

Reviews and Notes

History of the Underground Railroad as It Was Conducted by the Anti-Slavery League. By COL. WILLIAM M. COCKRUM. J. W. Cockrum Printing Company, Oakland City. 328 pp.

COLONEL COCKRUM is the senior member of one of the most distinguished pioneer families of the State. He has spent his life up to the present on the old homestead. He and his father have had a true appreciation of historic records, as a consequence of which he is in possession of a large amount of data concerning the early history of the southwest corner of the State. What he publishes may and does have varying significance and value but it is the really historical matter. The present volume is of greater significance and of wider interest than the author's *Pioneer History of Indiana*. It deals directly with a phase of the slavery struggle of which not enough is known. It supplements and in some important respects goes beyond Coffin's *Reminiscences*. The result of Mr. Coffin's book, William Still's *Records*, and the later systematic treatise by Professor Siebert on *The Underground Railroad* has been a definite public opinion that practically the only "underground" activity was carried on through western Ohio and eastern Indiana. There has been some demur to this conclusion by writers acquainted with the lower Ohio river border of Indiana, but no satisfactory evidence could be uncovered. The volume of Colonel Cockrum furnishes in a large degree this evidence. The reviewer has not had the opportunity of examining the documents on which Colonel Cockrum's history is based but it bears ample evidence on its face of being a trustworthy story.

Colonel Cockrum has a pleasing way of expressing himself and tells a good story. The subject matter is intensely interesting which together with the simple and straightforward style makes a story that will hold any intelligent reader. It is extremely regrettable in this connection that a large number of simple grammatical errors have been allowed to escape the proof reader. In the eyes of many readers these minor defects will be permitted to mar the general excellence of the volume. Taken as a whole it is a most valuable contribution to our State history. It is hoped the author will not permit it to be the last of his contributions.

L. E.