succeeded admirably in constructing, from a widely scattered and almost chaotic supply of material, a work that cannot fail to interest and instruct. It must prove a book of permanent value, and be the means of rescuing and preserving a knowledge of many interesting facts and incidents which were in imminent danger of being lost to history. Recognizing these valuable characteristics of the work, the publishers have spared neither labor nor expense to present it to the public in an attractive style, so far as relates to material, typographical execution, embellishment, and binding.

THE HISTORY OF LOUISIANA.

From the earliest period, by Francois-Xavier Martin; with a memoir of the Author, by Judge W. W. Howe; to which is appended Annals of Louisiana, from the close of Martin's History, 1815, to the commencement of the Civil War, 1861, by John F. Condon. We quote the following extracts from Judge Howe's memoir of Judge Martin:

"He proposed to himself to be a printer; and thereafter to be whatever a printer might become. He boldly applied for employment as a practical printer. 'Can you set type?' was of course the first question addressed to the applicant, who had never set a type in his life. 'Without doubt, I can,' replied Martin, believing, we must presume, that a man of sense and determination need not be daunted by mere mechanical difficulties, but ought to be guided by the rule that, 'what man has done, man may do.' He was immediately employed, and such was his ingenuity and keenness of observation, that the foreman of the establishment, though he may have scolded him now and then, for an error,
never discovered but that his journeyman had previously learned the trade.

"In 1802, he published a translation of Pothier on Obligations, a book for which he had a profound respect; and at this time so complete was his skill as translator and type setter, that in executing the work he used no manuscript, but rendered the French directly into English type in the composing stick.

"Judge Martin reported the case of Detournion vs. Dormenon.

"Under the old system the Parish Judge also acted as auctioneer, in selling the property of successions. It fell out once, in a well known sugar parish, that while the judge was knocking down some goods and chattels of a deceased person, a neighbor in the crowd behaved with some levity. The magisterial heart was fired.

"'See here, Sam Cooley, if you don't behave yourself, I will commit you for contempt of court.'

"'But, Judge, you are not in court now. There is no such offense as contempt of auction or an auctioneer.'

"'What, sir—what, sir? Why, I'll have you know, sir, that I'm an object of contempt at all times and in all places!'

"The territorial court having come to an end, Judge Martin continued his work as reporter, by publishing the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State, which make eighteen volumes, from the third of Martin, old series, to the eighth of Martin, new series, inclusive, the last of these volumes being issued in the year 1830.

"In 1817, his fame had so far reached his native place, that he was elected a member of the Academy of Marseilles.

"In 1841, he was made Doctor of Laws, by Harvard College."

Our limited space prevents further extracts from the memoir.

MISSIONARY REVIEW.

Rev. Royal G. Wilder, a returned missionary from Kolapoor, India, has conducted this work for several years. It contains statistics of all protestant missions at home and abroad. In a late number he has given the result of his skill and experience in transmitting funds to the foreign missions. His plan has been adopted by some societies and is commended to all.

We hope to give in future numbers translations from the Star in the East, our exchange in modern Greek from Athens, Greece. We value it as coming from that city, "both eye and soul of all Greece." It contains nice engravings and ought to be in every Christian family in America.

LAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY REVIEW.

We are very happy to enter on our list of exchanges this review. It is a superior magazine, quite above the ordinary college publications, which are too often filled with mere boys' and girls' talks or scribblings. This Review, on the contrary, has an article on professional education
by Dr. Craig, of the Chicago Theological Seminary, and another by Dr. Gregory on the Assembly’s Committee on Education. Also an extract from Dr. Lyman Beecher’s plea for collegiate education, and the history of the “Log College” (Princeton). It is devoutly to be wished that all our colleges and universities would rise to such a height of matter and style in their publications.

THE GREAT ROCK-ISLAND ROUTE.

[Railroad poetry is now the order of the day. Old Homer and Milton never dreamed of such a song.]

From a rocky bound Atlantic, to a mild Pacific shore,
From a fair and sunny southland to an ice-bound Labrador,
There’s a name of magic import, and ‘tis known the world throughout,
’Tis a mighty corporation, called the “Great Rock-Island Route.”

CHORUS.
Now listen to the jingle, and the rumble, and the roar,
As she dashes thro’ the woodland, and speeds along the shore,
See the mighty rushing engine, hear her merry bell ring out,
As they speed along in safety, on the “Great Rock-Island Route.”

All great cities of importance can be found along its way,
There’s Chicago and Peoria and Rock-Island so they say,
With Davenport, and westward still is Council Bluffs far out,
As a western termination of this “Great Rock-Island Route.”

To the great southwest another, and a mighty line they run,
Reaching far-famed Kansas City, Leavenworth, and Atchison,
Rich in beauty, power, and grandeur, and they owe it all no doubt,
To the fact that they are stations, on the “Great Rock-Island Route.”

There’s their “Northern-Route,” a daisy as you all can plainly see,
To St. Paul and Minneapolis, ’tis the famous “Albert Lea;”
To the lakes of Minnesota, and all points there ’round about,
Reached directly by no other than the “Great Rock-Island Route.”

Now let music soft and tender, in its mystic power reveal,
Praises to the “Great Rock-Island,” that the heart can only feel;
And to swell the mighty chorus — comes the glad re-echoing shout,
That for safety, time, and comfort, take the “Great Rock-Island Route.”

—J. A. Roff.