

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

concerning the attempt of Emperor Agustín I to absorb Central America. Furthermore, the sixth volume contains a useful, chronological guide to the contents of the series.

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*A Vida de Rui Barbosa.* By LUIZ VIANNA FILHO. [Edição do Centenário especial.] (São Paulo: Cia. Editora Nacional. Pp. 438. Illustration, notes, bibliography. Paper.)

Here is an intelligently presented, fairly objective biography of one of Brazil's greatest public men. The author has used the many accounts dealing with special aspects of the Bahian's varied career appearing in print previously, along with a bewildering number of communications stored away in official, private, periodical, and newspaper collections.

In a brief review it is impossible to mention more than a few of the incidents which went to make up the career of the versatile Rui (the appellation the author invariably uses in referring to his beloved subject). Born in poverty in Baía in 1849, and throughout life remaining a prisoner of its embarrassing shackles, Rui had legal training in schools in Recife and São Paulo, in which cities he made the acquaintance of several men who were to help shape the political and cultural destinies of Brazil. But Rui's training was not narrowly legal; it could not have been, for his inquiring spirit sought contact with the great minds of the world, past and present, in all categories of learning. Philosophy, pure literature, and natural science were the hand-maidens of political and social science. Speaking in terms of nationality, Rui's predilections favored British authors, although they did not omit the French, the Americans, the Germans, the Spanish, and the Portuguese.

The press and the forum were Rui's chief vehicles of expression. When at intervals he was retired from public office—from parliament, the foreign service, or the cabinet—he edited or wrote for papers published in Baía or Rio de Janeiro. Frequently he was journalist and politician at the same time. Indeed he was versatile; indeed his mind was insatiable. But what causes did he champion? The list is long and impressive. It includes the abolition of Negro slavery, electoral reform (the Saraiva Law), and the improvement of institutions of public education and public health. If old and revered institutions became obstacles to progress he would abolish them and try new ones. For example, he advocated and supported the revolution which overthrew the empire in 1889 and replaced it by a republic two years later.

As one would expect, Rui played a leading role in the establishment