

dent Hoover protesting the treatment given the Bonus Army in Washington, with its urgent questions going to the heart of the matter.

In short, Anderson had courage—including the courage to admit his frequent lack of it—and he had integrity and a great kindness. These letters reveal too his human failings, his quirks, his frequent contradictions, his occasional coarseness, his moodiness, his admitted immaturity, his delusions of literary grandeur. He was, in a word, himself; but without pretending to unravel the complexities of character and culture, I would like to suggest again that Anderson is best seen as a Midwestern writer fairly typical of his time and place, with many resemblances to Sandburg, Dreiser, and Vachel Lindsay. There is the same lack of formal education, the same combination of simplicity and shrewdness soaring at times to genius, the same readiness to experiment, the same independence of mind, the same deep sense of responsibility. Back of all these qualities lay, perhaps, a kind of latter-day Midwestern mysticism akin to Lincoln's, the religious impulse shorn of dogma but nonetheless impressive in its honesty, pure in its charity, and moving in its intensity.

Thus these letters are interesting on half a dozen counts. They are, moreover, illuminated by Howard Mumford Jones in an introduction which is a model of clarity, conciseness, and balanced judgment. A chronology and notes, complete enough for the least informed reader, are also provided.

*Indiana University*

Parry E. Stroud

*Westward the Briton.* By Robert G. Athearn. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953, pp. xiv, 208. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$4.50.)

This refreshing frontier social history of the Rocky Mountain area, centering in Denver, is the result of an examination of the works of nearly three hundred British travelers who visited America between the close of the Civil War and the end of the nineteenth century. Some were mere travelers observing America through a Pullman window; others gave their attention to a restricted subject such as hunting, stock-raising, or mining; but not a few came to stay and throw in their fortunes with the growing West. Taken in the aggregate, their comments form an excellent basis for a social history.

In many ways the comments of the Englishmen were more penetrating and searching than those of the Americans who visited the West. Allowing for a degree of national bias, the observations are fuller and more accurate than could have been obtained otherwise.

On the other hand, Britons were not unlike Americans in many ways. Economic interests influenced their attitudes and comments. If a Briton settled in a town, he soon became as voluble in his town-puffing and in defending the West as the Yankee. Indeed, the Briton who came to make America his home became, with the years, often even more intolerant of the British critic than was the American.

The author discusses with humor and sparkle such topics as law and order, travel facilities, the Indians, the cow country, manners and morals, speculation in mining stock and in cattle companies, home life, democracy, equality, and city life in Denver and Salt Lake City. His style is sprightly, and the material is handled in such a skillful way that an interesting and accurate picture is given of the West of the post-Civil War period.

Probably a more accurately descriptive title for the volume, although not so practical, would have been: a social history of the Rocky Mountain frontier as seen by the Briton.

Athearn has tapped a great reservoir of material hitherto untouched and has thus done a valuable service for the historical profession. But he has done more than that; he has produced a historically accurate and yet readable volume for the general reader.

*Union College*

Everett Dick

*The Army Air Forces in World War II.* Edited by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate. Volume V, *The Pacific: Matterhorn to Nagasaki, June 1944 to August 1945.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953, pp. xxxvii, 878. Illustrations, maps, and index. \$8.50.)

This is the fifth of the seven-volume series of the official chronicle of the army air forces in the second World War. It is the second volume to appear on the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters and the last concerned with combat operations of the war itself. The story of Pacific and CBI