

*Invasões francesas, 1807-1810.* By PEDRO VITORINO. (Pôrto: Livraria Figueirinhas, 1945. Pp. 199. Illustrations. Paper. 20 escudos.)

The late Pedro Vitorino, a physician by profession, found abundant time in his quiet life to dabble in history. He was especially interested in the city of Oporto, where he spent most of his life, and this posthumous work, appearing only a few months after his tragic death, is concerned principally with the Napoleonic campaigns in Oporto and northern Portugal during the years 1807-1810. The author treats the important military engagements with considerable competence, speaks of Napoleon's criticism of the conduct of the war, touches upon the traitorous activities of the Portuguese, and discusses the intrigue among the French high command. Primarily the book is a record of strategy and petty politics. There is nothing on the background of the invasions, on Portugal's vacillating diplomacy in the years immediately preceding the invasions, or on the flight of the royal family to Brazil. There is nothing on the role of doctrinaire liberalism in the country, or on the part played by the Masonic fifth column. Because of these omissions the book suffers from an unfinished quality, and one feels that the most important facets of the story have not been disclosed. The emphasis on the purely military, though it permitted the author to reveal many tactical blunders that might have been avoided, is not enough to satisfy the intelligent reader; clearly the forest has been lost sight of for the trees.

Under the circumstances it is difficult to understand why the book was published. J. A. Pires de Lima, who supplies a preface to the volume, believes "para bem da cultural nacional" that all the works of Pedro Vitorino still in manuscript ought to see the light of day. This is probably the sincere opinion of a man still stunned by his friend's sudden death, but if the book under review is a representative sample of Pedro Vitorino's *Nachlass*, one hesitates to agree. Actually the little volume before us adds nothing significant to what is already known. The bibliography at the end of the text, which may or may not have been prepared by the author, is very thin even in printed sources. As for manuscripts, from the hundreds that are available, only one was used. Nor is the book justified from the point of view of style or of the author's general intellectual equipment. It is time to study the Napoleonic period in Portugal, but it must be done by someone with a far richer endowment than Pedro Vitorino possessed. Until such a man arises much interest may be aroused by a journalistic account as is the present one, but the cause of knowledge will not be seriously advanced.

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