

times rather superficial, and brings together much information not easily accessible to the average student. The curious reader can glean many interesting facts even from the sections that deal with the constitutions and with the laws. For example, Professor Macdonald has gathered some surprising information about presidential salaries, which range from such utterly ridiculous amounts as \$1200 per annum in Bolivia, \$4500 in Ecuador, and \$6000 in Chile, to \$35,000 in Brazil and Cuba and \$60,000 in Guatemala. He also gives the requirements for voting in each country and describes briefly the way in which the voting takes place. Property qualifications for the suffrage seem to be a thing of the past, but all of the West Coast republics, from Colombia to Chile, have literacy qualifications. Women may vote in about half of the countries. Almost everywhere the ballots are furnished by the political parties, and there is little opportunity to vote a split ticket. Unfortunately, the author gives us less information about the all important questions: who registers the voters and counts the ballots? It would be interesting to know what changes in the electoral machinery itself seem to have played a part in the development of better elections in countries like Chile and Colombia.

It is perhaps unreasonable, when an author presents so much useful material, to suggest that he might have presented more. Historians, however, will probably feel that a discussion of Latin-American political life should devote more attention to the traditions inherited from the colonial period and to the political development of each country since independence. It is difficult, for example, to understand the difference in political conditions in two nearby countries like Colombia and Venezuela unless one has a more adequate picture of the background in each country. More attention might also profitably be devoted to the way in which political parties are formed and held together and to the very important changes in the composition and alignment of political parties in the last quarter century. It would be unfair, however, to ask any author to do this for all of the twenty republics within the compass of one volume. As it stands, the book is a very useful one. It gives a picture of governmental machinery and practice in Latin America that is more complete and more accurate than anything previously available to students.

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DANA G. MUNRO.

Expansionists of 1812. By JULIUS W. PRATT. (New York: Peter Smith, 1949. Pp. 309. \$3.25.)

A reprint of a well-known study first published in 1925. The author's contribution to the understanding of the forces leading to war in 1812

is well known to most readers of this review. Still highly useful as a study of conditions on the Spanish-American frontier in Florida in that era. See particularly chapters ii, v, and vi. No changes have been made in this edition, which appears to have been made from the original plates.

C. C. G.

Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatán. By JOHN L. STEPHENS. Edited with an introduction and notes by RICHARD L. PREDMORE. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1949. 2 vols. Pp. xx, 346; xiv, 401. Illustrations. End-paper maps. \$10.00).

This handsome re-edition of a minor classic, long out of print, reflects credit both on the editor and the publishers. The former has added explanatory notes (chiefly to identify places mentioned), has modernized spelling of proper names, and has provided a brief introduction about the author; the latter have done an excellent job of book-making. The reproductions of the original Catherwood illustrations are clear and attractive. The text follows the twelfth (1856) edition which corrected many errors in previous printings. Students and teachers interested in the ancient and in the nineteenth-century history of Central America will no longer have to rely on rapidly deteriorating copies of older editions of this indispensable work.

C. C. G.

Historia de la provincia de Cumaná en la transformación política de Venezuela, desde el día 27 de abril de 1810 hasta el presente año de 1821. By FRANCISCO JAVIER YANES. [Biblioteca Venezolana de Cultura, Colección "Andrés Bello,"] [Ediciones del Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura y Bellas Artes.] (Caracas: Imprenta de la Dirección de Cultura, 1949. Pp. 327. Paper.)

A companion piece to the author's *Historia de Margarita*, this volume has even greater importance in that it has preserved, in the form of copies, important documents relating to political developments in eastern Venezuela during the war of independence which would otherwise be unknown. Among these are some relating to the so-called *congresillo de Cariaco*, and to the relations between Bolívar and Mariño. Dr. Hector García Chuecos, the able director of the Archivo Nacional, transcribed and arranged the material in this volume for the press from the original manuscript. The greater part of the book consists of documents which are loosely strung on a narrative thread.

C. C. G.