

*Mitre, un historiador frente al destino nacional.* By JOSÉ LUIS ROMERO. (Caracas: La Nación, 1943. Pp. 36.)

It is heartening to read so convincing a presentation of the importance of historical studies for the shaping of history itself as Professor Romero here presents in his enlightening essay on Argentina's great historian-president-publicist, Bartolomé Mitre.

Mitre's career was centered in the several decades following the overthrow of the dictator Rosas in 1852, when a new perspective was desperately needed to resolve the welter of passions, of distrust, and of schism in which the Republic found itself. In his penetrating studies of Belgrano, Rivadavia, and San Martín in particular, Mitre re-interpreted his country's crisis in the larger context of the commanding ideal of national unity. He recalled the centralist but reactionary *porteño* minority to the liberal but democratic ideals of the authors of their original revolt from Spain. He also exercised the sterile provincial prejudices of the Federalist majority in the light of the overpowering ideal of the nation's destiny. In 1860 Mitre himself became the president of a re-united people dedicated to the realization of liberal and progressive ends.

Mitre was a profound student of biography. Substantive factors such as geographic, economic, and social realities were important to him, but only as limiting factors. The dynamic element in history he found in the personal championing of creative ideas by the great leaders of the hour.

The author closes his essay with the thoughtful suggestion that his country may again be in danger of losing its bearings because it is insensitive to the historical consciousness that made Mitre a statesman. Wise conduct, he observes, can rest only on the discovery and honoring of those obligations which the continuity of a common destiny, conceived in an ever enlarging context, imposes upon the nation.

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*Los artistas pintores de la expedición Malaspina.* By JOSÉ TORRE REVELLO. [Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Estudios y documentos para la historia del arte colonial, II.] (Buenos Aires: Casa Jacobo Peuser Ltda., 1944. Pp. 105. Forty-five illustrations.)

It takes an historian who is also himself a painter, like José Torre Revello, to put together such a volume as the Faculty of Philosophy