

Attention should be called to the many illustrations, including reproductions of documents, and to the vast number of footnotes, in addition to the index and appendices.

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*Fortune Favors the Brave: The Life and Times of Horace Bell, Pioneer Californian.* By Benjamin S. Harrison. (Los Angeles: The Ward Ritchie Press, 1953, pp. xvi, 307. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$7.50.)

Horace Bell, the subject of this unusual biography, had more than his share of high adventure during his long lifetime. Even compared with present-day careers of Americans serving in numerous far-flung American frontiers, the list of Bell's accomplishments and experiences are overshadowing. His adventures in the role of an overlander to California during the gold rush; a vigilante in California during the 1850's; a filibusterer with William Walker in Nicaragua; a participant in abolitionist activities in Kentucky; a soldier of fortune in the Mexican army of Benito Juarez; a schoolteacher and traveler in Tehuantepec, Mexico; a soldier; a United States spy in Cuba; and, later, a mounted scout in the Civil War; a Los Angeles newspaper man; and a civic leader, compose a tale of a life that is as strange as fiction.

Horace Bell (1830-1918), born and reared near the north bank of the Ohio River in southern Indiana, began his adventurous career when he left for California at the age of twenty. For the next sixteen years until he finally settled down to make a home in the Los Angeles area, Bell's life was one of constant travel and adventure. Upon his arrival in California, Bell lived for a time in the home of his uncle who had married into one of the old Mexican families of the Los Angeles area. Through the influence of his aunt, he participated in the social life of the time, and he has left numerous accounts of California society during the 1850's in respect to manners, customs, and conditions.

Horace Bell played an important part in the career of William Walker, the American filibusterer who made himself president of Nicaragua in 1856. The account of Bell's recruiting California adventurers for Walker's forces and his sub-

sequent adventures as a captain and major in Walker's army gives additional light upon some of the little-known activities of this filibustering expedition. The account, vivid and detailed in materials concerning troop movements, the hardships of the Americans, the internal conditions of Central America, the personal characters of the men involved, and the blunders of Walker, make this work source material on the Walker expedition. Descriptions of their hair-raising adventures by Bell and his brother-soldiers of fortune provide a wealth of reliable information concerning the expedition.

Harrison's treatment of the Civil War years of Horace Bell's life is unusual. Instead of using the conventional method of dealing with campaign strategies and battle events, he has confined his materials almost entirely to Bell's personal adventures. After serving a three months' enlistment as a quartermaster sergeant in the Sixth Regiment of Indiana, Bell joined the Union forces as a scout under General Lew Wallace. As such, he held no rank and usually did not wear a uniform; yet he was attached to one of the higher headquarters. His duties and assignments were many and varied. As a recruiting officer in New York City, he met and married his first wife. Another assignment took him to Cuba, where his ability to speak Spanish fluently made it possible for him to spy on the naval activities of the Confederates on the island. During the last years of the Civil War, Bell was the chief of scouts for General Edward R. Canby, whose headquarters were in New Orleans. Often Bell passed through the Confederate lines and scouted enemy troop movements and activities for Canby. His escapes were many and narrow. The author has treated these adventures in a refreshing and realistic manner.

At the close of the Civil War, Bell returned to the city of Los Angeles where he became a newspaper man, lawyer, public official, and civic leader. As such he helped Los Angeles grow from a primitive pueblo to a great city of over half a million in population. His sterling character and his boundless energy made him very active in the city's affairs.

There are few noticeable shortcomings in this work. The account of the genealogy of Bell's ancestors is a little monotonous. On page 106 it is stated that Bell held no rank in the Union Army as a mounted scout; yet on page 165 Bell is referred to as "Captain." The details concerning Bell's trans-

continental journeys are often disappointingly brief. Despite these minor flaws, Harrison has written a very meritorious biography. A refreshing writer as well as a historian, he has chosen his materials well. Footnotes and bibliography are at the back of the volume; they are available to the historian without disrupting for the casual reader the book's splendid continuity.

This reviewer was both astonished and impressed by the sources used by the author; among them are the published and unpublished writings of Horace Bell; reminiscences of William Anderson, one of the elder citizens of Los Angeles; numerous California newspapers; General Lew Wallace's *Autobiography*; U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion . . . Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*; and numerous documents in the Indiana State Library, Huntington Library, Bancroft Library, Los Angeles County Museum, the Los Angeles County Library, and other depositories.

This volume is well worth the attention of the historians who are interested in the history of the American West, Latin America, and the Civil War. It is equally worth the attention of all who love to read accounts of adventure.

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*Stephen Vaughan: Financial Agent of Henry VIII. A Study of Financial Relations with the Low Countries.* By W. C. Richardson. Louisiana State University Studies, Social Science Series, Number Three. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1953, pp. xii, 106. Bibliography and index. \$1.50.)

The complexities of Tudor finances do not readily lend themselves to narrative history, but through the career and correspondence of Stephen Vaughan, W. C. Richardson has attempted to clarify and enliven an obscure subject. Drawn from the published *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII* and English manuscript collections, this brief study (only eighty pages of text) traces Vaughan's career as first Cromwell's and then the king's agent in the Low Countries and at Antwerp during the years 1532-1546. The story that emerges is of interest as an illustration of the inexperienced stumbling of the Henrican diplomatic corps. Stephen Vaughan, though