

vera Historical Society hopes to protect everyone, so far as possible, in his own rights.

And last but not least, they hope to collect data in published Reports and in manuscripts that shall be conclusive and authentic.

We can scarcely hope to decide "That Great Elusive Myth" either as to location or magnitude, but in time we hope to see this condition prevail: If a student wishes to know all there is to be known, that is real truth, about Quivera he will be obliged to go to the records, reports and annals of the Quivera Historical Society.

The Conservative is the official organ and will contain announcements from time to time relating to the work of the society. It is the only medium through which you can keep in touch with the society and every one interested should carefully scan every number.

While all details are not fully arranged, it is a settled fact that the next meeting of the Quivera Historical Society will be held at "Logan Grove," the beautiful home of Captain Robert Henderson, near Junction City, Kansas, some time during the month of August, 1902.

A monument will then be unveiled marking (approximately) the point to which Coronado penetrated in 1542, and commemorating the rediscovery of this important place by J. V. Brower.

The address will be delivered by our president, Hon. J. V. Brower of St. Paul, Minnesota, and the poem for the occasion by E. E. Blackman of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Last but not least, the Banquet in honor of the occasion will be given by Capt. Robert Henderson. We look forward with much delight to the hour when all the members of the Quivera Historical Society shall meet at the bountiful board of Capt. Henderson.

E. E. BLACKMAN,

Vice-President Quivera Historical Society.

Roca, Nebr., Dec. 17, 1901.

COUNTRY LIFE IN AMERICA.

The January Country Life in America is a California number with superb pictures characteristic of this unique and beautiful magazine, and wholly devoted to the out-door world on the Pacific coast. The special covers show big trees of the Sierras, and, a magnificent frontispiece, the blooming orchards at the foot of snow-capped mountains. The leading article, by L. H. Bailey, tells of the diversified beauties and peculiarities of the land that flowers in winter and sleeps in summer, where thunder storms are not and where the sun shines everlastingly. Pioneer days are recalled by "The Heroes of the Firing Line," a poem by Joaquin Miller; the trend

of wonderful development is the theme of "Country Life in California," by A. J. Wells; and "The Story of a Great California Estate," by Charles Howard Shinn, naturally follows. Throughout, the unusual opportunities for illustrating California at its best have been well taken, but of particularly striking beauty are several series of photographs. Of these, "The Cypressess of Monterey" show a picturesque feature of the southern coast; the Yucca Palms and Gila monsters, the weird life in the Mojave desert; and the poppies and poppyworts furnish the color that gives California its fame as a land of flowers. Then in a practical way, a portion of the number is given to the making of homes and gardens, the culture and commercial handling of fruits, and to many aspects of the soil. Certainly Country Life in America grows better with every number, and proves the grip that life under the open skies has upon us Americans.

FIRST ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

We wonder greatly at Mr. Noah Brooks having chosen the above title for an account of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In what sense can those two officers be said to have been the first across the continent? We have not seen Mr. Brooks' book; possibly he may qualify the impossible claim suggested by its title, in the inside of it. There must be something unusual about the book, for it is advertised as "concisely and accurately compiled for the first time from authentic records." This, considering what Dr. Coues' edition of Lewis and Clark is, amounts to fully as curious a statement as the other; the two together really arouse curiosity. One would not suppose that publishers of the rank of the Scribners would consent to two misstatements of such magnitude, nor that an author of the long standing of Noah Brooks would propose them. One would also be glad to believe that neither writer nor publisher could be led into error in these matters through lack of information. But the more one stirs about in western history, the less surprised is he to meet any degree of ignorance in any quarter.

Anything is welcome that will attract people's attention to that great exploring expedition; but there is a definite need of a certain edition of the captains' journals, and we are rather sorry to see a new work come out that is not the one we want to see. Apparently this one is in the nature of a juvenile, in which case there is no room for criticism. It is not, at any rate, the first time we have been disappointed. A biography of the captains was announced a couple of years ago, written

by a young man named Lightan, which aroused hopes. A new edition of the journals could not, of course, be looked for under this guise; but one might reasonably have expected more light on General Clark's career than it proved to furnish. He was occupied for parts of three years in his exploration; for the first half of the century he was the foremost figure in Indian affairs in the United States. One can understand why Dr. Coues in editing the journals should have slighted this major portion of his career; but why should a "biographer" confine himself to the information furnished by Dr. Coues? It would be a very interesting task for some one to undertake who had access to the records at Washington and St. Louis, to show exactly what General Clark's work among the Indians consisted of.

As to the journal of the great expedition, an equally important and attractive task also remains for some one to undertake. The fact is that no respectable edition of the journals is now available to the buyer. The only one offered by dealers is one copyrighted by the Harpers in 1842. It consists of the bare text, and not a very good text, according to the authorities, and without notes, explanatory or critical. Who, in fact, could offer additional information on the country traveled, in 1842? From this state of poverty we passed to the extreme of embarrassing wealth with Dr. Coues' edition, which gives all that anyone can possibly ask to know, and something more. But Dr. Coues' Lewis & Clark sells for \$30 and upwards, and even at that, one may inquire for years without finding a copy. There is room—and a demand—for a compact and not too high-priced edition of this work, containing a reasonable amount of the supplementary information collected by Dr. Coues, or which has accrued since his day. It does not seem probable that Mr. Brooks has furnished anything to this purpose at all; but we hope that some competent person may do so before long.

THE CANDLE ON THE PLATE.

"The year that I lived in Chicago I noticed one night in passing through the Polish Jew quarter something I have since seen elsewhere," writes the Rev. David M. Steele in the Ladies' Home Journal. "It was 'the candle on the plate.' A man dies and for want of means to pay the rent his family is to be turned out on the street. The widow sets a plate on the pavement before the door and puts a lighted candle on it. For the length of time that it will burn, it is a summons to the neighbors passing by to put in nickels, dimes and pennies—which invariably they do—until a fund is raised sufficient to save the family from eviction. Would the same thing happen on the Stock Exchange if a bank failed?"