the oval engravings which head each section and invoke an antique atmosphere, the type and quality paper—all have been coordinated by Keith Montague into a singularly harmonious design. The presswork, unfortunately, is uneven, with some page impressions alternately light and heavy and too many "high risers," lines of type that are markedly darker than the rest, an irritation to the reader. The publisher, so bent on excellence, must feel like the farmer whose cow put her foot in the milk. One peccadillo about mechanics: the footnotes are numbered consecutively so that by the time we reach the end of the volume we are up to footnote number 252. Since the footnotes immediately follow each diary entry the convention of assigning each page, or each entry, its own series, would have been simpler.

Unhappily, Peregrine Smith has announced that because of economic pressures, the Classic Mormon Diary Series will not be continued beyond Manchester Mormons. We can only hope that the other two diaries announced for the series—the journals of Charles L. Walker and Thomas Bullock—will be printed by other publishers.


Reviewed by Clarice Short, professor of English, emeritus, University of Utah.

The term "barbed wire" has several connotations: impediment to a charging infantry in wartime, the fringe along the top of prison walls, or simply the taut strand marking boundaries and the end of the freedom known to an unfenced world. But the photograph on the dust jacket of the book Barbed Wire: Poetry and Photographs of the West with its leaning posts, its tangled strands of barbed wire, and the clutter of what appears to be baling wire around what might have been corner posts or gateposts suggest desolation. Whatever use the fence originally had, it has lost.

This picture, like most of the others in the book, has the paradoxical quality of dealing gently with harsh materials. There is a kind of poignancy about the broken fences, the machines left to rust away, and the iron fences around the graves in the neglected cemetery. For the most part, the pictures are impressions rather than il-
Illustrations. The effect produced by the book results from the combining of the two arts. The two reinforce each other. The effect is not earthshaking, but gains strength from the fact that both poetry and pictures are close to the earth.

The poetry gives the impression of being composed by a person who recognizes the limits of his range and stays within them. Mr. Harris almost invariably adopts the right tone and knows when to stop. Some of the poems, such as "Rock Pile," are almost purely descriptive, but the descriptions are accurate and fresh. One sees the lichen creeping toward the top of the newest rock. It would be difficult to find more precise words to describe the death of a cottontail than Harris uses in "Hawk." The poems dealing with the pathos of the human situation avoid sentimentality. "Hay Derrick" describes an accident which takes the life of one who is probably the oldest son and mainstay of a farm family. The poem is carefully constructed in unrhymed quatrains, the first of which ends with the symbolic "low stack/ Of hay against the pale sky." The last stanza is a superb example of understatement:

They left the stack unfinished
To bleach in the summer sun,
And the autumn winds stirred the hay
Like unkempt hair on the head of a boy.

There is enough humor to balance the pathos, and in several poems there is only a delicate line separating the two tones. One of the most memorable passages in the book occurs in the poem called "The Assassination of Emma Gray." Old Jerome, kneeling in the mud to ask forgiveness of Emma, a very fat, very old sow, for butchering her is not ridiculous; he is akin to all the men of the earth who recognize their brotherhood with all living things and ask pardon of the tree that is felled and the deer that is shot.

In a collection of poems almost entirely devoid of classical allusion, the one that is used in "Tag, I. D." is particularly striking and apt. Harris calls the identification tag of the soldier the "Stainless steel coin/ For the boatman."

Pictures and poems taken together, this would be a hard book not to enjoy.

Reviewed by Richard D. Poll, professor of history, Western Illinois University, Macomb.

The most interesting single chapter in this collection of letters which appeared originally in the Philadelphia Daily Evening Bulletin is the last, “In Search of a Soldier” (pp. 188-204). Here the editor, who is presently Associate Curator of the National Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution, reports the first-class piece of historical detective work by which he reached a tentative identification of the author of twenty-five dispatches from a soldier-journalist-goldseeker which appeared in 1858 and 1859 over the pseudonym “Utah.”

Harold D. Langley has convinced this reviewer that “Utah” was Henry W. Fischer (or Fisher), a German immigrant who had some journalistic experience in Pennsylvania before he enlisted in the Second Dragoons in March 1858 at the age of twenty-seven. As one of the reinforcements for the Utah Expedition who were recruited while the fate of General Albert Sydney Johnston’s forces at Camp Scott was still uncertain, he received a few weeks training at Carlisle Barracks before moving to Fort Leavenworth, from which his first published letter bears the date 28 May. He marched (or rode horseback) from Kansas to Utah, arriving in August after Thomas L. Kane, Alfred Cumming and the “peace commissioners” had brought the “Mormon rebellion” to an end. Fischer—if “Utah” was Fischer—spent several months at Camp Floyd before being given a disability discharge as the result of a wound received in a skirmish with the Ute Indians. He then journeyed to southern California and to the gold diggings on the Gila River in what was then New Mexico Territory. Illness forced him back to Los Angeles and after a last letter dated 23 May 1859, “Utah” dropped out of the Philadelphia Bulletin and out of history.

The letters justify republication, “Utah” being a remarkably literate and entertaining observer and commentator on many of the events of which he was aware. Quotations from English and American poets and pundits share space with pro-Republican comments on the national political scene. James Buchanan is no favorite of “Utah” (or of the Bulletin, which may be one reason why the dispatches were printed). The character and courage of the Utah
Expedition's officers, with a few exceptions, do not impress "Utah," nor does the overall caliber of the enlisted personnel. Drunkenness, desertions and discipline—the last usually lax but sometimes brutal—draw critical comment, though individuals are praised and the combat potential of the common soldiers is held in high regard. Brief descriptions of Forts Leavenworth, Kearney, Laramie, Bridger and Floyd are supplemented by contemporary sketches supplied by the editor; the scenery of the Overland Trail, Utah and the Southwest, about which "Utah" is often ecstatic, is similarly treated. Descriptions of the Indians from Kansas to California are more sympathetic than one might expect from a soldier on the frontier. "Utah" strongly sympathizes with the Utes at Spanish Fork in their early troubles with the United States Army.

Langley has done a generally good job of editing the letters, and the University of Utah Press has made them attractively available, with contemporary illustrations, photocopies of some of the military records relevant to "Utah's" identification, and maps which are mildly anachronistic in that they locate the routes and place names of the 1850s on the states as their boundaries are today. Footnotes identify almost all of the people mentioned in the letters and many of the events mentioned by "Utah" are informatively explained. The fifteen-page introduction concentrates on the background of the Utah troubles and the recruitment and training of the 1858 reinforcements. The style is clear but a bit choppy; one might argue with the way a few details are handled, but the treatment is basically accurate.

*To Utah With the Dragoons* is weakest in those parts which are probably of greatest interest to the readers of *Brigham Young University Studies*. "Utah" apparently never had more than superficial contact with the Mormons, although the conventional anti-Mormon bias of his first dispatches gives way to a very sympathetic view of the LDS people as he meets them on the Overland Trail and among the workmen at Camp Floyd. If he ever went into Salt Lake City or Provo, it is not indicated in his letters, and his perspective on the controversies among Governor Cumming, General Johnston, Judge Eckels, et al., is that of a reader of newspapers and listener to barracks rumors. He reports seeing Brigham Young when the Mormon president visited the camp on several occasions, and being once introduced by the bricklayer-bishop with whom "Utah" was at the time working as a hod carrier. He expresses emphatic
admiration for Young as a man, but not for his doctrines; nor does he think much of the 1858 editorial policies of the Deseret News.

Langley's notes, too, are disappointing with regard to Utah affairs. Although he identifies the LDS leaders mentioned in the letters, the editor adds nothing to the dispatch references to Mormons involved in building and operating Camp Floyd, nor does he provide context for "Utah's" cryptic and pro-Cumming references to the troubles among the gentile authorities in the occupied territory. Mexican politics, to which tangential references are made in the California dispatches, receives more attention in the footnotes than Utah politics in connection with the letters from Camp Floyd.

This collection of letters makes informative and often entertaining reading. The chapter, "In Search of a Soldier," might be used with profit in an undergraduate seminar on historical method.


Reviewed by Richard P. Howard, Church Historian, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Independence, Missouri.

The scholarly community bears a sizable debt to Robert Matthews for his monumental work on the "New Translation" of the Bible commenced by Joseph Smith in 1830 and published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1867. The term "monumental" is used in the sense that Matthews has consulted every possible source in his effort to set forth the chronology of events surrounding Smith's work on his "New Translation." With meticulous care Matthews has compiled, as no one before him, the myriad references from primary and secondary sources bearing directly and indirectly on the work of the "New Translation." His book traces not only the intricate and sometimes sketchy course of Smith's MS work, 1830-1844, but also the history of the text as published and edited by the Reorganized Church since 1867.

Matthews' interest in this subject dates back to the early 1940s when his first articles appeared in the Improvement Era. Since then he has labored tirelessly to help the membership of his church ap-