

It is to be regretted that all the papers included were not compelled to conform to some one editorial standard in that, as printed, they vary from the corrected stenographic reports of lectures, subsequently reviewed by the lecturer, to the carefully composed articles noted above. While the closely knit lecture form lends itself to classroom interest and can be perused with greater ease from the general reader point of view, it decreases the permanent value of the offering and leaves an impression of journalistic ephemeralism in the serious reader. However, as first fruits of a pioneering attempt the volume is distinctly worth while, and subsequent publications can be improved by a requirement that the written lectures be submitted in some standard form to the director of the seminar before they are delivered. There are some minor slips in editing and proofreading. The volume has an index.

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The Disaster of Darien: the Story of the Scots Settlement and the Causes of its Failure, 1699-1701. By FRANCIS RUSSELL HART, F. R. G. S. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929. Pp. xi, 433. \$5.00.)

The Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies. By GEORGE PRATT INSH, M.A., D.Litt., F. E. I. S. (London and New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932. Pp. 343. \$4.00.)

The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies, or the Darien Company as it later came to be designated, is not a topic new to investigators: the venture in its several phases has been recounted in many forms. Yet the author of each of these books gives justifiable motives for further exploration of the subject: Mr. Hart, that he has drawn upon unused Spanish sources, largely but not wholly found in the Archives of the Indies at Seville, for a better understanding of Spanish opposition to the Caledonia settlement; Dr. Insh, that now for the first time it is possible to weave into a definitive study the accumulation of a large amount of fresh and significant source material which has been made available within the last decade. Among the important sections of such material Dr. Insh mentions Mr. Hart's volume, his own studies, and the unbound miscellaneous papers of the company.

The treatment by Mr. Hart is more particularly concerned with the colonizing activities on the Isthmus of Darien. The first three chapters (56 pages in all) are devoted, by way of introduction, to a general account of the company and its preparations for the first expedition. The author adds nothing new to this portion of the story. But in the succeeding chapters he has used his Spanish material to throw much additional light upon the expeditions and especially upon the activities of the Spaniards in opposing the settlement. Here a distinct contribution has been made to the subject. The violent opposition to the company which arose in England came mostly from existing trading monopolies whose agents protested that the continuance of the Scottish enterprize would result in the loss of the colonial trade and render the acts of navigation useless. This phase of the controversy needed no further development. But fear of complications with the Spaniards who claimed the territory to be occupied by the Scots was also expressed. Too little emphasis has heretofore been placed on this motive of opposition to the company. Mr. Hart's closing chapters review the causes which contributed to the failure of the colony and the circumstances attending the dissolution of the company. The appendix, covering over half of the volume (pp. 181-426), prints 33 documents, 19 of which originate in the Archives of the Indies.

Dr. Insh, who has long been regarded as an outstanding authority on the subject, has produced what will probably remain the most frequently cited history of the company. In his narrative, which is told in a sprightly, entertaining style, he has used a wealth of primary and secondary sources; to make the study as complete as possible he has incorporated in his account passages from his earlier well-known works. His volume is divided into a prologue, three books with the scenes set respectively in Europe, America, and Africa and the Indies; an epilogue, and an appendix containing documents relating to the voyage of the *Content* and *Speedy Return* from Glasgow to Madagascar in 1701. Both volumes are illustrated and indexed.

The long proceedings in the parliaments of England and Scotland relating to the Darien Company are related in the second and third volumes of the parliamentary reports being issued by Carnegie Institution of Washington.¹ No reference to this work is made in either

¹ *Proceedings and Debates of the British Parliaments respecting North America*. Edited by Leo Frances Stock.—Ed.

of the books under review. Certainly its editor could greatly have enlarged and improved his annotations of these items had he then at his disposal the findings of Mr. Hart and Dr. Insh.

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The Two Americas: An Interpretation. By STEPHEN DUGGAN. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934. Pp. xx, 277. Index. \$1.75.)

An imposing list of "outstanding authorities in the field of Latin American relations" given in the Preface to this interpretation of the two Americas should favorably introduce this little book to the American reading public; and while this list may disarm the critic, the reviewer must, however, make certain comments which a careful reading of the book suggest.

The author's personal observations on a familiar subject would be worth while and readable. This book is. It is, however, more the performance of the pleasing platformist than the reasoned presentation of a documented book. In this sense, and in this sense alone, it is disappointing. The ambitious title of the book in comparison with the treatment within its covers compels me to make this criticism. The author may have had a similar thought back of his apologetic line "To the making of books there is no end." Therein he himself seems to question the need of a book of this character, as all writers must and do on the eve of putting to print their personal reminiscences and observations.

Dr. Duggan's purpose is, however, laudable, and his performance will be most welcome to a large sector of the reading public. He has written his book, somewhat hastily, perhaps, for a subject that suggests more serious treatment, with the idea or desire of service in creating sympathetic understanding between the peoples of the Americas. In that sense the book is not at all disappointing. Many similar books have been written to that end, and many more will be. Few, however, have and will have the sincerity of purpose and the success of performance to be expected in a book by one of the training and travel experience of Dr. Duggan.

There are only seven chapters in the book. In these chapters the author deals with the backgrounds and resultant civilizations of the two Americas; with their social institutions and economic transformation; with problems in our Hispanic-American relations; and with