

rhetorical bombast in which the alleged facts are hidden, he finds the fruit utterly unsound. This writer, who is an American of most pronounced anti-British proclivities, has certainly obtained access to public records and private memoranda of a most valuable nature but the use, or rather mis-use, which he has made of his privileges and opportunities has been such that his "authorities" will in the majority of cases be found to be widely at variance with the statements with which he credits them. In addition to the untrustworthiness of his facts his book is written from that standpoint of antagonism to British institutions which characterizes the half-educated and bitterly-patriotic citizen of the American republic. This gentleman has "written up" (the expression is used advisedly as being the only one applicable to his style of work) the whole Pacific Coast of North America, and has presented the result of his "long historical pilgrimage from Darien to Alaska" in forty odd volumes. The arrangement of the whole work is so ingenious that without repeated reference to all the others a reader is unable intelligently to peruse any one of these volumes, and he is constantly experiencing the most remarkable transitions in time and space, of the many efforts of the writer's genius, and when they are placed side by side they fill a good sized book-case, it would be difficult to choose the one to which, for intrinsic worthlessness the palm should be awarded. If, however, there is one more than another which combines the quality of dullness with the quality of mendacity it is the volume on British Columbia. The facts it contains are indeed scanty, but they are sufficient for Mr. Bancroft's purpose. To the ordinary reader the book is an enigma. There is not even an attempt at chronological sequence in the arrangement of his facts. The matter is thrown together at hap-hazard and to the ingenuity of the reader is left the task of bringing some sort of order out of the chaotic mass. There is, too, throughout the whole volume a clearly defined impatience at treating of the subject at all, the writer's democratic instincts evidently rebelling against the prostitution of his pen to such ignoble uses as that of recording the events which have occurred in a British colony.

Among the number of books connected with British Columbia which I have thought it necessary to read is one entitled the "Story of Metlakathla" to which I shall make reference hereafter. The author of this work, who is also an American, quotes with evident