

achieved his main objective, that of making easier the path of future students of the Ten Years' War. May nothing prevent his completing a work so well begun.

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*Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849: Diary of Robert Eccleston.* Edited by GEORGE P. HAMMOND and EDWARD H. HOWES. [Bancroft Library Publications, No. 2.] (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1950. Pp. xvii, 256. Frontispiece, appendix, index. \$7.50.)

Robert Eccleston was a native of New York. He was little more than nineteen when he joined the Fremont Association which went by sea from New York City to Port Lavaca, Texas, and thence overland to California and the mines. Eccleston's diary is a remarkably informative document, and a valuable historical source, being rich in concrete details concerning the geography and other natural phenomena of the countries through which he and his party passed, as well as being abundantly supplied with records of the social life and camp and road customs of the wagon trains that were crossing by the southwestern route. The route that the Fremont Association traversed is clearly outlined on two pleasing maps which the editors have drawn especially for the text. Readers of this REVIEW may be interested in consulting what the author tells of the Spanish-Mexican agriculture in the Rio Grande valley near El Paso, and in examining his scattered notices of the several small communities, established long before his time, in the Tucson area and at other localities along the route.

The Fremont Association's crossing from El Paso to the Coast possesses historical importance because it is the only one on record which took the Tucson short-cut prior to 1851. The party saved between 125 and 150 arduous miles of wilderness travel, or about ten days on the road. The tracks of the Southern Pacific railway parallel much of this cut-off today.

The volume is attractively printed on good paper and in a clear, well-designed type-face. Footnotes illuminate doubtful references in the text and clarify occasional uncertainties. The introduction by the editors is helpful, and an appendix on the diarist's family is supplied. The index is a copious one. Altogether, the production is creditable to all concerned.

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