

*Documentos para la historia de la República Dominicana.* Volumen II. Colección de E. RODRÍGUEZ DEMORIZI. [Archivo General de la Nación, Centenario de la República Dominicana, Vol. V.] (Santiago, R. D.: Editorial El Diario, 1947. Pp. 713. Paper.)

Initiated in 1944 in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the independence from Haiti, an extensive program of documentary publication is being carried on by the General Archive of the Dominican Republic. The editorial work has been in charge of the active and efficient director of the archive, Dr. Emilio Rodríguez Demorizi, a member of the Dominican Academy of History, who has many important publications to his credit, and who now represents his country in Colombia. The volume under review is the second of the series entitled *Documentos para la historia de la República Dominicana*, of which the first appeared in 1944. The period covered by each of these volumes is practically the same, i.e., from 1844, the date of independence from Haiti, to 1861, the year of reincorporation with Spain. However, in this volume there is one document giving a survey of events from 1828 to 1845 and several for 1862-1865, relating to General Santana, the president who effected the reincorporation of Santo Domingo with Spain and who died in the latter year.

There are 141 documents, of which eighty-two are from manuscripts and fifty-nine from printed sources, this comparing with sixteen from manuscripts and 126 from broadsides, pamphlets, and newspapers in Volume I. The originals reproduced in Volume II are in the Archivo General (7), the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba (1), the Archive of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo (2), and the private collections of Lic. Arturo Logroño (65) and D. Emilio Tejera (7). The previously published documents are from the *Gaceta* (22) and various newspapers and books (37). A *memoria* on the events of 1856-1857, which appeared as a pamphlet, covers eighty-four pages. The appendix comprises the text of four political and controversial pamphlets dealing with General Santana and the reincorporation with Spain.

The documents include correspondence, proclamations, and reports relating to the occurrences of the years covered. It may be observed that frequently there is mention of other documents which would undoubtedly add to the story. However, taken together the two volumes serve to give a detailed picture of the political and military conditions which existed in the first period of Dominican independence. Of the contents of the present volume, Dr. Rodríguez says, "Since the whole period from 1844 to the War of the Restoration is in essence the biography of Santana, there are in this work the fundamental elements for its study: proclamations, official and personal letters, reports, diatribes,

accusations and defenses, hatreds, passions and virtues, the political drama of the past and its brief interludes of order and peace, all this is latent in the mass of documents, of which the most important part refers to the discussed Liberator."

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*Albores de Venezuela: Significado del régimen alemán: Génesis de la nacionalidad: Origen y expresión del ayuntamiento americano: Encomiendas primitivas de Barquisimeto.* By AMBROSIO PERERA. Caracas: C. A. Artes Gráficas, 1946. Pp. 199. Paper.)

*Albores de Venezuela* was first presented, under the title "Pilares primitivas de Venezuela," as a paper read before the Fourth Congress of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History held in Caracas in 1946. It is an analysis of the capitulation made by the Spanish king, Charles I, in 1528, with the Augsburg Welsers to explore and colonize the Province of Venezuela and an interesting study of certain aspects of government under the Welsers based on unpublished documents from the Archives of the Indies, copies of which the author used in the National Academy of History in Caracas. The book contains also the texts (about one hundred pages) of grants made to *encomenderos* in Barquisimeto in 1552 by the founder, Juan de Villegas, and the instructions issued with these grants regarding the treatment of the Indians. He contrasts the policy of the Spaniards with respect to the Indians with the practices of the Germans.

The German interlude contributed to the evolution of the Province of Venezuela into a separate jurisdiction within the Spanish Empire and hence to its final appearance as a nation in 1810, the author holds. He objects, however, to the contention made by German writers that Venezuela was a German colony and makes use of documentary sources to show that neither in the political sphere nor in the economic were the powers of the Welsers unusual for the period of conquest. In the economic sphere he finds the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Welsers less extensive than those of the Guipuzcoa Company.

As a devoted citizen of the State of Lara (Barquisimeto) the author introduces bits of regional history and geography that add to the interest of his book. And he comments on the autonomy of the colonial city lost when its citizens "no longer had an Atlantic to separate them from despotic authority."

MARY WATERS.

Illinois State Historical Library.