

cultura en la América Hispánica bestowed upon this account. Yet its utility is unmistakably clear for, besides a panoramic review of the cultural evolution of Hispanic America, it affords in concrete form much information not readily accessible elsewhere such as the names and life spans of writers, of artists, and of the often ephemeral periodicals which reflect the intellectual and esthetic maturation of Latin America; it also indicates the contributions of that vast area to science, the list of operas and other musical works composed there, and much more useful knowledge concerning the cultural attainments of that part of the Western Hemisphere. Blurb-writers of North American publishinghouses might well imitate the restraint and accuracy of the comments of their confreres in the Fondo de Cultura Económica on the jacket of the twenty-eight volumes of the *Tierra Firme* series. They thus describe the last work of Pedro Henríquez Ureña as: "Sencillo y breve, como concebido para fines didácticos, el libro que hoy presentamos será un guía certero para quienes deseen adentrarse en el accidentado territorio de nuestra vida cultural."

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The British Development of West Florida 1763-1769. By CLINTON N. HOWARD. [University of California Publications in History, Volume 34.] (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1947. Pp. viii, 166. Maps, tables.)

The Lords of Trade in 1763, according to Dr. Clinton N. Howard, author of the present work, first selected the thirty-first parallel as the northern boundary of the newly created colony of West Florida. At that moment the Lords were admittedly "very ignorant" concerning this remote part of the empire, being forced to rely solely upon "Mitchell's map of North America" in arriving at their decisions. Shortly thereafter this northern boundary was shifted, when it became evident, says the writer, as a result "of later observations and surveys" that a more advanced line, to run eastward from the junction of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers and "parallel to the thirty-first," would be desirable. The discovery that there already existed "considerable settlements upon the east bank of the Mississippi" outside the boundary as first drawn and that, also, the thirty-first parallel line "excluded Mobile from the province and put it in the Indian country" was cited to justify the revision.

This is but one of several provocative points raised in Dr. Howard's book, the full implications of which the reader is left to try to determine for himself. Although the author does not so state, it may be inferred

that from this situation there arose the bitter conflicts in this borderland after the American Revolution, when the Spanish returned to the Floridas. For then it was, despite the British-American Treaty of 1783, that Spain asserted exclusive jurisdiction over all of the lands between the thirty-first parallel and the Yazoo-Mississippi line. In part the Spanish argument was based upon the reasoning that that nation was not bound by a treaty, assigning this area to the United States, to which it had not been a party. But, even more important, the record of history gave support to its contention. Had not West Florida for twenty years under English rule been bounded by the Yazoo-Mississippi line? Moreover, as the secret treaty agreement clearly indicated, this line, and not the thirty-first parallel, would have remained the official boundary, had the British after 1783 retained the province.

Another point in Dr. Howard's brief but significant study that has interesting implications arises from the fact that West Florida was the first English colony to be officially sanctioned west of the Appalachian Mountains. This action, taken as it was in conjunction with another extremely important step, by which the Royal Proclamation Line was drawn and the natural desires of the older colonies along the Atlantic coast for westward expansion at least temporarily shut off, raises several important questions—none of them answered in this book. Chief among these are the following: (1) What reasons did the English have for dividing Florida, which under Spanish rule for two centuries had been administered as a single province? (2) In setting up West Florida, what particular objectives did the English empire-builders expect to gain? Was their sole reason a desire to develop a strong bulwark of defense against a still strong and threatening Spanish-French combination, which goal could be more easily achieved by a colony based upon Pensacola? Or, was it also intended to assign to the new colony responsibilities no longer entrusted to the older provinces along the Atlantic, such as that of cementing friendships with the Indians of the Mississippi basin, looking to the eventual solution of the great western problem? (3) What, if any, relationship was there between the establishment of West Florida, and the growing resentment of the older English colonies, soon to culminate in the American Revolution?

In a work such as the present one, purporting to deal with the British development of West Florida after 1763, it is submitted that the foregoing queries are pertinent. Instead of disposing of them appropriately, the author, who has indirectly suggested most of them by virtue of the very materials used in handling his subject, is content mainly to concern himself with internal problems relating to the "constitution, government, and administration" of the colony. Thus, in pains-

taking and scholarly fashion, he has marshalled the more or less familiar facts of the story, from the time of the arrival of the occupation forces and the complete evacuation of the more than six hundred Spanish inhabitants, to the creation of a provisional government and eventually of a full-fledged royal colony under Governor Johnstone. In this connection are recounted the steps taken to establish such features as the courts, the governor's council, and the assembly, as well as the preparation of the budget and the determination of financial responsibility of the colony and of London in support thereof, the land policy and the making of land grants, and the first laws of the assembly.

This and other useful information Dr. Howard has packed into the six short chapters of only forty-seven pages, together with nine appendices, chapter notes, maps, and bibliography. To the reader the result will reflect a careful and exact method and a clear and concise manner in the presentation of the facts. Nevertheless, in the opinion of this reviewer, the work presents serious shortcomings. Aside from questions already raised, it might be proper to ask why the entire period of English occupation was not treated rather than merely that from 1763 to 1769; also, why the author has not seen fit to present more graphically the actual conditions of town and plantation life in this remote frontier; and, finally, why the relationships of West Florida to East Florida, as well as to other nearby neighbors and the various English possessions in North America should receive but perfunctory attention. It is to be hoped that Dr. Howard will at some future date undertake to revise and to enlarge his study. For this task, it is already evident that he is well equipped.

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Pichardo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiana and Texas. Volume IV. Edited by CHARLES WILSON HACKETT. (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1946. Pp. xiii, 514. \$6.50.)

With the publication of this fourth and final volume of Pichardo's discussion of the historical limits of Louisiana and Texas, the purpose of which was to disprove the claim of the United States that Texas was included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, Dr. Hackett, assisted by Dr. Shelby, has completed a voluminous and difficult but scholarly task and the University of Texas Press has produced a well-printed and handsome set of books.

Pichardo's Treatise was compiled because of the confusing claims of various nations to Texas. With the cession of French Louisiana to Spain in 1762, difficulties began; they were increased by its retrocession