

agents whose hands are yellow from piling gold, depart." Strangely enough, the author does not emphasize the rather obvious fact that the "bankers' agents" were never more than a few leaders in command of Spanish soldiery which in any event inevitably would have founded a Spanish society in America. It is an interesting study in the influence of national origins upon historiography to compare Señor Arciniegas' explanation of German failure with the interpretation of K. Häbler, leading German student of the subject, whose *Die Überseeischen Unternehmungen der Welser* (1903) portrays his fellow countrymen's enterprises as an important early manifestation of the German colonial impulse.

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*El Gran Marsical José de La Mar.* By LUÍS ALAYZA Y PAZ SOLDÁN. (Lima: Gil, S.A., 1942. Pp. 328.)

This early little known president of Peru was born in Cuenca, Ecuador, on May 12, 1776. Through a royal judge who was his uncle, he secured a good education. He fought in the Spanish army during the Napoleonic wars, escaped from a French prison, and was rewarded by appointment to the office of *Subinspector* of the Viceroyalty of Peru.

The San Martín invasion of Peru found La Mar opposing the independence movement. However, he refused the appointment as viceroy in 1821 and was soon thereafter on the patriot side, serving as Jefe de la Junta de Gobierno de 1822. Five years later, he was elected president of the independent Republic of Peru. But revolution soon ended his administration. He died in exile in Cartago, Costa Rica, on October 12, 1830.

This biographer ranks La Mar with Bolívar, San Martín, and Sucre. He becomes eloquent and emotional in presenting his hero as the founder of Peru, as a man preferring exile to the further murder of his countrymen. The work is far from being objective. In fact, the labored effort to give La Mar historical stature has unfortunate effects.

The work is divided into three sections. The text of the biography requires 134 pages; explanatory notes, 158 pages; relevant documents, 129 pages. There is no formal bibliography.

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