

The Diary of James A. Garfield, 1848-1874. Two volumes. Edited with an Introduction by Harry James Brown and Frederick D. Williams. ([East Lansing]: Michigan State University Press, 1967. Vol. I: Pp. lxx, 496. Vol. II: Pp. 450. Illustrations, notes, appendix, indices. \$30.00 per set.)

The edited papers and diaries of important American leaders are being published in generous fashion, and the first two of four projected volumes of the diaries of James A. Garfield are a welcome addition to such scholarly efforts. Not all of the entries included were in Garfield's handwriting, and the editors have taken care to indicate the role played by a part-time secretary, George U. Rose.

The editors' sixty-page introduction analyzes carefully the diaries' chief contributions to an understanding of the religious, social, economic, educational, and political life of nineteenth-century America. Garfield was a rather introspective person whose comments on his own motives and efforts are often very revealing. His early commitment and his lifelong attachment to the Disciples of Christ are thoroughly indicated; though, with his years at Williams College and his entry into sophisticated Washington society, a more ecumenical spirit developed. He, furthermore, became increasingly distressed by "stupid" sermons from many pulpits.

As a congressman Garfield was caught up in the Credit Mobilier and Salary Grab scandals, and he suffered deep distress from the criticisms of his actions. The editors conclude that, in regard to the Credit Mobilier affair, "his real offense was that he denied to the House investigating committee that he had either agreed to take the stock or received a dividend" (I, xlvi).

The notes have been prepared in meticulous fashion and offer a mine of information relating to the third quarter of the nineteenth century and in particular to the Western Reserve of Ohio and Washington, D.C.

Any scholar realizes the difficulty of avoiding minor errors, a few of which may be noted. Jacob D. Cox was not "of Cincinnati" in 1860 (I, 348), for he located there after his term as governor ended in 1867. It is not accurate to state that in 1867 in Ohio "the customary Republican majority in the legislature nearly disappeared" (I, 429), for Democratic control meant the retirement of the arch-Republican, Benjamin Wade, from the United States Senate. Congresswoman Frances Payne Bolton is not a niece of Senator Henry B. Payne (II, 242), but a granddaughter. The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Washington was Byron (not Bryon) Sunderland (II, 301).

In a few cases significant details seem to have been overlooked. The editors point out that in 1852, Mary Hubbell, who for a time was one of Garfield's romantic interests, addressed him as "Leo" because a phrenologist had associated him with the constellation, Leo (I, 147). But Miss Hubbell had a keen sense of humor, and she may have had in mind a second reason for the appellation, since Garfield had recently played an important role, that

of Pope Leo X, in a college colloquy (I, 142). It is indicated that in 1858 Garfield was offered a position as head of the "Hopedale School" (I, 330). It might have been pointed out that this was to be for decades one of the leading normal schools in Ohio and that the position was taken by Garfield's former mentor and colleague, Amos S. Hayden. (See Roscoe H. Eckelberry, "The McNeely Normal School and Hopedale Normal College," *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, XL, 86-119.) Charles Sanders Peirce is identified as "an assistant in the Coast Survey, 1872-1884" (II, 116), but no mention is made of the fact that he was one who laid the foundations for the later pragmatic philosophy of William James and John Dewey. It is recorded that Garfield dined in 1873 with "Ben Holladay of California" (II, 152), but it is not indicated that he was the well-known founder of the noted "Holladay's Overland Stage." The editors might also have corrected Garfield's error in stating that Salmon P. Chase was chosen to the United States Senate in 1848 (II, 330); actually it was February, 1849.

Typographical confusion is found in misplaced lines in I, 356; II, 116; and II, 282. The volumes, however, will prove indispensable to any scholar dealing in depth with the political, social, and cultural life of the United States during the generation prior to 1875.

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Gold Rush Diary: Being the Journal of Elisha Douglass Perkins on the Overland Trail in the Spring and Summer of 1849. Edited by Thomas D. Clark. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967. Pp. xxv, 206. Illustrations, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$8.75.)

Ho! For the Gold Fields: Northern Overland Wagon Trains of the 1860s. Edited by Helen McCann White. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1966. Pp. viii, 289. Notes, maps, illustrations, appendix, index. \$8.50.)

Like the steady flow of automobile traffic moving west on Highways 40 and 50, the Gold Rush literature continues to roll off the nation's presses. And just as these highways have become better surfaced, broader, and steadily improved to carry the volume of speeding traffic, so have the studies dealing with America's most romantic migration continued to improve. Proof of this is found in the recent books edited by University of Kentucky Professor Thomas D. Clark and Helen McCann White, Minnesota Historical Society staff member. Each work has been meticulously researched. The documentation does not merely better explain the respective contents and the multitude of sources employed but also supplies extended assistance to researchers pursuing the same historical trails.

Most striking of the advances now offered readers of argonaut experiences are the books' notes and superlative maps detailing the westward march. For