

*Modern Brazil: Resources and Possibilities.* (Rio de Janeiro: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1949. Pp. 232. Illustrations, maps, index.)

An interesting, concise, and informative compendium of facts and statistics on Brazil, with sections devoted to geography, demography, mining, agriculture, livestock, industry, touring, and other topics. The brief discussions are accompanied by recent population and production figures as well as tables of comparative statistics. The volume, profusely illustrated with sketches (both in color and sepia tone), photographs, maps, and charts, will prove helpful as a reference guide to the student who desires information on the present state of Brazil. The work may be obtained through Brazilian consulates.

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*Obras completas del maestro Justo Sierra.* Tomo II, *Prosa literaria.* Tomo IV, *Periodismo político.* Edited by FRANCISCO MONTERDE and AGUSTÍN YÁÑEZ. [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.] (Mexico City: Imprenta Universitaria, 1948. Paper.)

Volume IV of the Justo Sierra *Obras* contains letters, written chiefly by Sierra, and an appendix. The first part of the volume is made up of letters written in the years 1867-1900 to a wide range of friends among the intellectual and political leaders of Mexico. Two of the letters are especially interesting. The one addressed to Ignacio Altamirano explained, in a rather condescending tone, that the metaphysics of the Reforma were now outmoded, having been replaced by the great achievements of science. In the other, written to President Díaz in 1900, Sierra stated that he was against the president's seeking reelection. Letters to his wife and daughter from Europe in 1900 make up the second part. His powers of observation were good, but what is most striking is the impression one gets of Sierra's wife—she must have been a learned woman; otherwise, the letters scarcely would have been written on such a high intellectual plane. A hodge-podge of correspondence, from 1902-1912, is included in the third part. There is, however, an important letter to Limantour in 1907 concerning the question of education, and it shows the dissension in the Díaz cabinet. The appendix contains administrative documents and more letters to Mexicans.

Included in Volume II is the play *Piedad*. It is described in the Introduction to the volume as "un drama juvenil" and truly it is. A little known novel, *El ángel del porvenir*, Sierra's *Cuentos románticos* and the *Conversaciones del domingo*, the latter first published in *Monitor Republicano*, are also in this volume. The *Conversaciones* are descriptions of Mexico which, in some ways, can be compared to Altamirano's

telegraphic descriptions and the "Crónica charlamentaria" of Guillermo Prieto of the same period.

The high standard of editing established in the earlier volumes published in this series has been maintained in these two volumes.

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*La anexión de Centroamérica a México, documentos y escritos de 1823 a 1828, Vol. VI.* Compilation and prologue by RAFAEL HELIODORO VALLE. [Archivo Histórico Diplomático Mexicano, Segunda Serie, Número 7.] (Mexico City: Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Departamento de Información para el Extranjero, 1949. Pp. 289. Index. Paper.)

In 1924 Señor Rafael Heliodoro Valle published the first volume of this series; the last volume is here under review. In the prologue to the sixth volume the compiler declares that the annexation of the one-time Captaincy General of Central America to Mexico was one of the most interesting events in the political life of America. He expresses the opinion that the history of Central America cannot be studied properly distinct from the history of Mexico. He declares that even before Agustín de Iturbide entered the City of Mexico in triumph on September 27, 1821 (not, as he asserts, on September 28), the plan for Mexican independence which Iturbide had proclaimed at Iguala on February 24, 1821, had become widely known throughout the Central American provinces and that their adhesion to that program was the prologue to the movement for the incorporation of Central America into the First Mexican Empire.

The documents compiled by Dr. Valle for this volume have been selected mostly from a small number of printed sources. A number of documents have been extracted from such periodicals as *El Sol* and *La Aguila Mexicana*. A few papers have been reprinted from Manning's *Diplomatic Correspondence*. For the most part, however, the material has been taken from the documentary collection compiled by Matías Romero entitled *Bosquejo histórico de la agregación a México de Chiapas y Soconusco*, which was printed in the City of Mexico in 1877. Not a single document in the volume under review has been taken directly from the Archivo General de la Nación in that capital.

This volume furnishes sidelights about the personalities, the politics, and the intrigues of Middle America during a transitional period. It contains little of importance concerning the annexation of Central America to Mexico that has not already been published. The six-volume series does, however, furnish a substantial corpus of documents