

ends, seized upon positivism as an instrument for social action and how they fitted that instrument to the Mexican circumstance—political, religious, educational, economic.

Leopoldo Zea makes much of this point, and justly so, for positivism has never been in Mexico just a scheme of values for the academic edification of a few cloistered intellectuals. From the time of its first and most distinguished proponent, Gabino Barreda, in the 1860's, to well into the twentieth century, the story of positivism in Mexico is, in large part, the history of Mexico.

For an insight into the intellectual bases and tools of the various movements which characterized Mexican politics from the time of Gabino Barreda to that of Madero, *El positivismo en México* will prove a highly useful book. Since Barreda was the founder of the Escuela Preparatoria Nacional, in Mexico City, and that great institution and its smaller counterparts elsewhere in the Republic were profoundly influenced by his positivism and still give evidence of that influence, this is a must book for students of education in Mexico.

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*The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to his Family: Written from Spanish East Florida, 1791-1807, with Biographical Sketch and Notes.* Edited by WALTER CHARLTON HARTRIDGE. (Columbia: Bostick and Thornley, 1943. Pp. xxxiv, 89. \$2.50.)

Students of the Revolutionary and early National periods of American history, and especially those interested in the story of the second Spanish occupation of East Florida, will welcome the present edition of letters and other correspondence relating to the life of John McQueen, which has been so attractively prepared for publication by Mr. Walter Charlton Hartridge.

McQueen's life, spanning the period from 1751 to 1807, covered a wide range of activities. Born in Philadelphia and reared and educated in South Carolina and England, as a young man he served with distinction in the Revolution and numbered, among his friends, Lafayette and Washington.

After the war he adopted Georgia as his home and engaged in large-scale land and timber operations. During this period also he was a visitor to the French court, where his gifted personal attributes won for him additional friends. Judged from the more prosaic standard of ability in earning a livelihood, however, there may be some doubt regarding the degree of McQueen's success. At any rate, his career in Georgia ended abruptly and somewhat disgracefully in

1791, when, almost hopelessly in debt, he fled from that state to avoid his creditors. He left behind at "The Cottage" his wife, Anne Smith McQueen, to whom he was married in 1772, and his four children.

Proceeding to East Florida, he was welcomed cordially at St. Augustine by the Spanish governor, and set about the task of starting life anew, as a cotton planter, lumberman, and miller near the mouth of the St. John's River. Compensating to a degree for his financial losses and separation from his family, was his treatment at the hands of the Spaniards, who accorded him official honors including a judgeship and a military command. Unlike many other Americans operating in this period south of the border, McQueen loyally espoused the Spanish cause, even becoming a subject of Spain and accepting Catholicism, although this choice involved a final break with his wife.

This volume presents for the most part private papers, heretofore unpublished, of McQueen and of members of his family (except his wife) as well as of other relatives and such prominent men as Washington, Jefferson, D'Estaing and Lafayette. Aside from purely biographical aspects, these documents are particularly important for the light they shed upon a phase of the history of East Florida that too long has been neglected and misunderstood. While the book lacks thorough documentation and an interpretative statement of the peculiarities and significance of the second Spanish régime in Florida, that might have served better to orient the reader and to enhance its value for scholars, these shortcomings are not serious and are in a measure offset by Dr. A. J. Hanna's excellent foreword and the editor's biographical sketch of McQueen.

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*Crónicas del Buenos Aires colonial.* By JOSÉ TORRE REVELLO. [Biblioteca Histórica Colonial.] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Bajel, 1943. Pp. 333. 6 Illus. 12 pesos argentinos.)

The historical past of no Latin-American country has been explored as systematically and thoroughly by its own nationals as Argentina in recent decades. An energetic and enthusiastic school of historians has developed which, eschewing the dilettantism common enough in historical writing elsewhere, has performed the laborious tasks of delving into often chaotic archives and of slowly amassing facts from primary sources, frequently manuscripts requiring exacting paleographical skills. The resulting monographs and scientific studies have given these prolific workers enduring reputa-