

floods, and industry connected with the river, its tributaries, and basin. A man of wide experience with a long and first-hand acquaintance with the river, Mr. Gómez has written much of value to the history of Colombia. What the historian actually uses will have to be extracted (unfortunately without the help of an index). What the historian can derive from a complete reading is the extent to which the water of the Magdalena in its shallow, jungle-lined bed has sustained the standard of life of the remote interior.

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Los Paúl en América. Remembranzas de familia (bosquejos biográficos).
By GUILLERMO VARGAS PAÚL. (Bogotá: Editorial Minerva, Ltda., 1945. Pp. 237. Paper.)

This is an uncritical and laudatory account of the careers of the most outstanding members of a family whose progenitors arrived in Venezuela in 1751 and one of whom settled in Colombia shortly after 1820. Of the three discussed most fully, one was a leader in the independence movement, another an archbishop at Bogotá, and a third a prominent politician during the era of Rafael Núñez. The volume contains some documents and a family genealogy; it is based to a considerable extent upon the reminiscences of the author's blind mother, for whom, in the main, it appears to have been written. It is not history, but it is useful raw material for the historian and it is an interesting and on the whole a rather pleasing exhibition of family pride, a factor never to be forgotten if one is fully to understand Latin-American civilization, which still retains a good deal of the patriarchal. The author is a conservative, like nearly all of the Paúls.

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Documentos relacionados con la renuncia del presidente López y el orden público. [Presidencia de la República de Colombia.] (Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional, 1945. Pp. 443. Paper.)

This collection of documents sheds some additional light on a very disturbed period in recent Colombian history. By combining this volume with the previously published *Consejos de guerra verbales* (the trials and sentences of those involved in the abortive military uprising of July 10-12, 1944) one can get a fairly clear picture of some of the major political currents underlying recent disturbances in the republic. Unfortunately for the investigator, documents in the present volume, as with most government publications of this type, do not present a true or