

BOOK REVIEWS

European Treaties bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies to 1648. Edited by Frances G. Davenport. Carnegie Institution. (Washington, D. C.: Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. 1917. Pp. vi, 387. \$2.50.)

Even a cursory examination reveals the fact that this book is the result of careful, thorough, and painstaking research. Although it is not so numbered, this is the first of three or more volumes, of which the second, to extend from 1648 to 1713, is in preparation. "Extraordinary pains have been taken by Dr. Davenport to find, in European archives, all the treaties and articles which her volume, as defined in her introduction, ought to contain, and to secure perfect accuracy in texts" (page iii, preface by Dr. Jameson).

The editor's well-worded, succinct introduction covering eight pages summarizes "the diplomatic aspect of the great struggle which, from the fifteenth century onwards, was in progress between the governments of the maritime powers of Europe, over the question of participation in the trade and territorial possession of the newly discovered lands" (page 1). The texts of the forty documents following are exhibits illustrating and supporting the statements made in this brief general introduction.

Not only is there this introduction to the entire collection, but each document is preceded by its own introduction elucidating the circumstances attending the negotiations which led to the formulation of the document. Each special introduction concludes with a bibliography which tells where the original text is, where it is printed in the original language, in case it has previously been printed, and where translations may be found, in case translations exist. The editor expresses her belief that four of the texts are here printed for the first time. Numerous references are also given to books containing comments on the documents, first, in contemporary and early writings, and, secondly, in later writings. Besides these bibliographies there are copious footnotes giving additional bibliographical facts, as well as interesting comments, and texts of related documents.

After the introduction and bibliography follows the text of each document in the language of the original. In some cases the text has been taken from the original manuscript. In case of all documents except one, of which no complete manuscript was found, the text used was collated with the original manuscript or a photograph thereof, or, in a few cases, with authenticated transcripts.

The language of the original of most documents is Latin. Next to Latin comes Spanish, then French, and finally Dutch. In case the language is other than French the original text is followed by an English translation. Even when translations were in existence, as in most cases, the editor has made her own, with a few specified exceptions. It is the reviewer's belief that no serious fault can be found with the translation.

The fact that no translation is supplied for French originals is somewhat surprising. The reason is the editor's assumption that anyone who could or would make intelligent use of the document could read French and therefore no translation was needed. In the main this assumption is correct. But it is entirely possible that the use of the collection may not be confined strictly to researchers. Doubtless many teachers of undergraduate classes will find frequent occasion to refer to this volume students some of whom read little or no French.

The title of the volume is slightly misleading, or rather inadequate, since nearly one third of the documents are not treaties at all but papal bulls. It would have been a great misfortune to exclude these in order to fit the title; but the title could have been modified slightly to include them.

The introductions to the forty documents, taken consecutively, almost constitute a history of European diplomacy during the period covered by the volume, since they are not confined to a study of the phases of the understandings which are of importance to a student of American history but include also facts and discussions having little or no bearing on any but European affairs. In fact the introductions probably would have proved more useful to the student of American history if they had been made shorter and had been confined to distinctly American affairs. The student of European history is hardly likely to look here for a continuous account of European diplomacy. If, however, he should happen to pass this way he will be pleased with his discovery.

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