

of Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary, of vineyards and "characters." The reader may think he is familiar in general with the scene but he will be surprised at how much that is interesting is new; at how much remains to be seen and thought about. Mr. Hatcher has done well, both by his subject and his readers.

The literature of travel and description has been voluminous in our history; it will continue to be so. It is just as well perhaps, considering ships, roads and facilities, that ten million Mid-Americans do not read the five volumes on the Great Lakes by authors Landon, Nute, Quaife, Pound, and Hatcher, aided and abetted by the Bobbs-Merrill Company. Were they to do so, however, they would have a better understanding, a more developed appreciation, a greater capacity for enjoyment, of an important segment of the epic that has been and is America.

R. Carlyle Buley

The Last Trek of the Indians. By Grant Foreman. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, c. 1946, pp. 382. Maps. \$4.00.)

A historical narrative and an evaluation of the policy of Indian Removal are embodied in this volume. It is written by a recognized authority who has worked for more than forty years with the Indians and their history. It is limited to northern Indians and is a companion volume to the author's Indian Removal: *The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes*, which describes the elimination of the Indians from the South.

This volume is of interest to persons concerned with the history of Indiana and the Middle West for it traces the origin of the plan to remove the Indians to the west of the Mississippi River, the emigration of the Indians from the Middle West, and the experiences of these tribes in the Kansas and Oklahoma area. The author devotes special chapters to the Potawatomi and the Miami, which are of particular interest to Indiana.

The story of the negotiation of the various treaties is briefly sketched, and the gathering of the Indians for the journey and the migration from the land of their fathers is narrated for a tribe or a portion of a tribe, one after

another. The treaty was generally not complimentary to the government or its agents, but occasionally a glimpse of the more sordid relationship between traders and the tribe is given. The author in reality only hints at this phase of the subject but he does indicate that very bad conditions existed in the upper Wabash Valley in Indiana. The narrative of the journey from the former home to the new region in the West becomes monotonous after two or three have been read. The migration of the band of Potawatomi which was described in *The Trail of Death* was only worse than the others in the degree to which sickness and death characterized the journey.

The second part of the book describes the experience of the Indians after their removal. They were not permitted to remain in Missouri or Kansas, but were required to move again to the Indian Territory which became the state of Oklahoma. All the debilitating effects of a forced removal were repeated and the progress towards the white man's civilization was too frequently sacrificed in order that the Indians might be placed on less desirable land.

The entire volume tells of the greed, the inhumanity, and the aggressiveness, not of the Indians, but of the whites, a record which is a serious blot upon our national honor. There was cheating, horse-stealing, whiskey-selling and debauchery, even land stealing. In contrast, it tells of the suffering and patience of the Indians, of their adoption of agricultural life, and of improvements in their homes when they could keep away from intoxicating liquor. Rather generally, liquor became the curse of the Indian. Although Helen Hunt Jackson is not mentioned, one is reminded of the title of her volume, *A Century of Dishonor*.

The volume seems to open a field for further investigation rather than to exhaust it. More detailed studies of individual tribes, of particular negotiations, migrations, and of the experiences in the new home seem in order. An extensive amount of historical material is revealed in the footnotes and bibliography. Although the format of the book gives evidence that it was published in war time, it is a valuable addition to the historical literature of the Middle West.

John D. Barnhart