

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.

JOHN RYDJORD.

University of Wichita.

*Um diplomata na côrte de Inglaterra. O Barão do Penedo e sua época.* By RENATO DE MENDONÇA. [Biblioteca pedagógica brasileira, série 5ª, Brasileira, 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.

The style is serious but easy and well adapted to the subject. Indeed, almost the only criticism of style is that the page is cut up into too many short paragraphs, some made up of only a sentence or two, which give a false impression of choppiness. For this, however, the publisher may be as much at fault as the author.

The Baron of Penedo is known in general terms to all students of the nineteenth century in Brazil, for he was, with interruptions, the Emperor's ambassador in London from 1855 to 1889. He was born in Penedo in 1815 as Francisco Inácio de Carvalho Moreira, practiced as a lawyer, sat in the provincial General Assembly of Sergipe, rose to distinction in the Instituto dos Advogados Brasileiros, and was a member of the committee that prepared the great commercial code of the Empire. In 1851 he was appointed Minister to the United States. In Washington (how different the town was then, though the summers seem to have been the same!) things were quiet and his main occupation was the question of the opening of the Amazon following Maury's expedition in 1851. In 1855 he was sent to London, where he began his career amidst the confusion of clearing up British loans made to Brazil at the time of independence. The beginning of his stay (interrupted by a secret mission to Rome to discuss the condition of the Brazilian Church) was on the whole pleasant until the Christie affair led to the breaking off of diplomatic relations in 1864. For his defense of Brazilian interests Carvalho Moreira was made a *titular do Império* as the Baron of Penedo in July of 1864.

Until relations with Great Britain were reëstablished in 1865, Penedo stayed unofficially in England or in France, where he had to deal with the case of the cruiser *Brasil* and the neutrality of Napoleon III during the Paraguayan War. Once back in London, there he remained except for short periods (including another mission to the Vatican) until the fall of the Empire. Penedo was of the Empire and he could not accept the Republic. When dismissed he continued to live abroad, but he was also a true Brazilian and eventually he returned home, where he died in 1906.

This in outline was the life of Penedo. As presented by Dr. Mendonça, the chapters on the relations of Brazil and the Vatican are illuminating and fresh, more so, perhaps, than those on relations with Queen Victoria. Little is given about the *Alabama* arbitration, with which Penedo was not directly concerned, but almost all other phases of Anglo-Brazilian relations are touched on. From the description of his official work and from allusions to, and quotations from, his graceful verse-writing, to say nothing of the description of late Vic-

torian high life in London, a picture of Penedo emerges that is engaging and well done. If the reader wishes these and other details and if he wishes some insight into the life of a man who typified much of the best of the Empire, Dr. Mendonça's book is where he should go to find them.

ALEXANDER MARCHANT.

Washington, D. C.

*Apuntes para la historia del derecho en México.* By TORIBIO ESQUIVEL OBREGÓN. [Trabajos Jurídicos de Homenaje a la Escuela Libre de Derecho en su XXV Aniversario, Vols. 1, 5, and 7.] (Mexico: Editorial Polis, 1937-43. 3 vols. Pp. 511, 703, 768.)

On July 24, 1937, the Escuela Libre de Derecho, of Mexico, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. In commemoration of the occasion the first of an admirable series of treatises in the fields of law and the social sciences was submitted by distinguished Mexican jurists. Outstanding among these contributions was the first volume of the extensive work on the history of Mexican law by Dr. Toribio Esquivel Obregón. A second volume made its appearance the following year, and the year 1943 saw the publication of the third volume of this ambitious undertaking by a master in the field. Each volume is bulkier than its predecessor, the third containing 768 pages. This is only the beginning, since in the last published volume the author has covered only the historical background and the colonial period up to the year 1821, on which date Mexico established her independence from Spain. Since the source material on the more recent history of law will no doubt be more voluminous and more accessible, it is to be expected that Dr. Esquivel's work, if continued in the same minute detail, will result in a collection of such great magnitude that it fills the reader with admiration for the splendid courage shown by the author in undertaking it.

The author is preëminently qualified for the work of editing this material by his long-time interest in and intimate knowledge of the subject matter, and by his legal training and ability. In his varied career, Dr. Esquivel Obregón has been statesman, jurist, writer, and professor of Greek, philosophy, political science, and law. Since 1935 he has occupied the chair of Professor of the History of Law at the Escuela Libre de Derecho and at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Mexico. He also spent some time in the United States where he was professor of Latin-American commercial law at the universities of Columbia and New York during the years 1915 to 1923. Americans with interests in the Latin-American field are famil-