

*Cuarenta Años de Mi Vida: 1898-1938.* By COSME DE LA TORRIENTE. (La Habana: Imprenta "El Siglo XX," A Muñiz y Hno., 1939. Pp. lii, 470.)

The author and editor of this autobiography and collection of letters, speeches, and articles is the distinguished Cuban lawyer, diplomat, author, and political leader. To know his life for the past forty or more years is to know many important and intimate details of the history of Cuba from the establishment of the Republic to the present. There may be those who will dispute the wisdom of some of the author's acts and opinions, but it is doubtful if anyone will question his love for Cuba or his importance as a maker and witness of recent history.

Cosme de la Torriente begins this volume with a thirty-page introduction in which he traces his life from birth in 1872 through the revolution of the early 1930's. Among other things, he discusses his services as a colonel in the Liberating Army, as secretary of the Provincial Government of Havana in 1899, as magistrate of the *Audiencias* of Santa Clara and Matanzas from 1900 to 1903, as secretary of the Cuban legation in Madrid and later as minister plenipotentiary to Spain during the presidency of Estrada Palma, as an organizer and president of the National Conservative Party and senator from the Province of Matanzas, as president of the Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations, as ambassador to the United States in 1924-25, and as an opponent of dictatorship and an advocate of democratic government during and after the administration of President Machado. Whether in or out of public office he claims that he has ever been motivated by the ideals of Cuba's founding fathers, Céspedes and Martí, and he argues that Cubans must adhere to those ideals if their country is to enjoy the blessings of liberty and peace under constitutional government.

Following the introduction, the author reprints some seventy odd articles, letters, and speeches which were published during the years 1898 to 1938, in various newspapers and magazines in Cuba and the United States. These diverse essays do not appear with the other published works of the author, and they are well documented as to the date, place, circumstances, and medium of original publication. The entries are grouped into six parts: political activities, 1898-1925; social and economic questions, 1917-21; against the dictatorship, 1926-1933; the reestablishment of democracy, 1933-1938; international subjects; and other pages of history; and they include such topics as Cubans and Americans, Manifesto of the Veterans of the Independence of Cuba, Woman Suffrage, Cuba and the League of Nations, Ratifica-

tion of the Isle of Pines Treaty, Immigration Restrictions, The Financial Crisis of 1920, Cuban Problems in 1929, Proposals for Constitutional Reform in 1931, Before and After August 12, 1933, and the Abrogation of the Platt Amendment. The author presents the reader with a carefully edited selection of source materials illustrative of the moderate conservative viewpoint on most all phases of contemporary Cuban history. As ambassador to the United States in 1925, and as secretary of state under President Mendieta, Dr. Torriente played a leading rôle in the settlement of the Isle of Pines dispute and in drawing up the treaty which repealed the Platt Amendment.

This work is timely and will be extremely useful to those students and statesmen who desire to understand Cuban problems and Cuban-United States relations as lived and witnessed by an able and patriotic Cuban. The style and organization of the volume are a credit to the author, but unfortunately a comprehensive index is lacking.

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*La Nueva Galicia a través de su viejo Archivo Judicial: índice analítico de los archivos de la Audiencia de la Nueva Galicia o de Guadalajara y del Supremo Tribunal de Justicia del Estado de Jalisco.* By LUIS PÁEZ BROTCHE. [No. 18 of Biblioteca histórica mexicana de obras inéditas.] (Mexico City: Antigua Librería Robredo de José Porrúa y Hijos, 1940. Pp. 173.

This is a somewhat unusual and really *interesting* description of an archive, by an individual who is very much of a man and a scholar.

In seeking manuscript sources of Mexican history, one would naturally turn first to Bolton's *Guide to materials for the history of the United States in the principal archives of Mexico* (Washington, 1913). The Páez Brotschie work is a good example of what may well be done to supplement Bolton, when it develops that the archive of the Supreme Tribunal was not even mentioned by Bolton, although he covered other repositories of Guadalajara. To be sure, one would hardly expect much more than mere local incident in papers devoted to the civil and criminal cases of that particular court, and Bolton was seeking material for the history of the United States.

Yet, Páez Brotschie, now head of the archive which he describes, shows that the papers it contains touch many important phases of the history of the frontier regions of New Spain. His volume is not a catalogue, but something of a history of Nueva Galicia, both for colonial and recent times, but always from the standpoint of documents in this archive. These he analyzes and describes. He takes oc-