

through the Carolina mountains, should have created doubts at least. The statement about the Kentuckians "demanding" representation in the Virginia assembly seems a little strong (pp. 128-129).

The volume gives a modern and highly interesting account of the Wilderness Road which was so important in the settlement of the Ohio Valley. It is nicely printed, excellently proof-read, and attractively bound. It should be widely read.

Indiana University

John D. Barnhart

The Great Chicago Fire; Described in Seven Letters by Men and Women Who Experienced Its Horrors, and Now Published in Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Catastrophe. Introduction and Notes by Paul M. Angle. (Chicago, Chicago Historical Society, 1946, pp. 85. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

The Chicago Fire of October, 1871, stands out as an awesome and a significant event in that city's history. The extent of the devastation to this commercial metropolis of the Midwest is reflected in the statistics dealing with loss of lives and property, as well as in the pessimistic accounts left by men and women who survived the holocaust. This pessimism which attended the initial shock of the disaster proved temporary, and soon was followed by the optimism of reconstruction. Such a resilient spirit was but one of the many manifestations of a growing city that had unbounded confidence in a great future.

In his brief introductory remarks Angle mentions the grim warnings of a succession of fires which immediately preceded the Great Fire. The author's description of the rapid manner in which the fire spread over the entire city area is accompanied by appropriate references to well-known streets and buildings. Anyone acquainted with the city of Chicago is able to orient himself as regards the progress of the fire in its various stages. The human side of the story is revealed in seven descriptive letters. All but one of these eyewitness accounts were written soon after the fire.

In view of the fact that numerous contemporary accounts of the Great Chicago Fire have been written, Angle's

task has been one of selection. In many respects, the seven letters included in this small volume represent but one reaction repeated seven times. There is no indication of the psychological effect of the fire upon the very rich and the very poor. The reactions of a common laborer to the calamity of 1871 could have furnished an interesting contrast.

This attractively bound volume contains reproductions of commercial notices and of proclamations issued by the mayor following the crisis, as well as photographs of well-known Chicago landmarks as they appeared before and after the fire. Mention should also be made of the appropriate lithographs which preface the letters. These lithographs are the work of Joseph Trautwein and possess definite caricatural value. Angle's judicious footnoting serves as an indispensable guide in acquainting the reader with people and places mentioned in the letters. Anyone desiring a souvenir book on the Great Chicago Fire will be interested in this volume.

Indiana University

Richard H. Caldemeyer

Minnesota Under Four Flags. Edited by Mary W. Berthel. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Centennial Publications, Number 1, 1946, pp. 15. Maps. Fifty cents.)

Florida Under Five Flags. By Rembert W. Patrick. (Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 1945, pp. xiv, 140. Illustrations, maps, and index. \$2.50.)

It may be a testimonial to our present world-mindedness that the titles chosen for these recent books, dealing with such widely separated subjects, are so nearly identical and so international. At any rate, this observation of the fact that such distant places as Florida and Minnesota were linked together at various times in their histories under the banners of France, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States successively, pays tribute to the imperial vision of yesteryears. In this pennant chase, Florida edges out Minnesota 5-4, only by virtue of having joined the Confederate states of America for a brief sojourn under the Stars and Bars.

The Minnesota booklet is an excellent recapitulation of the state's usually checkered territorial history. Its fifteen