

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This volume presents for the most part private papers, heretofore unpublished, of McQueen and of members of his family (except his wife) as well as of other relatives and such prominent men as Washington, Jefferson, D'Estaing and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-

tions and prepared the ground for an eventual great synthesis. One of the soundest and most productive of this school is the tireless investigator, José Torre Revello, whose latest work is under review.

The present volume brings together a series of articles many of which, subsequently modified, have appeared in the Sunday sections of the great newspapers of Buenos Aires, *La Prensa* and *La Nación*, whose contents so often are on a higher cultural and esthetic level than the articles in corresponding sections of North American dailies. These historical essays, begun in 1927, were prepared with the present book in mind and their present assembling between two covers is not merely an afterthought designed to enlarge a personal list of publications. Preceded by an introduction of some forty pages outlining the general social and cultural setting of colonial Buenos Aires, the chapters following are twenty articles arranged in a somewhat chronological pattern and describing such diverse aspects of life in the Rio de la Plata capital as: the public reception of royal administrative officials, the festival of the Patron Saint, the Corpus Christi processions, ceremonies attending the proclamation of new Spanish monarchs and state mourning at their decease, bull fights, lampoons and pasquinades, dances, the theater, cards and other games of chance, the lottery, gypsies and other elements of society, etc.

Although data on an earlier period are included the descriptions, for the most part, apply to the eighteenth century and particularly after the establishment of the viceroyalty of La Plata in 1776 when Buenos Aires was elevated to the status of a viceregal seat of government. That the last century of colonial existence should be emphasized is natural since, for most of the first two hundred years, the city was little more than a drab aggregation of huts with a meager and impoverished population leading a dull and monotonous life. Were it not for petty clashes and quarrels over trivial matters Buenos Aires in this period would have been a settlement almost without annals, but thanks to human frailties and the perennial conflicts of personalities, lawsuits and complaints, growing more numerous as the independence era drew nearer, resulted in the formation of long *expedientes* or legal proceedings. These yellowing bundles of documents reposing in various archives, particularly the great repository at Seville, yield up most of the colorful details which Sr. Torre Revello exploits effectively. Thanks to these tedious litigations, of which the author has examined so many, curious sidelights are thrown on contemporary customs and fashions, thus preserving unintentionally for posterity precious materials for a reconstitution of a vanished

mode of life in the Argentine capital, many details of which are equally applicable to other colonial communities of Spanish America.

Though this book is somewhat more popular in character than most of Sr. Torre Revello's studies, he does not fail to supply, in his customarily thorough manner, detailed footnotes with most of the chapters, while at the end of the volume is an extensive bibliography indicating both the manuscript and the printed sources used. The format, paper, printing, combined with numerous illustrations and artistic capital letters initiating each chapter (drawn by the author himself) all cooperate to produce an attractive book, pleasing to read and to own.

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*Descubrimiento y población del norte argentino por españoles del Perú (Desde la entrada al Tucumán hasta la fundación de Sgo. del Estero, 1543-1553).* By ROBERTO LEVILLIER. (Buenos Aires: Espasa-Calpe S. A., 1943. Pp. 190.)

This most recent volume from the assiduous pen of Roberto Levillier is published as an *homenaje* to the fourth centenary of the exploration and occupation by Spaniards of the Argentine northwest. It is also designed to be a protest against concentration of attention in literature and school textbooks upon the history of Buenos Aires and the Rio de la Plata, and consequent neglect of the early history of Tucumán. Statues are raised in the federal capital to Pedro de Mendoza and Juan de Garay; but there are no monuments of any sort, even in the north, to commemorate the band of intrepid Spaniards who for three years (1543-1546) traversed the present-day provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, Córdoba, Rioja and San Juan, and prepared the way for the subsequent colonization of that region.

Although it is nowhere so stated, the book is in reality a recasting and condensation of the early chapters of the *Nueva crónica de la conquista del Tucumán*, published in three volumes by Levillier in 1926-1931, a work which occasioned the polemic with the Chilean historian Tomás Thayer Ojeda. So far as the reviewer has been able to discover, nothing new has been added. Either version gives the fullest and best documented account to date of the expeditions of Diego de Rojas and Juan Núñez de Prado which resulted in the establishment in 1550 of La Ciudad del Barco, transformed three years later by Francisco de Aguirre into Santiago del Estero, the oldest settlement within the Argentine Republic. It is based upon