

*Lady Franklin Visits the Pacific Northwest: Being Extracts from the Letters of Miss Sophia Cracroft, Sir John Franklin's Niece, February to April, 1861 and April to July, 1870.* Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Dorothy Blakey Smith, Victoria, B.C. Provincial Archives Memoir No. XI, 1974. Pp. 157, illus.

The image of Bishop George Hills preaching to the roughened clientele of the International Boarding House at Yates and Douglas in Victoria in the spring of 1861, while the billiard games click on in an adjoining room, is one of many delightful vignettes found in Sophia Cracroft's letters. If this were all they contained, however, they would hardly have merited Dr. Blakey Smith's attention or publication by the Provincial Archives. But "Sophy" is far more than a casual tourist with a flair for description.

In an introduction which neatly and expertly provides all relevant biographical data and more general historical background, Dr. Blakey Smith sets forth her opinions about the value of the letters. Firstly, of course, Sophia is not alone. As the title suggests, she is actually the lesser-known half of a duo of Victorian Englishwomen who are well travelled even before reaching the infant colony of Vancouver Island. Her aunt, Lady Franklin, is the widow of the famous Arctic explorer and a woman of powerful personality and firm opinions who by 1860 is a noted public figure throughout the English-speaking world. Sophia, her constant companion and confidante, shares all her aunt's adventures. She shares many of Lady Franklin's attitudes as well, including what Dr. Blakey Smith notes was a very unfashionable belief in the importance of colonies and a "deep-rooted mistrust of the great American experiment in government and a fastidious shrinking from American manners." The editor makes it clear that this community of thought lends extra significance to the letters because, as she puts it, "... while the hand is the hand of Sophy, the voice, the reader feels, is often the voice of Jane [Franklin]."

Not that Sophia is a mere cipher. The quality of her general descriptions and her carefully drawn portraits of colonial officials and their families as well as more minor characters should easily convince the reader of her abilities as an observer of men and manners.

Dr. Blakey Smith also draws our attention to the fortuitous nature, from our point of view, of the timing of the two visits. In 1861 the gold rush is very much in full swing and the pair travel as far up the Fraser as Yale, in addition to spending a good deal of time at Victoria. Thus they have ample opportunity to be exposed to the social and political effects of the rush. As well, they are able to visit some of the diggings

themselves. Significantly, it is not the excitement over gold which has drawn them to the region but rather the presence of one friend, Captain George Richards, and a request from another, Angela Burdett-Coutts. The latter was the patron of the new Anglican diocese of Columbia and was very anxious to have a first-hand account of the progress made by Bishop Hills. Although Lady Franklin's interest in this matter is not as directly personal, it is hardly less intense, since she was a staunch but not uncritical adherent of the Church of England.

The visit nine years later is not so purposeful and is both shorter and geographically more circumscribed, including only brief stops at Victoria, the American camp at San Juan, and Nanaimo on the way north to Sitka, together with a very brief stay at Victoria on the return voyage.

However, during both visits, Sophia's — and, we must presume, Lady Franklin's — intense concern for the welfare and development of the young colonies, their constant weighing of the American presence politically and American influence socially, is fully in evidence. Sophy is well aware, on both occasions, of the importance of the timing of their visits. On reaching Victoria in 1870 she writes: "We have arrived at an interesting moment . . ." — referring to the appointment of Governor Musgrave and the immediacy of the whole question of Confederation. We are not surprised to find her upset that the San Juan issue, which was news in 1861, has not been resolved, and fearful, as she was before, that the British government would fail to recognize the value of British Columbia.

At the risk of further repeating what the editor covers so well in the introduction, it should also be noted that these letters are of particular value because they were never meant to be published. Thus details are set down with a freedom that gives an especially intimate quality to all the writing, not as much perhaps as a diary, but much more certainly than a book meant for the general public. When this aspect is combined with the knowledge that no door in the colonies, or for that matter in Portland or San Francisco, would be closed to such distinguished visitors, the results are, as Dr. Blakey Smith says, of considerable interest to the social historian. The pages teem with individuals and occasions, some of the latter staged especially for the benefit of Sophy and her aunt. They visit Governor Douglas and his family, attend church services on board ship at Esquimalt, visit the Songhee reserve, stay with the Moodys at New Westminster and take tea with the Crickmers at Yale. It is indeed intriguing, as the editor says, ". . . to see the familiar figures of our own past history in a less formal guise." One of these figures is Philip Hankin, a more or less constant companion on the journey up and down the

Fraser, who seems to take great delight in practical jokes as well as having a good time. The culmination comes at a special play put on by the Royal Engineers at Sapperton in honour of Lady Franklin's stay, where Hankin, unannounced, leaps onto the stage and executes a brilliant hornpipe.

Dr. Blakey Smith keeps us excellent company throughout the whole of the letters with fine footnotes which explain, often in fascinating detail, unfamiliar names, places, events, books and songs. These represent, together with the introduction, the very high level of scholarship without any pedantry that we first experienced with her edition of the journal of Arthur Thomas Bushby (*BCHQ*, Vol. XXI, pp. 83-198). There is also a good index and some very well chosen photographs whose captions reflect the general quality of the editorship.

In a foreword dated 25 July 1945 to *The Journal of John Work*, which was Memoir No. X, published by the British Columbia Provincial Archives, Acting Provincial Archivist Madge Wolfenden expressed the hope that "... the Archives would be enabled to continue its publications which of necessity have been discontinued in recent years." At that time, thirteen years had elapsed since the publication of No. IX in 1931. The quality of No. XI makes one hope that the interval between the numbers in this series can be reduced so we may be treated more often to material of the calibre given to us by Dr. Blakey Smith.

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*Success and Failure: Indians in Urban Societies*, W. T. Stanbury and Jay H. Segal, University of British Columbia Press, 1975.

The Stanbury and Segal study is a long-overdue and valuable contribution to the original literature describing the urbanization pattern of Canadian Indians in British Columbia. Specifically, their work provides a statistical analysis of the adjustment patterns exhibited by a sample of 1,095 status Indians who at the time of the study resided within the confines of British Columbia's urban communities. By the utilization of this data, the researchers have successfully illustrated the social and economic conditions that confront B.C.'s urban native peoples.

This investigation yields a sophisticated analysis of the demographic characteristics, educational achievements, standards of health, rates of labour-market participation and income levels of the sample. Hence the