

control and guide education or to imply, as maintained by the Catholic church, that education is a function of the family and that the state is to serve simply as an auxiliary agency to develop the sort of education which the family determines.

As a review of some of the issues in the development of educational thought, this study is a worthwhile one. As a comprehensive interpretation of Mexican education, the study is too tinged with factional sectarian bias to make it worthy of serious consideration.

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Passengers to Mexico: The Last Invasion of the Americas. By BLAIR NILES. (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., 1943. Pp. 390. \$3.00.)

This is a very difficult book to evaluate. There is but little that is new in it, compared with the excellent works on the period under consideration. There certainly is little in the style in which it is written that enhances its value. Add to this a sense of incompleteness and the loose style in which it is written and one will be justified in asking why the book was published at all. It is not that Maximiliana or Napoleoniana does not need additions. It is badly in need of new studies, for the story has not yet been told, despite the rather large amount of materials already published. The reviewer feels that Blair Niles is a distinct novice in this field, despite the fact that she visited Mexico in order to get local coloring. The reviewer, having spent years in gathering materials on Maximilian and the French invasion of Mexico under Napoleon III, is distressed with this work. He repeats that he does not understand why it was published. It does bring into the picture such figures as Ogden Yorke and his sister Sara; but who are the Yorkes? The drama in which they were involved is hardly enriched or clarified by their rôle in it. Nor is the drama made more intelligible by the rôle played by the Princess Salm-Salm. On the other hand, more of Maximilian, of Napoleon, of Bismarck, of Lord Russell, and of Prince Gorchakov of Russia would have added much, if properly handled, to this great world drama.

The book is divided into twenty-five chapters and a résumé entitled "Remembering." The book is sketchy, journalistic, but fairly balanced. The chapter captions give an idea of the gossipy nature of the work. "Passengers to Mexico," "Sara's Brother," "The Zouaves Arrive," "Circus-Rider Princess," "French Bugles," "Crisis," "The Youngest Toast," "More Passengers to Mexico," "With

the Aid of Bayonets," "Delusion," "In Mexican Dress," "Mexico at Appomattox," "Lilacs in the Dooryard," "Appomattox in Mexico," "My Ice from Orizaba," etc., etc.

There are the usual personages which one associates with the drama. There is nothing new here either. The emphasis placed upon the rôle of William H. Seward rather than upon Abraham Lincoln is open to criticism. Of the two, Lincoln had a far greater grasp upon real democracy than Seward. The treatment of Benito Juárez is fairly good, but that of González Ortega is quite poor. The treatment of the heroism is good; but why extol this type of heroism in contrast with the heroism of other crises? Of course there were acts of the greatest heroism. There always are in the crises of Mexican life. And the heroism is not all on the side of the common people, not by any means. This emphasis upon the "common man" and the "Century of the Common People" is made quite intentionally large throughout the work. Blair Niles has caught the spirit of the age and has allowed herself to be carried away by it. She would do well to re-read and ponder very carefully such works as Ortega y Gasset's *The Revolt of the Masses* and *Invertebrate Spain*; and the several works by Salvador de Madariaga, as an antidote to the virus of mediocrity. However laudable the idea may be, as expressed in her dedicatory statement "to Faith in the Freedom of the World," there is something to the idea of freedom and not just equality. Let there be some emphasis also upon worth and ability.

The book is printed on good paper and is neatly bound. It has an index and an elaborate bibliography, the latter being the best thing about the book.

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Ecuador: Portrait of a People. By ALBERT B. FRANKLIN. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1943. Pp. ix, 326. \$3.50.)

This is a "portrait of a country, not a clinical report on it." In the book, there are few volcanoes or turtles, no headhunters, and no archaeology. And statistics give way to anecdotes. It is essentially a book about the people of Ecuador, dominated by "vertical" Andean geography and still victims of their triple heritage of subsistence farming, landholding nobility, and agrarian insecurity. It is not history, nor travel; but, rather, a word-snapshot of the people as they pursue their daily lives.