

"A PIONEER HISTORY OF INDIANA."

The most noteworthy contribution that has been made to the early history of southern Indiana is a volume of 632 pages, with the above title, the author and publisher of which is Col. William M. Cockrum, of Oakland City. There have been so many worthless Indiana books of historical pretensions that one takes up a new one in a skeptical and critical spirit. But in the instance under consideration the reader is agreeably surprised, for the amount of matter presented that is new to our records, and that has all the evidences of authenticity, calls for comment.

Colonel Cockrum, it seems, has been patiently gathering in this material from private sources for fifty years or more, and his harvest is most interesting. There are narrations of adventure with the red man, and pictures of life and manners among the very earliest pioneers, that are among the best accounts of this kind that we have. There are, too, not a few documents that are a real addition to our archives, most notable of these, perhaps, being a series of orders or letters of instruction from Governor William Henry Harrison to William Hargrave, a captain of rangers, in 1807. Those letters are decidedly informative. In the first place, the fact that there was a ranger service guarding our frontier from Vincennes to Lawrenceburg as early as 1807, is one of which none of our historians seem heretofore to have been aware. John B. Dillon, our closest student of Indian affairs at that period, makes no mention of it whatever, though he deals somewhat with the similar service that was established after the Pigeon Roost massacre in 1813. Of the letters there are about twenty-five which were found in Captain Hargrave's desk at his death in 1843. They further reveal glimpses of frontier conditions at that time and show as no other records do how, even that early, there was a ferment and a friction which were linked to the pivotal battle of Tippecanoe four years later. Moreover, they reflect the characters of both Governor Harrison and Secretary Gibson in a light that a biographer of these men could not afford to miss.

Lack of space forbids the review that this book should have, and about all that we can attempt here is to convey the impression that it is, as we have said, a distinct addition to our too

meager historical literature, and that it should have a place in every collection of this character. It can be secured for \$1.75 by addressing the author, Col. William M. Cockrum, Oakland City, Ind.

GEORGE S. COTTMAN.

A series of pamphlets entitled Civic Studies of Indianapolis is announced, to be published by The Bobbs-Merrill Co. under the auspices of the Commercial Club and the School Board of Indianapolis. The first number appeared December, 1907; Pioneer Indianapolis, by Ida Stearns Stickney. It is an excellent sketch with four illustrations, compiled from older works, covering the opening of central Indiana to the whites and the development of Indianapolis down to about 1847. While intended chiefly for use in the schools, it is interesting and should be of general use as well. A brief index facilitates reference to it. 68 pp.