

*South Dakota Historical Collections and Report, Volume XXVI.* Compiled by the South Dakota Historical Society. (Pierre, South Dakota: South Dakota Historical Society, 1953, pp. 567. Illustrations and index. \$3.75.)

This biennial report of the South Dakota Historical Society consists of five articles and a documentary section devoted to an abstract or digest of Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1815 to 1852. The publication serves as a clearance house for historical material dealing with the Upper Missouri basin in general and the South Dakota locale in particular.

The leading article represents an assembled history of Sanborn County. The account is based mostly on reminiscences and personal accounts that were compiled, collected, and placed in the hands of the Historical Society as a permanent record. The work of assembling, rewriting, and rechecking was performed by Will G. Robinson, the secretary of the society and editor of its publications, with the assistance of several leading citizens of the county. The narrative includes such topics as first settlers and settlements, county seat fights, ghost towns, schools, churches and the usual gamut of frontier experiences ranging from weather to disasters of various sorts. Biographies of leading families are likewise included. Such an account of pioneer times in South Dakota can be of more than passing interest to readers in Indiana inasmuch as the majority of the early settlers came from the upper Mississippi Valley and occasionally included Hoosiers.

Then follow two articles which were prepared as Master's dissertations at the University of South Dakota. A brief account of steamboat navigation on the Missouri River by Ralph E. Nichol gives special attention to the impact of the river steamboat upon Yankton, the territorial capital and metropolis. In his history of Fort Sully, Steven Hoekman presents a comprehensive and illuminating study of a frontier military post which existed from 1863 to 1894.

In an article on promoters and promotion literature of Dakota Territory, William H. Russell notes the various efforts exerted by public officials, local newspapers, and other private agencies in the campaign to attract settlers to the Dakotas. The author emphasizes the work of the territorial immigration office but apparently is not familiar with a fairly com-

plete study of the official immigration activities of Dakota Territory published two decades ago.

A lengthy ethnological study of the Siouan Indians by W. E. Sanders under the title, "Trail of the Ancient Sioux" leaves this reviewer somewhat perplexed. The author undertakes to examine the archaeological and anthropological records for the different areas inhabited by forty-seven divisions of Siouan stock to find common features or similarities in their culture patterns apart from their community of language traits. The disciplines of history and sociology are also heavily drawn upon for illustrative materials. This might just as well be called a study of North American Indians frequenting a distinct geographical region extending from the Great Plains to North Carolina and from the Gulf coast to the Ohio and Upper Mississippi Valleys. Much of the material presented does not seem relevant to the author's purpose. The ceremonials, the social organizations and mores, as well as the economy pattern, are not necessarily peculiar to the ethnic groups reviewed. The inclusion of so much irrelevant material produces the effect of disunity rather than the unity he seeks to establish. The author, however, is to be commended for his extensive exploration into the field. He has steeped himself in the published literature but has permitted himself to become lost in the process of selecting and organizing his data and consequently fails to make his thesis convincing.

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*The Rise of Methodism: A Source Book.* By Richard M. Cameron. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1954, pp. xv, 397. Index. \$4.75.)

This source book provides the layman with a substantial introduction to the early thinking of Wesley and other Methodist Church fathers. It is characterized best as a warm and intensely human work—no small task for a source book. Wesley comes alive through these expertly chosen pieces of his writing. The editor's selections give Wesley's family background, his early soul-searching, and conclude with the meeting of the first Conference. All is tied together with an unobtrusive editorial text.