

THE NEW GRAND CANYON BOOK.

This is "In and Around the Grand Canyon," by George Wharton James, just published by Little, Brown & Co. It is a good sized book, with many photographic illustrations, as well of the Grand Canyon as of the author, on excellent paper. The pictures of the canyon are handsome and valuable, but there should have been a map, also an index, in a work of this sort. Books of any pretensions are not complete nowadays unless indexed, and this book deals sufficiently with the history, geology and geography of its subject to be called a work of considerable pretensions. Its subject, of course, is the Grand Canyon (to follow the author's spelling) of the Colorado river in Arizona.

Though Mr. James spells cañon, canyon, which it is quite lawful to do, he does otherwise with Zuñi, for instance, spelling it Zuni, with neither tilde nor y. On the other hand, he goes out of his way to spell Santa Fe, Santa Fé, thus departing both from the better Spanish practice and from that of the A. T. & S. F. railway company.

Mr. James may be well acquainted with Spanish (one ought to be before writing books on the south-west) but one is tempted to conjecture that he is not learned in the early history of his re-

gion; the early American history, that is. Otherwise he could hardly, for instance, have made so frequent mention of the geographical name Williams without giving some account of Old Bill Williams himself; nor would he have followed Major Powell into one very strange error.

In his historical survey, he says, on page 18, "In 1855, a party of several men, led by one Ashley, made an attempt to come through the canyon, and they were soon wrecked, and all but Ashley and one companion drowned." His authority is Major Powell, to whom he dedicates his book, and whose ignorance (in 1872) in this matter has often been wondered at. The Ashley who attempted to descend Green or Colorado river was General William H. Ashley of St. Louis, who was lieutenant-governor of Missouri from 1820 to 1824, a member of congress and a very conspicuous man in his time. It was in 1825 that he made this venture, not 1855, and none of his men were lost, if his narrative has been correctly transmitted.

One thing which strikes the reader is the number of features of the canyon region which the author says he has himself named. In this regard, as in the matter of personal narration, the contrast with a somewhat similar work, Colonel Chittenden's "Yellowstone National Park," is very marked. It is not

every traveler who bestows names right and left and then puts them in a book.

There is some curious, and, I believe, entirely fresh information concerning John D. Lee, the Mormon, which the author has collected at first hand.

A. T. R.

WILLIAM B. CARLILE.


In the issue of August 8th, a short biographical sketch of William B. Carlile appeared, which should have been credited to The Argus of Chicago, Ills. The publishers take this means of making the matter right.

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