

seeks to supplement public effort in the countries where it is undertaken."

Pursuing this a priori concept, the author reviews the history of Paraguay briefly, and examines the health of its people, their economic and social life, and their public and private education. Although the treatment in several chapters (particularly X, XI, XII) is theoretical in nature a very good picture is presented of contemporary Paraguayan life. There are no maps and no index, but a useful working bibliography and forty-six statistical tables add considerable value to the study.

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Jamaica of To-day. By A. HYATT VERRILL. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1931. Pp. xii, 232. \$2.50.)

West Indies of To-day. By A. HYATT VERRILL. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1931. Pp. viii, 298. \$2.50.)

Just forty years ago Frederick A. Ober, a then well-known writer on the West Indies, published *In the Wake of Columbus*. In 1923, Mr. A. Hyatt Verrill, known today by his numerous books on the West Indies, published in the same spirit *In the Wake of the Buccaneers*. Mr. Verrill has just published *West Indies of To-day* and *Jamaica of To-day*, which take the place of his earlier work *The Book of the West Indies*, which appeared in 1917.

For years Mr. Verrill has been bringing to the notice of his fellow-countrymen in a suitable manner the beauties and other attractions of the West Indies as a winter resort, which he is well able to do owing to his almost lifelong residence in the neighbourhood of the Caribbean, from the jungle to the sea coast; and when he is not doing scientific work he uses his pen to the advantage of the general reader. With Mr. Verrill in America and Sir Algernon Aspinall in England singing their praises, the Isles of the Antilles should with each succeeding year receive more visitors of the English-speaking races, and perchance more settlers.

In his earlier work, Mr. Verrill included Bermuda in the West Indies: now he has omitted it. This accords with the views of the Bermudians, who, except when it pleases them to join in West Indian

conferences, ever maintain that they do not belong to the West Indies. Their arms are, however, included with those of the West Indian colonies in the badge of the West India committee. Mr. Verrill has also omitted the Greater Antilles in his new work on the West Indies; but without them the title *The West Indies of To-day* is a little misleading.

Both volumes contain picturesque descriptive writing of scenery and conditions in the various islands and are freely illustrated with well-selected and well-executed reproductions of photographs. Mr. Verrill's historical statements are not quite accurate: and some of his deductions are open to question. He says that "freeing the blacks spelled the doom of the islands". If he would seriously compare the state of Jamaica at the time of emancipation with the present condition of its inhabitants, he would surely not persist in this statement. One is surprised to find that a writer who has professedly followed "in the wake of the Buccaneers" should be ignorant of the latter days of one of the chief of them—Sir Henry Morgan. Mr. Verrill says:

But at last so many complaints of his dishonesty, his cruelty and his despotic administration reached England that Morgan was stripped of his position and was recalled to England. What his ultimate end may have been is not positively known. It has been claimed that he lived and died quite peacefully under an assumed name in England; it has been stated on seemingly good authority that he settled in the American colonies where he was unknown; still another version is that he resumed his piratical career and was killed in an engagement; while still another relates that he was lured to a forsaken spot by one of his old shipmates and was spread-eagled upon the shore below high-water mark where he was left to die a thousand deaths as the waters slowly rose—the most appropriate even if least plausible fate of all.

Now in the first place, though Morgan was superseded in the government of Jamaica, he was never recalled to England: indeed he was after a time replaced in the council from which he had been removed. Secondly, though he quotes Sir Hans Sloane's work, Mr. Verrill is evidently unaware that Sloane attended Morgan in his latter days and refers to his case under the initials "H.M." Nor has he discovered that Morgan's death is recorded in the Record Office in Spanish-Town and that his burial on the Palisadoes is recorded in the log of the captain of H.M.S. *Assistance*, which had brought the Duke of Albemarle to Jamaica, and was destined to convey his body and his mad widow escorted by Sloane, back to England.

Mr. Verrill paints Morgan's character in very black colors, relying on Esquemelin's account of the Buccaneers, and ignoring the fact that Morgan prosecuted for libel the publisher of an English edition of the work, and secured a verdict and damages. Mr. Verrill says further, "I have never heard of a street, place, square, lane, road, court, avenue or even a mews named after Sir Henry Morgan." He has apparently never heard of Morgan's Valley.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Verrill makes no acknowledgment of the source of much of his information and of the map in *Jamaica of To-day*.

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