Lomask, a defender of the constitution, a high-minded political philosopher, and a poor politician—but he, no more than either Johnson's friends or his numerous biographers, solves the enigma of Johnson's character and personality. He should, however, receive full praise and credit for careful research, lucid presentation, and the rigid avoidance of the temptations to editorialize and to strike spurious parallels with later situations.

WILLIAM B. HESSELTINE
University of Wisconsin


In the spring of 1953, Professor Ernest Wallace of Texas Technological College was at Harvard on a Ford Foundation Grant. And while listening to Samuel Eliot Morison enrich an American Revolution course with a source book of the period, Wallace argued the case for one in Texas history. Now eight years later with the able assistance of David M. Vigness he has completed the first volume of Documents of Texas History.

Beginning in 1582 with excerpts from the Pánfilo de Narváez and the Cabeza de Vaca expedition, this source book runs the gamut of outstanding events in Texas, ending with President Anson Jones' speech on February 18, 1846, "The Republic of Texas is No More." Between these two dates Wallace has accumulated not only important political documents of French and Spanish exploration and settlement of Texas, of Mexican rule and Texas' rebellion, and of a new republic's struggle for survival but also descriptions of life in colonial Texas during Spanish, Mexican, and republican times. With each entry he has presented a short essay, explaining the conditions at the time of the document's existence, and for readability and clarity he has inserted here and there a date, word, or phrase.

Although the cover is rather flimsy and destructible, solid content, thorough editing and indexing, and good printing more than make up for the one deficiency. Indeed through this careful presentation of fact, Wallace and Vigness have achieved for professors and students of Texas history what they hoped to accomplish—that the "motives, both sordid and unselfish, that gave impulse to the work of the Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Anglo-Americans, the toil and privations by which the land was won and a new society created, and the pleasures and sorrows experienced in the process, become clear."

BEN PROCTOR
Texas Christian University


Author Marti, Printer Kennedy, and Publisher Howell have combined resources to bring forth a handsome, finely printed, and thoroughly researched book. The well-known but little understood figure of Archibald Gillespie emerges more clearly. Possessed of considerable talent and good connections, the "Messenger of Destiny" is a man whose place in history depends in great measure upon a single incident. As a special messenger from President Polk to the enigmatic John C. Frémont, Gillespie crossed Mexico posing as a merchant, took a ship to Hawaii, and finally arrived in California at the opportune moment. Contents of the portentous message are still unknown, but there can be little doubt but that it altered Frémont's course of action and brought him back to the scene of impending military action. The conclusion reached is that Gillespie was sent to California to combat the work of foreign agents who were attempting to acquire California.

Certain defects in Gillespie's character, among them a contempt for His-