

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

was followed by a second edition in the following year and a third in 1773, all three in German text.

Until this year no complete translation in English has been published, altho Charles Rau made an English translation of portions of the work which were published in the annual reports of the Smithsonian Institute of 1863 and 1864. A complete Spanish translation was published in Mexico in 1942, and now the University of California Press has published a beautifully illustrated edition in English, from translations made by M. M. Brandenburg and Carl L. Bauman. The book is fully annotated and is a valuable contribution to the history of Lower California for the student, and is interesting reading for anyone who reads English.

Bitter at heart, Baegert wrote scathingly of the treatment meted out to the Jesuits and revealed shocking conditions existing among the natives of Lower California, whom he considered but one step above the wild beasts that surrounded them. His description of the country, its geography, botany and zoology is well done, but colored by his extreme distaste for Lower California and the hardships endured there by himself and his fellow missionaries.

Baegert covers the history of the peninsula from the first coming of the Spaniards to its shores, to the time of his expulsion. He added two appendices in which he explodes "false" reports about both the natives and his missionary brothers, expressing himself in no uncertain terms.

As a fine work, aside from its historical value, the book is a beautiful piece of the book makers art and the University of California Press can well be proud of this well printed and bound volume, a collectors' item in every sense of the word.

THE LARKIN PAPERS. Personal, Business, and Official Correspondence of Thomas Oliver Larkin, Merchant and United States Consul in California. Edited by George P. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library. Volume I 1822-1842 University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1951 Pp. xxi, 352, Color Frontispiece Portrait, Quarto \$10.00.

The most important contribution to the printed history of California in recent years is **THE LARKIN PAPERS** published by the Uni-

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versity of California Press of which Volume I has just been published.

THE LARKIN PAPERS are to be issued in ten large volumes and are comprised of the letters and documents of our only consul to California during the Mexican regime, Thomas Oliver Larkin. These documents passed through his hands during the years between 1822 and 1847. The first volume covers the years 1822-1842.

THE LARKIN PAPERS are a great mine of source material for California history, and their value is not surpassed by any one source yet published. The letters in the present volumes are from almost every influential American in the province, and many native Californians as well, all of which make mighty interesting reading to any one interested in the early days of California. These letters are packed with historical information of value.

Here we get an intimate knowledge of those early California pioneers who built the history of the state, and read the actual words used by such well known men in history, as Josiah Belden of Santa Cruz; Lewis T. Burton, Nicholas Den, John B. R. Cooper, Alfred Robinson and Alpheus B. Thompson of Santa Barbara; Abel Stearns, John Temple and Isaac Williams of Los Angeles; Nathan Spear, and William Sturgis of San Francisco, and Talbot H. Green, the secretary of the famous Bartleson-Bidwell party, who became a clerk for Larkin and later proved to be the absconder Paul Geddes, of Philadelphia. Captain Johann Sutter and William E. P. Hartnell, the sage of Salinas valley also wrote often to Larkin, as did the Californians, Jose Antonio Aguirre, Juan Bautista Alvarado, Mariano Castro, Francisco Pacheco and Miguel F. de Pedorena and many others.

These letters not only reveal obscure historical facts, but also give an insight into the characters of the writers that is clearer than told in any other way.

These valuable papers are to be issued in volumes from time to time and are to be sold at ten dollars a volume unless the series is subscribed for, when they will be billed at nine dollars each, and

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the University Press advises that a subscriber's subscription may be terminated at any time he may desire.

The University of California Press has done itself proud in the production of one of the handsomest volumes to be printed in the state for a long while. The typography, the styling, and the binding are just about perfect, and the color portrait frontispiece adds much to the beauty of the book.

ON THE BANKS OF THE ZANJA. *The Story of Redlands*. By Edith Parker Hinckley. The Saunders Press, Claremont, California. 1951, Pp. 149, Ills. 8vo. \$2.50.

Here is a beautiful little book replete with historical information on the lovely little city of Redlands, and the book is well-named, for Redlands was built on the banks of the *zanja*, the old irrigating ditch that came down from Mill Creek to carry water to the early orchards back in the days of Spanish settlement up to the present time.

Here is the history of Redlands from the days of the old *Lugo Rancho*, of which it was a part in Mexican days, to the thriving American city of today.

Mrs. Hinckley, who's life has been lived with the history of Redlands for the past forty-four years tells its story as only one can who is writing of their heart land. She has covered every phase of her home city in this, her second book, and has added another fine book to the historical literature of California.

Local history is always more interesting to read than any other type, and when written in the style used by Mrs. Hinckley, who puts so many personal touches in her story, it makes a book that charms the reader, whether he knows Redlands or not, and after reading ON THE BANKS OF THE ZANJA, you may be sure he will know Redlands at his earliest opportunity.

The book, as is always the case with a Saunders Press book, is well designed and appropriately bound. The illustrations are fine and well chosen.

This book is a contribution to local history of California that