

## REVIEWS AND NOTES

The story of the American West is being told. That energy of the West which has entered the current of national development is becoming known. The recognition of the part played by the Mississippi valley in the development of the United States is the most distinctive characteristic of present-day research in the field of American history. This recognition has been won almost solely by the efforts of western historians. The Mississippi Valley Historical Association was organized in 1907 in order that the study of the West might be more systematically promoted and correlated. The success of that organization has justified the development that is announced in a circular, the publication of a quarterly devoted to the study of the history of the valley, the first number of which will appear on June 1, 1914.

*The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War.* By William Warren Sweet, Ph.D., Professor of History, DePauw University. (Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati.) pp. 228, 1913.

The Methodist church was extremely active during the period immediately preceding the Civil War. It was among the first to grapple with the slavery question. The question would not yield to any attempt at solution, so the church divided into a Methodist Church South and a Methodist Church North. The Northern church numbered about 1,000,000 members, one tenth of whom were in Indiana, this State ranking fourth in the list.

The Methodists of the North were aggressive anti-slavery advocates, pressing the fight from Baltimore to Kansas. Editors of Methodist papers who did not keep well out on the firing line were invariably replaced by more outspoken men.

As a consequence of this they also found themselves close to the danger line when the crash of war came. A large number of the members enlisted and likewise a large number of Methodist preachers found appointments as chaplains in the regiments where their passionate appeal had great influence in keeping up the courage of the troops. In like manner the Methodist bishops could always be

relied upon as rally-day orators. Their eloquent appeals for the Union were heard not only throughout the Union but in Paris and London.

Besides these more important phases of the church work, Dr. Sweet has added chapters on the less well-known work of the church. The trials and persecutions of the ministers in the Border States during the period between the separation of the church and the opening of the war make a thrilling chapter. Another chapter deals with the church periodicals, another with the work and personalities of the war bishops, some of whom stood close to the Lincoln administration. Some valuable source material is included in an appendix of 37 pages. A bibliography of twelve pages is given in addition to the foot-notes.

The necessity of crowding a large volume into the compass of a doctor's thesis has in many places left its painful evidence. On the whole it is an excellent little volume, the material in which would be hard to find in so convenient a form.

*Our Old School.* By Theodore Stein. (Indianapolis.) pp. 211. 1914.

This is an historical sketch of the German-English Independent school of Indianapolis. This school opened January 21, 1854 and continued to July 14, 1882. The author has sought in this small book merely to treasure up a few of the memories of a congenial band of immigrants and refugees, who, in most cases, fleeing from the tyranny of the reactionary government of the Fatherland built up a small community in what to them no doubt seemed a frontier town. This volume is a mere sketch, a fragment from the history of that large number of radical Germans who came to America at this opportune time.

One of the significant things in connection with the coming of these Germans was the suspicion and distrust with which they were regarded by the Americans. Although they usually exceeded the community in which they lived in education, industry and energy they were called anarchists by many newspapers. Others pointed out that they were irreligious, clannish, given to meeting in secret conclaves where no doubt sedition, and treason, to say nothing