

though much too short, history of Wells' agency and his eventual removal.

The letter book begins with Johnston's appointment in 1809 to the Indiana Territory Agency. It continues through the years of his agency (1809-1812) and the first three years (1812-1815) of the agency of Benjamin F. Stickney who replaced Johnston when the latter moved to the Piqua, Ohio, agency. Miss Thornbrough, in her introduction, in her notes, and in her review of the last three years (1815-1818) of Stickney's agency, has done an excellent job of maintaining objective neutrality when discussing the rivalries between Johnston and Wells and between Johnston and Stickney. For purely romantic reasons, and with most of the facts of the case arrayed against him, this reviewer has always been sympathetic toward Wells and Stickney. Surely, a case could be made for the view that Johnston connived and schemed for seven years to poison the minds of Governor William Henry Harrison and Secretary of War Henry Dearborn against Wells in order to become agent at Fort Wayne. Then, from 1815 to 1818, he repeated the performance to get rid of Stickney and to combine the Piqua and Fort Wayne agencies under his control. However, to take sides on such an issue as that in such a work as this would have been improper, and Miss Thornbrough is to be applauded for her objectivity and for her contribution to those who may, at a later date, desire to interpret history.

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The Holy See and the Nascent Church in the Middle Western United States, 1826-1850. By Robert Frederick Trisco. (Rome: Gregorian University Press, 1962. Pp. xii, 408. Maps, bibliography, index. \$5.90.)

The quarter century which Father Trisco treats in this scholarly study was a critical era in the history of the Catholic Church in the Middle West. He defines the Middle West loosely as "the region stretching from the Alleghenies to the Rockies except the South." In 1826 the Catholic population of the area approximated 7,500 in three dioceses. By 1850 it exceeded 400,000 in eleven dioceses—a fifty-three-fold increase in twenty-five years.

Father Trisco has valid reasons for selecting 1826 as the starting date and 1850 as the closing date for his study. In 1826 Mauro Cappellari accepted the directorship of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, the papal agency concerned with administration and expansion of the mission fields in the world. In that year the erection of the Diocese of St. Louis made the Western Church juridically distinct from the rest of the United States. Then too, the early history of the three trans-Allegheny dioceses (Bardstown, Cincinnati, and St. Louis) has already been adequately treated. The year 1850 seems to be a logical concluding date for Father Trisco's specialized study. It was the year of the death of Benedict Joseph Flaget, the first bishop of the Middle West. In 1850, moreover, the first two metropolitan provinces were established in the trans-Allegheny country. And by 1850 the Church was flourishing and had come of age—it could no longer be classed as "nascent."

Approximately half of the volume deals with three general subjects: the dioceses, the bishops, and the clergy. The papacy was most responsive to boundary changes requested by the American bishops. "If the appointment of suitable bishops was one of the important ways of fostering the nascent Church," concludes Father Trisco (p. 166), "the Holy See must in general be praised for its efforts to choose the best candidates." He also lauds the Propaganda's activity "to strengthen the Western clergy in quantity and quality" (p. 224).

The last three chapters deal with the material aid the papacy gave the young Western Church. Too little space is given to the contributions of the religious orders and their educational efforts, although the tragic story of the Poor Clares is presented in great detail and most objectively. The chapter on "Discipline" is devoted chiefly to the troubles and resignation of Frederick Rese, first Bishop of Detroit.

The published work, in the main, comes out of a doctoral dissertation presented to the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1959. It was based in a large measure upon manuscript materials in the Vatican Library, especially the extensive files of the Propaganda's archives. It is written from the point of view of Rome, but by an historian who has an excellent acquaintance with the American Church history of the 1820-1860 era. It is a study of the Church internal, and the political and non-religious facets (in this reviewer's opinion) receive too little space and attention. It is almost as if the Church existed in a vacuum. Although such subjects as sectionalism and slavery, the Indian problem, and Know-Nothingism and bigotry receive mention in the Introduction, these are bypassed in favor of a discussion of topics upon which the papal archives shed more light.

The many footnotes attest to the intensity of research and the erudition of the author. Many are Latin excerpts from the sources; some cite French and Italian documents.

The book is a kind of historian's history. It is an important chapter in Midwestern history and in Catholic Church history. It is Father Trisco's first monograph, and it reveals a depth of scholarship which presages a bright future for a budding historian of the Catholic Church in America.

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Edward Kern and American Expansion. By Robert V. Hine. *Yale Western Americana Series*, I. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1962. Pp. xix, 180. Illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$6.00.)

This splendid monograph was written for those who have a wide understanding of the mid-nineteenth century American scene. Professor Hine has presumed a reader appreciation of the foreign relations and the degree of western exploration of that period, and even an elementary knowledge of American art. The scholar who delights in a tightly constructed, widely researched, and well-written work will rejoice that this study is precisely what the title specifies.