

*La falsa cubanidad de Saco, Luz y del Monte.* By RAFAEL SOTO PAZ. (La Habana: Editorial Alfa, 1941. Pp. 139.)

This little book was written to show that José Antonio Saco, José de la Luz y Caballero, and Domingo del Monte were not, contrary to the commonly accepted view, among the founders of Cuban nationality. That nationality he defines in terms of modern social democracy as being the creation of the masses of Cuban people. Judged by this arbitrary standard, the traditionally great triumvirate were moderates, members of a privileged society, too closely identified with Spanish culture. Opposed to the immediate abolition of slavery, to violent revolution, to independence, and to popular democracy, their leadership was centered on the wrong objectives. By contrast, the words and deeds of Varela, Agramonte, and Martí were expressions of the popular, renascent Cuban spirit. This volume is interesting as a contemporary interpretation reflecting a particular viewpoint. Based largely on carefully selected materials from secondary works, it is lacking in the attributes of scholarship. Nor can it be termed a significant attempt at historical revision and evaluation.

G. LEIGHTON LAFUZE.

University of Florida.

*Prospecto de un establecimiento de educación para señoritas. Primer escrito de Sarmiento.* Reimpresión facsimilar. [Memorias del Museo de Entre Ríos, No. 18.] (Paraná: Impresora argentina, 1942. Pp. 10, 14.)

Dated on March 23, 1839, in San Juan, Argentina, this Prospectus was the first work on education written by the "Schoolmaster President," Domingo Faustino Sarmiento. Its publication is important because it was omitted from the edition of *Obras completas*. It contains a statement of Sarmiento's first ideas on education and its practical relationship to the social medium and to social progress.

In a review of his work given in the *Recuerdos de Provincia*, Sarmiento described this Prospectus in the following terms:

Folletos. *Programa de un Colegio de señoritas en San Juan.* Exposición de la necesidad, las ventajas i el conjunto de la educación de las mujeres en las provincias apartadas de la República Argentina. Mi primer escrito, lleno de reflexiones que no carecen de oportunidad.

Beginning the Prospectus with a consideration of woman's general need for education, Sarmiento noted the advantages gained from obtaining that education, not in the home, but in an educational institution free from distractions and under the guidance of com-

petent instructors. Education was to be practical, "limited to our present exigencies, to the state of our customs and of our progress." The aim was not to form "erudite women," but rather "that women should acquire the knowledge indispensable in the fulfillment of their duties, and to improve their moral character." Sarmiento concluded this section of the Prospectus with an even more complete statement of the purpose of his school.

Alentar las bellas disposiciones que en todos tiempos han manifestado nuestras Señoritas, dar principios a su moralidad, mejorar sus facultades intelectuales, ponerlas al nivel de las eesijencias de la Sociedad moderna, formar jóvenes interesantes, más que por su físico y fortuna, por sus gracias y adquisiciones, ilustrarlas sobre sus deberes, darlas hábitos de orden y economía, desarrollar su físico y su inteligencia, hacerlas guardar desde temprano por la práctica y la enseñanza los modales y conveniencias de su sexo, predisponerlas a ser esposas tiernas y tolerantes, madres ilustradas y morales, cabezas de familia hacendosas y económicas, he aquí el grande objeto de un establecimiento de educación para Señoritas.

With questions of educational theory cleared away, Sarmiento then proceeded to a description of the school's faculty and to a detailed account of the course of study offered. Included in that course were the subjects of reading, writing, practical arithmetic, grammar, orthography, descriptive geography, the drawing of flowers (for aid in embroidery), training in the reading of foreign languages, religion, morals (including "the practice and precepts of urbanity, manners and good customs"), music, dancing (for reasons of health as well as a social accomplishment), "industry" (which included such skills as sewing and the making of baskets, artificial flowers, confectionaries, fine and perfumed soaps, etc.), and gymnastic games. Basic in this program was Sarmiento's belief concerning woman's rôle in society.

En un ser como la muger, creado para interesar, para derramar el bálsamo de sus encantos sobre todo lo que la rodea, para hacer más llevaderos con sus gracias y embelesos los importunos cuidados, a que las eesijencias de nuestro bienestar nos condenan, debe considerarse como muy importante todo lo que contribuya a estender la esfera de sus atractivos, y ensanchar la dulce influencia que ejerce sobre la otra mitad de la Sociedad.

Woman should train for charm as well as for efficiency!

The Prospectus concluded with a statement of school prices and of certain provisions for student supplies.

The facsimile edition is preceded by an interesting descriptive introduction, written by the Museum's secretary, Víctor M. Badano.

MADALINE W. NICHOLS.

Washington, D. C.