

bit there, to the mosaic which is gradually being laid and which in time will show us how our ancestors actually lived, that part of history which is so difficult to reproduce in its entirety. One has to admit an admiration for the author who, though sickly, thought nothing of a thousand-mile journey. His spirit was indomitable. It was this very characteristic which made him include latitude, longitude, and barometrical readings at every turn of the road. Even the editor found these parts dull.

Gregg's arrival in San Francisco ends the diary proper. The last part of the book, concerning his trip to Humboldt Bay and his death, was taken in the main from Lewis Keyser Wood's narrative.

Even though the editor declares (pages 384) "I pause . . . to avow again that my purpose has been decidedly more biographical than historical in the stricter sense . . .," still it appears that he could have strengthened the volume in several ways. A good map of Mexico would have been exceedingly helpful, particularly since the emphasis is on travel. The section entitled "Sources and Obligations" is a disappointment because it does not tell where the majority of sources can be found. Letters from Gregg to his brother and others are interspersed between passages of the diary with few citations and those only to items taken from printed books. Correspondence copied from newspapers shows few dates of publication.

There are always differences of opinion about the number and character of footnotes. While many editors believe that they should be held to a minimum, yet in this instance a few more might have assisted the reader, by explaining, for example *lechuguilla* as a species of the century plant (page 88), by giving the correct spelling of *Guchipin* as *Gachupin* (page 272), and by filling a blank space on page 272 with the word *arrastre*. In addition a number of errors mar the appearance of the book, notably the misspelling of the town "Guaymas" (page xi), and incorrect page references (pages 49, 54, 56, 60).

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La fondation de la République d'Haïti par Alexandre Pétion. By FRANÇOIS DALENCOUR. (Port-au-Prince: Published by the author, 1944. Pp. 344. \$2.00.)

The history of the founding of the Republic of Haiti, the first Latin-American nation to win its independence, has produced par-

tisans of Toussaint Louverture, Dessalines, Christophe and Pétion just as the history of the founding of other nations has produced partisans of San Martín and O'Higgins, Santander and Bolívar, Rosas and Urquiza, Jefferson and Hamilton. Dr. Dalencour assures us that Pétion was "the First Inaugurator of the War of National Independence," "the Founder of the Haitian Nation," "the Incomparable Citizen," "the Greatest of the Haitians," "the Greatest Genius of the Black Race." He quotes Saint-Rémy: "'None was greater, before or after, in the annals of America,'" and Bolívar: "'Pétion was destined to make one forget the great [George] Washington.'" To redress the balance, one might read Vergniaud Leconte's *Henri Christophe dans l'histoire d'Haïti* and Pauléus Sannon's *Histoire de Toussaint Louverture*. There is no adequate biography of Dessalines.

In order to establish Pétion's claim to preéminence the author quotes at great length from those passages of Beaubrun Ardouin, Madiou, Saint-Rémy and others that "prove" his thesis and he rejects assertions which cast doubt upon it. He is convinced that the dictatorship of Dessalines was corrupt and "execrable" and that it had to be overthrown. While Christophe participated in the revolt, Pétion did not. In the period of disorder that followed the assassination of Dessalines, Christophe dominated by cruel force, Gerin's despotism was too obvious to win popular support, but Pétion re-established order by persuasion and moderation.

Contrary to most authors, including Ardouin, Dalencour denies that the Senate under the Constitution of December 27, 1806, had practically dictatorial powers and that the presidency was made virtually powerless because it was expected that Christophe would be elected president. Christophe, at all events, had his military leaders elect him president in the North with dictatorial powers. Pétion then became president of the South by swearing allegiance to the Constitution of December 27. While the Republic which Pétion founded has had rough sledding, the author reminds us that England required centuries to establish a stable regime of liberty, justice and order. But in addition to other factors that have been responsible for Haiti's frequent revolutions many authors list the tradition of the presidency for life that was established by Pétion in 1816.

This is essentially a political history. Many readers would have preferred a more detailed evaluation, for example, of the distribution of land by Pétion, which may well be his greatest claim to glory even though the dense population and the hostility of the outside world

during most of Haiti's history have prevented the Republic from developing a decent standard of living for the peasant farmers.

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Las ciudades confederadas del Valle del Cauca en 1811. [Academia Colombiana de Historia, Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, Vol. LXVI.] (Bogotá: Editorial Librería Voluntad, S. A., 1943. Pp. xiv, 235. Five documentary facsimiles.)

Comentario al libro Las ciudades confederadas del Valle del Cauca en 1811 publicado por la Academia Colombiana de Historia como volumen LXVI de la Biblioteca de Historia Nacional. By ALFONSO ZAWADSKY C. (Bogotá: Editorial Librería Voluntad, S. A., 1943. Pp. 79.)

The revolution for independence in the Viceroyalty of New Granada foreshadowed the strong spirit of regional initiative which is a major theme of Colombian national history. Unlike certain other areas of the Spanish Empire, where the capital cities formulated revolutionary programs and then imposed them on the provinces, New Granada saw the simultaneous development of the revolution in widely scattered centers. Far from dominating the remainder of the country, Bogotá was able to assume a sufficient measure of leadership to organize the revolution only after much confusion had proved such leadership necessary.

Cartagena, as is well known, led the rest of New Granada in declaring absolute independence from Spain. Less celebrated is the revolutionary initiative in the cities of the upper Cauca Valley, with which the two volumes here under review are concerned. The Cabildo of Cali, in fact, led the Granadian communities in taking the first revolutionary step—the declaration of creole autonomy within the Empire. This event occurred on July 3, 1810, seventeen days before the similar action in Bogotá. But Cali faced a dangerous rival in the city of Popayán, farther to the south in the Cauca Valley, which became a center of royalist reaction under Governor Miguel Tacón y Rosique. To defend themselves against this astute and ambitious Spaniard, the creoles of the cities of Buga, Cartago, Caloto, Toro, and Santa Ana allied themselves with the Cali revolutionists to form a "Junta Superior de Gobierno de las Ciudades Amigas del Valle del Cauca" on February 1, 1811. Until danger was temporarily removed through the defeat of Tacón at Bajo Palacé later in the year, the