

Trusted agents and business associates, chief of whom, according to the author, were Sam Brannan and Julius Wetzler, robbed the Sutters of their patrimony. In his "Statement," August even declares that he was drugged by a certain Dr. Brandes and thus became an easy prey to the perfidious Brannan-Wetzler crowd.

Reduced at last to poverty and despair, August left California with his wife and child for the wild interior of Sonora, resolved, as he said, "to hide in a corner" where not even his closest friends would find him. In 1855 he returned to California, both to attempt to regain some portion of the empire he and his father had so quickly lost, and to clear his name and reputation. The "Statement" Mr. Ottley has so fortunately resurrected from its long and almost complete obscurity, was written at this time.

After a few disappointing months in California, August Sutter returned to Mexico and became a member of a trading firm in Acapulco. Here he prospered, played a melodramatic rôle in more than one political upheaval, became United States Consul, separated from his wife, formed a left-handed marriage which was not legally solemnized for twenty-four years, and died in 1897.

The typography of Mr. Ottley's book is worthy of its contents. It has a satisfactory index and bibliography. The decorations by Neal Harlow are excellent. It is regrettable that only 160 copies were issued; but we are indeed grateful to the Sacramento Book Collector's Club for this unusual contribution to California historical scholarship.

ROBERT G. CLELAND.

The Huntington Library,
San Marino, California.

Diary & Letters of Josiah Gregg: Excursions in Mexico & California, 1847-1850. Edited by MAURICE GARLAND FULTON. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1944. Pp. xvii, 396. Maps, illustrations, and documentary facsimiles. \$3.50.)

This book is the second unit of a two-volume work, of which the first unit appeared in 1941 under the title *Diary & Letters of Josiah Gregg: Southwestern Enterprises, 1840-1847*. The first volume related Gregg's story from his retirement in the Santa Fe trade in 1840 to the eve of the battle of Buena Vista in February, 1847. The present volume recounts his experiences during the remainder of the Mexican War, his jaunts to the United States and Mexico, his trip to Cali-

fornia and final journey to the shores of Humboldt Bay, where he died.

Josiah Gregg, traveler, frontier trader, author, doctor, amateur naturalist, self-appointed critic of all things and all people, faithfully committed to paper his thoughts and observations, both scientific and personal. His "memoranda" were left in San Francisco when he went on his last journey to the north and were finally returned to his family. Each generation intended, but never did get around, to publishing the records. They were at last entrusted to the present editor.

Volume II begins on Monday, February 11, 1847, little more than a week before the battle of Buena Vista. It is rather an abrupt beginning, although the introductory essay attempts to lay a foundation for it. Gregg, who had no official position with the United States Army, was all over the battlefield: ". . . I wished to witness . . . the operations in every part of the field; and if I had joined any particular Corps, I found my observations would have been chiefly confined to that Corps, and its vicinity—instead of maintaining myself on high and commanding points, as I did, so as to have a view of all the operations." This passage together with the following give the general tone of the diary. He reported that one of the young medical officers who chose a certain house in Saltillo for his hospital, said, "the quartermaster had ordered the family out of it, when I found it out, and succeeded in having the decree changed." Such actions would not and did not, according to his own account, endear him to the majority of his companions. As a result, his continuous carping about people and things in general do not give the diary that feeling of *joie de vivre*, that zest for life, with which so many of the diaries of frontier travel abound. This pessimistic viewpoint also results in a most serious fault, for because of it Gregg was likely to pass very warped judgments or paint completely false pictures. To cite one example, on page 232 there is the statement, "It is a notable fact, that the army officers, who are receiving salaries, attend to no objects of natural history: nor even do the Topographical engineers make observations for latitude. . . ." Yet Lt. William H. Emory in his *Notes of a Military Reconnaissance* . . . has table after table of latitude reckonings. Appendix No. 2 contains a list of botanical specimens gathered on the same journey.

And yet the book is a most valuable addition to the first-hand accounts of life on the frontier. Gregg was there and knew the people, smelled the smells, and saw the events. It adds a bit here, a

bit there, to the mosaic which is gradually being laid and which in time will show us how our ancestors actually lived, that part of history which is so difficult to reproduce in its entirety. One has to admit an admiration for the author who, though sickly, thought nothing of a thousand-mile journey. His spirit was indomitable. It was this very characteristic which made him include latitude, longitude, and barometrical readings at every turn of the road. Even the editor found these parts dull.

Gregg's arrival in San Francisco ends the diary proper. The last part of the book, concerning his trip to Humboldt Bay and his death, was taken in the main from Lewis Keyser Wood's narrative.

Even though the editor declares (pages 384) "I pause . . . to avow again that my purpose has been decidedly more biographical than historical in the stricter sense . . .," still it appears that he could have strengthened the volume in several ways. A good map of Mexico would have been exceedingly helpful, particularly since the emphasis is on travel. The section entitled "Sources and Obligations" is a disappointment because it does not tell where the majority of sources can be found. Letters from Gregg to his brother and others are interspersed between passages of the diary with few citations and those only to items taken from printed books. Correspondence copied from newspapers shows few dates of publication.

There are always differences of opinion about the number and character of footnotes. While many editors believe that they should be held to a minimum, yet in this instance a few more might have assisted the reader, by explaining, for example *lechuguilla* as a species of the century plant (page 88), by giving the correct spelling of *Guchipin* as *Gachupin* (page 272), and by filling a blank space on page 272 with the word *arrastre*. In addition a number of errors mar the appearance of the book, notably the misspelling of the town "Guaymas" (page xi), and incorrect page references (pages 49, 54, 56, 60).

GEORGE W. AMES, JR.

Seattle, Washington.

La fondation de la République d'Haïti par Alexandre Pétion. By FRANÇOIS DALENCOUR. (Port-au-Prince: Published by the author, 1944. Pp. 344. \$2.00.)

The history of the founding of the Republic of Haiti, the first Latin-American nation to win its independence, has produced par-