

According to the author "when they record the deeds of heroes to whom the fatherland owes victory in the great march on Ayacucho, the names of Sucre, La Mar, Córdova and Miller stand out, but no Peruvian figures in it. . . ." Thus out of deep national feeling rather than from a personal interest in Agustín Gamarra, Miguel Martínez has written a biography of one Peruvian who served his people in the struggle for independence. The work has little to say of Gamarra's youth. It concentrates on his place in the revolution and the events of the tumultuous years between 1826 and 1841 in Peru. Simplicity of style and good documentation characterize the work as straightforward historical biography. When there is controversy regarding the character or ability of his subject, both sides are presented. Avoiding the usual eulogistic style of the average Hispanic-American biographer, Martínez has presented an interesting, serious, and impartial biography of one of the lesser-known figures of the independence period of Hispanic-American history.

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*Movimientos sociales en el Chile colonial.* By HUMBERTO MUÑOZ. Prologue by JOSÉ MARÍA CARO. [Colección "Federico Grote," No. 11.] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Difusión, S. A. [Talleres Gráficos "José Manuel Estrada," S. de R. L.], 1945. Pp. 139. Paper. \$1.25 m/n.)

This is preëminently a book with a thesis. Father Humberto Muñoz equates the idea of social movements with clerical social action and that in turn with defense of the Chilean Indians by colonial clergy. His narration of the latter leads him to the conclusions that the colonial church as a whole took a keen interest in defending and assisting the lower classes and that this interest contained the germs of contemporary Catholic social action. "If we compare, for example," concludes Father Muñoz, "*Rerum Novarum* with the Jesuit system of haciendas, we observe in the former, of course, greater doctrinal clarity, precision, and elaboration; but at no point do we find a break in continuity. On the contrary, both have the idea of the social function of property, family wage, work accident insurance, a chance to save, recognition of human value in labor. Catholics, therefore, should not be surprised at the social encyclicals or think them unsuited to Chilean conditions, but on the contrary, should strive to take up the thread of tradition even though this means discarding the liberal concept of the rights of the individual which has been interposed like a wedge between our glorious colonial social tradition and the modern social movements which seek to imple-

ment the papal directives." A laudatory letter from the Archbishop of Santiago serves as a foreword.

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*La batalla de Maipú.* By FRANCISCO JAVIER DÍAZ. (Santiago: Editorial del Pacífico S. A. [Imprenta Universitaria], 1946. Pp. 158. Maps. Paper. \$50.00 m/n.)

The battle of Maipú was a decisive event for the independence of Chile as well as a necessary prerequisite to the invasion of Peru. Like Carabobo in the north, Maipú ended the chances of Spanish reconquest. The patriots' victory also came at a crucial point for the political fortunes of Chile. After their success at Cancha Rayada, March 19, 1818, the Spanish forces under Mariano Osorio moved slowly north toward the Chilean capital. The Chilean government was lacking in arms and money, the morale of the army was low, and the possibility of foreign aid was slight. Many patriots were panic-stricken in the face of the royalist advance. W.G.D. Worthington, United States agent, was so apprehensive that he fled to Valparaíso with his bed and baggage. He boarded a Baltimore merchant vessel in the harbor and prepared to sail for Buenos Aires in the event of a Chilean defeat. If Osorio had repeated his success of 1814 at Rancagua, the Chilean forces would have been completely demoralized and Bernardo O'Higgins' proclamation of independence rendered a hollow document. The battle of Maipú therefore has received considerable attention from Chilean historians.

This volume by General Díaz Valderrama is a new edition of a work published first in 1918 as a companion volume to the same author's *La campaña del ejército de los Andes en 1817*. Less than a fifth of the pages are devoted to the battle itself and the remainder to an account of the military fortunes of the Chilean armies from Chacabuco to Maipú. This was the year in which the Army of the Andes was strengthened with numerous recruits from Chile. A military academy was established by O'Higgins for the training of officers. Negotiations were initiated for the purchase of arms and ships from the United States. It was also the year of the unsuccessful siege of the royalist stronghold of Talcahuano, whose liberation Joel R. Poinsett had directed in 1813. General Díaz Valderrama, a former professor of the Chilean Academia de Guerra now retired, treats these events in clear detail, but with only brief mention of the political factors.

In the appendices the official accounts of the battle of Maipú given by General San Martín and General Osorio are reproduced, in addition to a listing of the names and ranks of the Chilean commissioned officers