

*Annals of Crime*

There have recently appeared a number of volumes passing as biographies of noted criminals. Best known of these perhaps is *The Rise and Fall of Jesse James*, by Robertus Love, a newspaper man of St. Louis. The author modestly admits that his book is ninety-nine per cent accurate and one hundred per cent honest. Without entering into a detailed criticism it may be suggested that he has made the hero entirely too honorable. Mr. James was quite too strong-minded to be such a weak creature of circumstances.

An equally futile attempt has been made in a recent *True Story of Charles W. Quantrell and His Guerrilla Band*. Fortunately W. E. Connelly of the Kansas State Historical Society has given us a reliable account of the monster.

Mr. Wilstach has inflicted on the public another edition of Wild Bill. He has succeeded in reducing somewhat the number of his killings but Mr. Hickock still remains entirely too handy with his ivory handled pistols.

*The Life and Papers of Frederick Bates*. Edited by THOMAS M. MARSHALL, Ph.D., Sec. Mo. Hist. Soc., St. Louis, 1926. Two Vols., pp. 346 and 343.

Bates came of an old Virginia colonial family, tracing their ancestry back almost to the founding of the colony. Frederick and his youngest brother, Edward, are well known to history. The family estate was lost in the Revolution. In 1797 Frederick, then 20 years of age, came to Detroit as quartermaster in the army. Later he entered business at Detroit but was ruined financially by the fire of 1805. From 1802 to 1805 he was postmaster at Detroit. In 1804 he became receiver at the Detroit land office; March 3, 1805, he became associate judge and land commissioner, in 1806 he became a partner in the Detroit bank; in 1807 he was appointed secretary of Louisiana territory and later governor of the state of Missouri. He died in office August 4, 1825. Such was the career of the man. Naturally his correspondence and papers cover a large variety of subjects and an interesting period in history.

It is not necessary here to go into a critical review. The volumes are well printed, beautifully bound and very well edited.

*The Papers of John Steele.* Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission. Edited by H. M. WAGSTAFF, Ph.D., Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. Raleigh, 1924. 2 Vols., p. 929.

John Steele was born in Salisbury, North Carolina, 1764, and died in 1815. He served in his state legislature, Indian agent, sat in the Second U. S. Congress, controller of the Treasury, 1796-1802 and later in the state legislature. His correspondence therefore covers an interesting period with a large number of widely known historical characters. There are approximately 400 letters and perhaps 50 other documents. The similarity of names in this correspondence with those of the pioneers of Indiana reminds one of the heavy immigration to Indiana from North Carolina at that period. The editing is done according to the best usage, putting as little useless ink on the page as possible. A good index and calendar are provided.

*Old Fort Crawford and the Frontier.* By BRUCE E. MAHAN. State Historical Society of Iowa, 1926, p. 349.

This is an elaborated Master's thesis from the State University of Iowa. The story finds its place in the history of the reorganization of the northwest frontier after the War of 1812. The government had taken some feeble steps toward a military occupation of the northern Mississippi valley prior to that war but these were swept aside during the struggle. Built at Prairie du Chien, Fort Crawford controlled the upper Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers. It was in easy reach of the Winnebago, Chippewa, Sioux, Sac and Fox tribes. As a trading center it played a leading part from about 1812 down to the Civil War. It was the scene of some important Indian conferences and was at the seat of activities during the Black Hawk War. The volume is well written and elegantly printed and bound. The notes are placed in the back of the book, a habit the Iowa Society seems unable to abandon.