

ences are abundant and precise. Meticulous care is given to indexing and proof reading.

In short, in his *História*, as in his many other writings, Serafim Leite has maintained the Jesuit tradition of contributing generously and fruitfully to Brazilian history and Brazilian historiography.

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*El Virrey Iturrigaray y los orígenes de la independencia de Méjico.*

By ENRIQUE LAFUENTE FERRARI. Prologue by ANTONIO BALLESTEROS BERETTA. (Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo, 1941. Pp. 450. 37 illustrations, 7 documents.)

Around the biography of Don José de Iturrigaray, viceroy of Mexico, 1803-1808, has been woven an excellent account of one of the most critical periods of Mexican history. Each year of Iturrigaray's reign is analyzed with a record of his administration and the growth of his political prestige. That he received a good press and became popular with the creole aristocracy are factors which influenced his policy when the Bourbons of Spain fell into the hands of the Bonapartes. Iturrigaray, far from being a radical leader of a new order, was rather a remnant of the old. His glamorous court functions made quite a stir, but they were the last demonstrations of an eighteenth-century life which was passing out in the nineteenth. The viceroy was pictured as an example of a political selfishness which was then typical of decadent Spain. Godoyism, it was called. "Iturrigaray es en Méjico lo que Godoy en España."

The disturbing and confusing events which followed Napoleon's juggling of the Spanish crown started a movement which culminated in the break-up of the Spanish colonial empire. The cleavage in Spain was mirrored in Mexico, and the dissatisfaction with the old is seen in the blind and misplaced optimism regarding the unknown potentialities of the prince who was to become Ferdinand VII. But as king replaced king and as the country rose in rebellion against a king there resulted such confusion that neither the people nor the politicians knew which authority to recognize or support.

The viceroy, who should have been the leader in determining the colonial policy, proposed no clear-cut course. He has been condemned for his vacillation, when in reality his caution gave him time to test the public trend beyond which he could scarcely hope to succeed. He has also been condemned as an opportunist, as he was; but with Spain in revolution and at war there was little chance for a successful plan to

support the home government, since he did not know which government would survive. There was practically no hope for the restoration of the viceroy's friends, Charles IV and Godoy. It was therefore quite natural that Iturrigaray should give the creole or American elements a chance to guide the policy of Mexico as long as they continued to accept him as their leader. If unchecked, this trend, headed by the Ayuntamiento of Mexico City, might lead to the independence of New Spain, which could still be ruled by Iturrigaray, whatever title he might be given. But the Peninsulars, who were loyal to Spain, saw the danger to their privileged position, arrogated to themselves the supreme authority, and removed Iturrigaray from office.

Deposing the viceroy before he committed an overt act against the rulers of Spain started a controversy over his loyalty which divided the politicians of the time and the historians since. Lafuente Ferrari has added material on both sides, accepting, however, the fact that the viceroy was drifting to the side of the American faction, which in turn was drifting inevitably towards independence.

A number of other political characters were carefully studied and analyzed. The views and writings of such leaders as Fray Melchor de Talamantes, Verdad y Ramos, Jacobo de Villaurrutia, Juan Francisco Azcárate, and Juan López de Cancelada illustrate the political ferment of the time and form an important part of this book. Mexicans were now discussing political questions openly which before Napoleon's invasion of Spain were taboo. This work is especially good as a study of political theory during a critical time of transition, and it also presents the growing influence of public opinion.

Considerable space is given to the investigations and reports of Don Juan Jabat and Don Manuel Jáuregui, the two representatives from the Central Junta in Seville. Their accounts give further proof that Spanish officials were genuinely interested in colonial government and colonial reform. While they gave considerable information on the complex political situation, even to the extent of recognizing the possibility of independence, they do little to clarify the dubious position of the deposed viceroy, but actually add to the complexity, since Jáuregui was a relative of Iturrigaray. The author closes with a summary view of controversial points in a chapter called "Notas y consideraciones finales."

This work is well documented and the numerous footnotes furnish not only references but considerable explanatory material. In addition to standard works and printed documents the author has used some material from the Archivo General de Indias at Seville and a large number of manuscripts from the Archivo Histórico Nacional in

Madrid. It is the latter material which forms the chief contribution in this study. The book is well illustrated. It contains a number of facsimiles of proclamations, excellent portraits of the leading characters, and some interesting color plates of Mexican scenes. The appendix contains seven pertinent documents. Lafuente Ferrari is to be commended for the judicious manner in which he has handled a mass of material on an important and controversial subject. And his style is excellent.

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*Um diplomata na côrte de Inglaterra. O Barão do Penedo e sua época.* By RENATO DE MENDONÇA. [Biblioteca pedagógica brasileira, série 5ª, Brasiliana, Vol. 219.] (São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1942. Pp. 474. Illus.)

Dr. Mendonça, who at present is secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Mexico, is perhaps best known in the United States for his work in language and ethnography. His *A Influência africana no português do Brasil* (Rio de Janeiro, 1933) won the *Prêmio de erudição* of the Brazilian Academy. He has in the press a volume of studies and essays in literature, ethnography, and history which a glance at his background suggests will be very interesting. In diplomatic history he has already published papers on the Treaty of Madrid. That diplomatic history has its attractions for him is apparent from a volume on the Baron of Rio Branco, also in the press at the moment, and another in preparation that is tentatively described as a synthesis of Brazilian diplomatic history from 1500 to 1940.

Skill in handling historical sources combined with so wide and cultivated an intellectual background have enabled Dr. Mendonça to write not only a sizeable contribution to the history of Brazilian foreign relations under the Empire but also to our knowledge of that Empire itself. The volume rests solidly on archival study, a notable point in recent Brazilian historiography. Most of the information comes from the Penedo archive in the Itamaratí, with a little from the manuscripts in the Casa Ruy Barbosa. For the reader's delectation some documents concerning Penedo's two missions to the Vatican and his negotiations with Napoleon III, as well as some Mauá letters of 1885, are printed in appendix. Monographs by Penedo himself and others, as well as secondary works (among which those by Mary Wilhelmine Williams and Lawrence Hill deservedly rank high), are well chosen and used to good effect in buttressing the primary sources.