

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This reviewer was both astonished and impressed by the sources used by the author; among them are the published and unpublished writings of Horace Bell; reminiscences of William Anderson, one of the elder citizens of Los Angeles; numerous California newspapers; General Lew Wallace's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

more active than some of his fellows, was not an unqualified success. As Professor Richardson observes, he was "a practical businessman, unversed for the most part in the subtleties of the new renaissance statecraft. If his various missions were ably performed, it was primarily because they required no great ability."

International finance called forth Vaughan's greatest efforts and here his experiences are truly illuminating. Under constant pressure from a needy court after 1544 when he was officially designated as the royal agent in Antwerp, and forced to accede to unfavorable terms from foreign bankers, his position was thoroughly unenviable. At times he could do little more than watch the steady decline of English credit and rise of interest rates. Chastened by authorities at home, he once remarked that, "having bills of good credence here, I am well assured to make the King's Majesty a million of crowns. But such bills I hear not of." That he succeeded in satisfying a voracious master and his greedy creditors at all is little short of miraculous. In the process he suffered much mental anguish, received slight compensation and even less honor. His was one of those necessary but thankless tasks whereby nations are built. The new venture into international finance, the raising of foreign loans by a permanent financial agent, was one more Henrican experiment; Vaughan's success, limited though it was, "paved the way for Sir Thomas Gresham's more spectacular achievements at Antwerp during the second half of the sixteenth century."

Professor Richardson's mastery of the subject is unquestionable, but in several respects he might have made a better book. The details of international finance may not be particularly fascinating, as he suggests, nor Stephen Vaughan a peculiarly intriguing person, but neither is allowed full scope in the present work. Perhaps brevity may account for some shortcomings, and as the author mentions uncultured archives in Antwerp, his readers may hope for an expansion of this exploratory venture. The Louisiana State University Press does a real service to scholarship by utilizing photographic reproduction of typescript as a means of publication in this day of high prices, but would it be asking too much to beg the return of citations to the foot of the page, or the use of a typewriter equipped with brackets and the pound

sign? The reader's pleasure would seem worthy of the slight cost involved, especially in the production of a small volume of such great merit.

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