

the collections of the library, a list of the catalogues published by it, and finally a detailed list of the manuscripts relating to Argentina, which are in the collection *Miscelánea* of José Manuel de Ayala. This last list includes fifty-six documents dealing with sundry phases of the Spanish colonization in Argentina. Sr. Torre Revello is to be congratulated on this valuable addition to his already long list of historical publications dealing with Spanish archivology.

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*Del porqué no se escribió el "Diccionario Matriz de la Lengua Castellana" de Rafael María Baralt.* By PEDRO GRASES. (Caracas: Escuela Técnica Industrial, Talleres de Artes Gráficas, 1943. Pp. 86.)

Rafael María Baralt (1810-1860) of Maracaibo, Venezuela, a philologist, historian and poet, left his native land in 1842 never to return because of criticisms of his *Resumen de la historia de Venezuela* (1841). Elected to the Real Academia Española (1853), he published his *Diccionario de galicismos* (Madrid, 1855) with an appreciative prologue by Juan Eugenio Hartzenbusch. Hurtado y Palencia's *Historia de la literatura española* (1932, p. 905) calls it "uno de los más importantes en nuestra lengua." El Conde de La Viñaza, in his *Biblioteca de la filología española* (p. 797) mentions the twenty-four-page *Prospecto* which includes some samples of words beginning with "A."

The author of this work states that he has seen no biography of Baralt nor account of his greatest works which does not make mention of his *Diccionario matriz de la lengua castellana*, but that no such work ever appeared. In fact, a *Prospecto del Diccionario Matriz de la Lengua Castellana de Rafael María Baralt* (c. 1851) is unobtainable; but an incomplete reproduction of the copy in the Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid is included as Appendix No. 2 in this booklet.

The reason why the monumental task was never completed is that Bartolomé José Gallardo, whom Baralt greatly admired and on whose collaboration and support he had counted, refused to cooperate or lend his name in support of such a dictionary, rudely expressing doubt as to Baralt's capacity to carry the work forward. Gallardo died soon after writing this refusal, which he ended thus: ". . . en estas cosas de Lingüística non oportet studere, sed studuisse."

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