

from his command of the Second Division "for family matters," and retired from active service for the Mexican government. Most of his correspondents rightly interpreted the move as a resignation rather than a leave, writing that they were his to command should it once again become necessary for him "to raise his conquering sword . . . for territorial integrity and the Constitution of 1857."

Díaz reveals that he was formally offered the post of minister of war in the Juárez cabinet, but he declined it and sought only complete separation from the army, and when that was denied him he determined to break with the government and to that end sought and was granted his leave of absence. From his retirement, Díaz could merely contemplate the events of the swift-changing Mexican scene, rather than play his accustomed active role in them. He saw the difficulties of the campaign against the rebels in Yucatan, but steadfastly refused any direct involvement in decisions concerning the relief of those forces, despite the pleas of General Francisco Carreón who took over the command while Díaz was "on leave." Could Díaz, a soldier's soldier, but have rejoiced as letters from his old comrades-in-arms on the occasion of the first anniversary of the capture of Puebla and on many other occasions revealed an increasing tide of bitterness against the measures the civilian president was taking against the military forces, measures such as reducing the size of the cavalry. One gains the impression that Díaz was biding his time, judging the rising tide of troubles for the Juárez government, and waiting for the proper moment and opportunity to turn it all to his own advantage.

Latin-American historians, and historians of Mexico in particular, will welcome the continuing publication of the Díaz archive with its useful indexes and interesting photographs, but many will share the feeling of this reviewer that further weeding out of unimportant papers or a speeding up of the rate of publication, or both, could profitably be done. At the rate it is going—a volume or two a year each covering six months of the life of Díaz—it will be a very long time indeed before we shall have the entire archive at our disposal.

Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

RICHARD BLAINE McCORNACK.

Transition Period. The Fight for Freedom, 1810-1836. By CARLOS E. CASTAÑEDA. [*Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1936*, Vol. VI.] (Austin, Texas: Von Boeckmann-Jones Company, 1950. Pp. xvi, 384. Illustrations, map, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

In presenting the sixth of seven projected volumes on the history of Texas from 1519 to 1936, Professor Castañeda approaches the conclusion

of an extremely difficult project and one that is unusual in a period of historical writing when the multi-volume history by one author is almost a thing of the past. Throughout these volumes there is ample evidence in documentation of the author's diligence in the use of archival materials to supplement monographic literature. Occasionally the reexamination of original sources fails to yield enough new material to justify the effort; nevertheless, the verification of earlier research is very useful.

There are two major themes in *The Fight for Freedom*, the filibuster raids and Anglo-American colonization, which form that intriguing drama one might call the Americanization of Texas. The first seven chapters present in detail the role of Texas in the Mexican revolution for independence. The Casas revolt and Zambrano counter-revolt, the successful plot to capture Hidalgo and his companions, and the filibustering expeditions receive adequate treatment. Although one finds little that is new and nothing startling in the story of attack and defense, the interesting account of social and economic conditions in Texas during the revolutionary decade is a definite contribution.

Castañeda assumes that Monroe's interest in Gutiérrez was evidence of a desire to adjust the boundary dispute by taking Texas as a price for military aid. We have only the word of Gutiérrez for what Monroe may or may not have offered; but Monroe, however much he may have wanted Texas, could also see the value of building a backfire on the frontier in the event of war with Great Britain. Monroe may have intended to take Texas if the royalist government in New Spain adopted a hostile attitude; but the viceroys made no such blunder. Had Monroe, with Madison's blessing, really wanted to seize the province, his measures were as poorly calculated as his efforts toward Florida. It is hard to see how "The War of 1812 sounded the doom for Spain's possessions in America" (p. 86). Texas, certainly, was never a major objective in that war, nor did the conflict weaken the royalist position in the Spanish colonies. Spanish control over Texas, for example, was probably as strong after the defeat of the Gutiérrez-Magee raid as it was before the Casas revolt. Professor Castañeda is correct, nevertheless, in relating that enterprise to the War of 1812; there is room for argument over its real relationship.

Like most good Texans, Castañeda insists on misspelling the name "Laffite." Pierre and Jean, as their letters clearly show, signed themselves "Laffite," not "Lafitte." Moreover, it requires a big stretch of the imagination to include Jean Laffite among "heroes of Mexican and Texan independence." The author, too, uses the word "pirate" altogether too loosely. Aury, for example, was hardly a "pirate leader." There is no mystery about the strangers who attempted briefly to settle

at Matagorda Bay in May, 1817. Castañeda, in note 66, page 146, says they were Frenchmen; in note 2, page 149, he says they could not have been Frenchmen. Actually it was Aury's band of privateersmen and his prizes who made the visit. With so much detail included, one wonders why there is no account of how the brothers Laffite, secret agents for Spain, established themselves at Galveston. The story is not uninteresting and is readily available in two monographs.

Even while filibusters were, in their own way, attempting to solve the old problem of how to settle Texas, several more controllable plans were being advanced. An independent Mexico, by using the empresario system, solved the colonization problem after a fashion; but, in letting down the feeble barriers to Anglo-American expansion, Mexico was to lose a province. Castañeda gives a competent summary of the empresario grants, of the Fredonian Rebellion, and of the growing tension that resulted in the War for Independence. It is somewhat misleading, however, to call the immigration of 1821-1835 a flood that swept over "the whole country." A judicious and impartial review of causes of friction considers Indian troubles, American diplomacy, the slavery issue, and effects of the law of April 6, 1830. The brief and well-written summary of the Texas Revolution follows standard accounts and makes no effort to describe incompetence as heroism. The sad state of Texas religious life in the early nineteenth century is revealed in a well-documented account enlivened by the story of the remarkable Reverend Michael Muldoon, a character who might easily become a rival of Pecos Pete.

One of the unpleasant duties of a reviewer seems to be to call attention to editorial slips. Among many that were noted, some are of the sort that cause an author to seek the nearest cliff after he sees them in print. "Corres" for Coues, "Priestly" for Priestley, "Hanegan" for Hanighen, "Poinsette" for Poinsett, and "Chalcott" for Callcott are examples. A neat geographical turn is found in the statement: "The treaty had set the limits of Northeast Texas at a line running from the point where the Sabine River intersects Red River at parallel 32°." (p. 214.) That is asking a bit too much of rivers, even in Texas. There is slight confusion in the statement that American commerce was being choked off in the years before the War of 1812 "by the Napoleonic Orders in Council and the British Embargo." (p. 62.) The one map, "Footsteps Across Texas," is inadequate and difficult to read. But these are minor blemishes in a scholarly and readable volume that obviously is the result of long and careful research.

HARRIS GAYLORD WARREN.

The University of Mississippi.