

and the Russian orientation. In its final pages we naturally come upon highly controversial grounds. The author is a bitter critic of Chiang K'ai-Shih (Chiang Kai-shek) whom he accuses, in an interesting parallel, of betraying the revolution much as did Yuan Shih-K'ai. His overthrow he believes is imminent, for "the Left, conscious of its revolutionary mission, will never accept defeat". In the immediate prospects of China he consequently finds no reason for "undue optimism", but like every revolutionary he is confident of the ultimate success of his cause. For the general reader the book is perhaps too detailed and confusing through its introduction of so many personalities; for the student of Chinese politics it is invaluable.

FOSTER RHEA DULLES

BUILDERS OF THE BAY COLONY by Samuel Eliot Morison (HOUGHTON MIFFLIN. \$5.00)

Most of the recent volumes dealing with early Massachusetts are likely to prove as transitory as the tercentenary pageants, but while Mr. Morison puts pen to paper the writing of history will never be a lost art. The understanding which his book reveals has not been acquired through a few months of intensive research. He knows this life of early Massachusetts as a certain few writers know the conditions of present day life. The result is that his *Builders of the Bay Colony*, the chapters of which were first given before the Lowell Institute in honor of the approaching tercentenary of Massachusetts, possesses a depth of insight.

Great enterprises seldom spring from a single motive. Several thousand Englishmen did set out to establish a Puritan Commonwealth in New England. It is also true that Hakluyt and a few other Englishmen had been seeking to arouse their countrymen to a colonizing zeal such as gave Spain and France great colonial possessions in the new world. The Reverend John White had seen

the possibilities in the codfish industry which for so long was to bring prosperity to the colony, and had tried to establish Roger Conant and his fishermen at Gloucester. Conditions in England fostered grave fears for the future. Work was hard to secure, and the obvious remedy lay across the sea in a land of great natural resources. "Puritan" did not mean what it means today, but there was menace in the word for all that. Mr. Morison reveals how the swiftness with which thousands flocked to the Bay Colony, so that not Boston alone but many of the surrounding cities and towns were founded within a very few years, arose from a combination of causes. In an earlier day Columbus had proved a golden-tongued orator; now Captain John Smith had shown himself a successful if not strictly veracious salesman.

Mr. Morison's account of this unique venture is well-rounded because he selects the subjects for his gallery of portraits from many phases of the life of the Bay Colony. As these figures rise before us, Captain John Smith, Reverend John White, the two Winthrops, Thomas Shepard, Nathaniel Ward, Anne Bradstreet, Robert Child, Henry Dunster, John Eliot, we understand how a strong state sprung into existence in the brief years in which most colonies struggle for bare existence.

DOROTHEA LAWRENCE MANN

THE OLD CHINA TRADE by Foster Rhea Dulles (HOUGHTON MIFFLIN. \$4.00)

THE SANTA FE TRAIL by Robert Luther Duffus (LONGMANS, GREEN. \$5.00)

IN THE course of our devious reading we have come upon two books which we enthusiastically nominate to honorable places on the shelves devoted to Americana. Singly they present, one—a stirring picture of our early merchant marine in the Pacific, and the other—a story of the first of the hazardous trails which connected the American East and West. Together they constitute an

important and excitatious addition to the history of the march of empire and the conquest of trade which have, so to speak, put us more than slightly on the map.

Mr. Dulles in his *The Old China Trade* offers a work of some magnitude. He gives us the thoroughly documented story of the confusion in which the merchant seamen of the young republic found themselves immediately after the signing of the treaty which marked England's acceptance of American independence; of how, to solve the problem of opening new trade routes, they drove their absurdly small ships, manned by absurdly young crews, around the Cape of Good Hope and later around the Horn, and continued, until 1844, with the utmost courage and audacity, to build up our enormously rich commerce with China. After that date, treaties with the Flowery Kingdom gave our Oriental trade the benefit of diplomatic relations and ushered in a new era—with which Mr. Dulles does not concern himself. Very wisely he has confined his research and his narrative within a certain, and always fascinating, period, with the result that here we have not only a record which will be of priceless assistance to the student and an inspiration to the writer of adventure fiction, but the casual reader will be entranced by the amazing true tale which Mr. Dulles tells, the sheer romance of the thing—preposterous, unbelievable.

Aside from its more serious intent as an authentic slice of American maritime history and the clarity of its style, the book imparts the odor of sandalwood and tea and spices, and the tang of those high, bright winds which must naturally blow around so good a tale of the sea.

In *The Santa Fe Trail* Mr. Duffus has produced a saga of moving life and color which must have caused him some pains to hold always within bounds. Tracing the record of the men who followed the first faint paths across prairie and desert, the facts, flaming with import and glamour, al-

most run away with themselves. Yet Mr. Duffus plays no pranks with history. From the sixteenth-century Conquistadors who wound their long way up from the Caribbean, and the French and later the American traders and wanderers—restless souls, hungry for land, seeking gold and avid for the stark, desperate adventure of facing the unknown miles and dangers that lay between the eastern states and the old Spanish town of Santa Fe lying drowsy and seductive under the southern sun—down to the laying of those iron and steel trails which annihilated one brand of life and enterprise only to institute another equally infused with vitality, the author of this enthralling record presents at once an historical document and a panorama filled with men, women and events—exciting, significant and unforgettable.

Mr. Duffus writes with an unerring sense of both the national and the human drama, and he employs a fine balance between such imagery as fills his literary chinks and the facts upon which he builds his book.

ARISTOPHANES' *LYSISTRATA* *A New Version by Gilbert Seldes* (FARRAR & RINEHART. \$2.00)

THIS modernized edition in "a language suitable to our own time", of Aristophanes' comedy-masterpiece has, since its gorgeously pictorial presentation on both the Philadelphia and the New York stage, called forth a hurricane of gusty and ribald laughter and an equal amount of shocked criticism.

Just offhand, we would venture to say that it is a trifle late to criticize *Lysistrata* per se, realizing that the dramatic critics of 411 B.C. probably used up a good many wax tablets and parchment scrolls trying to decide whether this uproarious piece of political satire—in which the patriotic women of Greece deny themselves to their husbands until the latter shall agree to put an end to the war—was worth-while propaganda for a lasting world peace or just another bit of phos-