

*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.