

## NOTES AND COMMENT

### MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE ON HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, HELD IN CHATTANOOGA, DECEMBER 27, 1935

The program took place at the Read House after the annual luncheon of the group of Hispanic American historians. Professor Pierson, the chairman, called the meeting to order. He first announced the meeting of the group interested in Hispanic American History and research to be held immediately after the luncheon.

After delivering a short introduction on the study of Hispanic American History for its cultural value, Professor Pierson introduced the speaker of the day, Dr. John Tate Lanning, who spoke on the "Research Possibilities in the Cultural History of Colonial Spanish America". Dr. Lanning interestingly outlined the very rich cultural background of Hispanic American History and showed the need of studying the great Hispanic American writers. He said that it is just as necessary for Americans to be familiar with Spanish American scholasticism as with New England puritanism and that as great changes occurred in Spanish American culture as those which took place in Europe during the renaissance. He mentioned the chief depositories of manuscripts and the great mass of material still practically untouched awaiting the scholar's pen; and made some valuable suggestions concerning future research on certain phases of Hispanic American History, where little or nothing has yet been done, for instance, medical history and the history of Spanish American universities and colleges.

After a short recess to enable those who wished to attend other meetings, the chairman called together those who wished to discuss business matters connected with the conference.

Dr. Alfred Hasbrouck, chairman of the program committee, made a statement relative to the finances of the conference.

It was moved and seconded that the organization ask the American Historical Association for the fifty dollars promised several years ago to the Hispanic American History group, but which had never been

received, to help meet the expenses of the conference. On further motion, duly seconded, it was resolved that the chairman designate a person to approach the American Historical Association on the subject. The chairman, accordingly, designated Dr. Rippey for this duty. A collection of \$5.40 was taken to defray secretarial expenses.

On motion, duly seconded, concerning the matter of recognition of the conference by the American Historical Association, it was resolved that the report of the secretary of the conference should be included in the annual report of the American Historical Association.

The nominating committee for the conference of 1936, reported the following slate, all the nominees being by acclamation: secretary-treasurer, Lillian E. Fisher; members of the committee to prepare for the next conference, Joseph B. Lockey, chairman, C. H. Haring, and E. T. Parks.

On motion, duly seconded, it was resolved to publish the minutes of each conference in *THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*.

There being no further business, the conference was then adjourned.

LILLIAN E. FISHER, *Secretary*.

## ST. DOMINGUE IN ANGLO-SPANISH DIPLOMACY IN 1795

In 1795, Lord Grenville wrote:

The cession of the Spanish Part of St. Domingo [to France] is a stipulation the more extraordinary because it not only militates against the essential interests of Spain, whose Political Existence depends upon the tranquility of her American Possessions, but it is in direct violation of the Treaty of Utrecht, renewed by the last Treaty of Peace between this country and Spain. . . . It is indeed hardly possible to imagine how any man, who has looked at the situation of the West Indies, and at the conduct of the French there, during the war, can imagine the Spanish Possessions in America, or any of them, could be safe for one year, after the French Republic should have been established in the Peaceable Possession of St. Domingo.<sup>1</sup>

Such was Grenville's first comment on the treaty of Basle, signed between Spain and France, July 24, 1795. He said nothing about the recent plan of the English ministry to send Pierre Victor Malouet to St. Domingue in order to promote coöperation between the British and

<sup>1</sup> Grenville to Bute, *most secret*, August 7, 1795. Public Record Office, Foreign Office, 72/38.