

In the prefatory notes by the secretary general and the editor, brief references are made to "inter-American law" and its relationship to "general international law". This is an important issue, unfortunately not touched upon elsewhere in the book; the risking of its frank and open discussion might have given some life and interest to this volume. There is, it should be said, a lively note by Ambassador Luis Quintanilla on the very special status in the inter-American system of the Inter-American Commission on Methods for the Pacific Solution of Conflicts.

About 60 per cent of the contents of this handsomely bound and printed volume consists of reprints of material already published by the Pan American Union and other organizations, and readily available to the very restricted audience which is likely to use the *Yearbook*. Since the publications budget of the Pan American Union is obviously limited, it seems anomalous that funds should have been set aside for a *Yearbook* of this type, while the official records of the Council, which form an essential part of the fundamental documentation of the O.A.S., continue to appear on dim and discouraging mimeographed pages, dubiously held together by ungalvanized staples.

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Guerra de los Diez Años, 1868-1878. Vol. I. By RAMIRO GUERRA Y SÁNCHEZ. (Habana: Cultural, S. A., 1950. Pp. xii, 420. Maps, index. Paper.)

No adequate history of Cuba's first major struggle for independence has yet appeared, and it will be some time before such a work is possible because source material is so widely scattered. This is particularly true of the papers concerned with efforts to supply the Cuban forces and with the attempts of the insurgent government to secure diplomatic recognition. In recent years, however, numerous collections of documents, articles, essays, biographies and other specialized studies have been printed. Dr. Guerra takes the position that a tentative history of the war is both feasible and necessary. It is now possible, he says, to begin "estudios globales de exposición, interpretación y síntesis." He recognizes that such works will be marred by "lagunas considerables y errores de mucho bulto," but feels that they will perform the invaluable service of making easier the labor of historians who will follow. Viewed in the light of this stated purpose Dr. Guerra is to be commended very highly for this volume.

A recent study by Dr. Francisco J. Ponte Domingues entitled *Historia de la Guerra de los Diez Años desde su origen hasta Guatamaro* (noticed

in THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, November, 1949) made a valuable contribution to the bibliography on the war by tracing out the constitutional origins of the Cuban government in the field, but the story of the war itself was not carried beyond April of 1869. Dr. Guerra has gone over the same ground, but continues the history to the end of 1869. He has also excellently analyzed the causes of the war and of the conflicts between the leading personalities of the rebel movement. He has been so thorough on the first point that it is unlikely that future historians will be able materially to change his conclusions. Dr. Guerra has tackled the problem of why the Cuban aristocrats, long so fearful that a free Cuba would mean a black Cuba, suddenly lost their fears and furnished the leaders of the independence movement of 1868. This has been a special field of investigation for our author and as early as 1938 he included his tentative conclusions in the *Manual de la historia de Cuba* (noticed in THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, May, 1942). In the present volume Dr. Guerra begins with an analysis of statistical records of population, from which he concludes that it was the areas in which the Negro, particularly the slave Negro, was a negligible factor that furnished the leaders of the revolution and not the whole body of the Cuban landed aristocracy. Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, for instance, raised the standard of revolt in a district in which slaves constituted only 7 per cent of the population and the free blacks scarcely 30 per cent, while the latter were wholly integrated into the social and economic life of the country as free laborers and small farmers. Approximately the same percentages held for the western part of the department of Oriente where the revolution gained ground rapidly. On the other hand, the Santiago and Guantánamo districts of the same department were strongly loyalist in sentiment. In them, the slave element was 39 per cent of the population and the free blacks another 33 per cent.

Except for the loyalist districts just mentioned, the population pattern of Cuba presented a regular picture of an increasing slave and free black element as one moved from east to west. In the same direction the revolution also proceeded, and its intensity decreased in almost the same proportion that the black element increased; the Camagüey district was next in intensity to that of the original revolution, Las Villas a little less active, while Matanzas, Habana, and Pinar del Río could not even get organized military units into the field in those areas, but had to be content with sending contributions to the armies farther east. Dr. Guerra has also shown the relation between loyalist sentiment in port cities and their intimate commercial connections with Spain, as well as the effects of large contingents of recent immigrants from the mother country which they contained.

The military campaigns, through 1869, have been clearly and accurately handled with the aid of specially drawn maps. Even better is Dr. Guerra's account of the rivalry between the followers of Céspedes in Oriente and the leaders in Camagüey and Las Villas. He is definitely biased in favor of Céspedes, but has not let this prevent his giving proper praise to the opponents for keeping dictatorial control out of his hands. Dr. Guerra has only highest praise, however, for Céspedes because he held out for independence when his rivals would have been willing to accept annexation to the United States as a means of avoiding bloodshed and destruction of property.

Dr. Guerra has been less fortunate in his treatment of foreign relations, and a number of errors indicate that his profound knowledge of his own country's history does not extend with equal profundity to the history of some of her neighbors. In attempting to explain some resolutions in the United States Congress in January of 1869 favorable to Cuba, he made the unfortunate statement: "La toma de posesión de Grant no se efectaría hasta el 4 de marzo de 1869, pero el nuevo Congreso entró en funciones desde diciembre de 1868." The author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was not "Ana Beecher Stowe," and the "Dixon-Mason Line" was not that established by the "Compromise of 1850."

On the other hand, Dr. Guerra has dealt effectively with the easy manner in which the Spanish minister in Washington put the Grant administration in a difficult position when it wished to recognize the Cuban insurgents:

El representante diplomático de España en Washington no tuvo más trabajo que el de copiar textualmente las notas diplomáticas de [Charles Francis] Adams en las que él dirigió a Hamilton Fish, cuidando de citar la fuente de donde tomaba sus argumentos. De este manera [Mauricio] López Roberts colocó al Presidente Grant y al Secretario de Estado en situación embarazosa, con respecto al posible reconocimiento de la beligerancia de los insurrectos cubanos.

Since the United States was just then pressing the *Alabama* claims, this argument was particularly effective. Small wonder that the Cuban agent, who arrived in Washington at this time, received scant encouragement.

Dr. Guerra has made commendable use of most of the published material on the Ten Years' War, but there are a few surprising omissions. Particularly noticeable is the lack of any reference to Rafael M. Merchán, whose article, "Laboremos" gave the name of *Laborantes* to the members of the underground movement in Spanish-held territory. Nor is there any mention of the recent collection of Merchán's works, *Patria y cultura*, published by the Cuban Ministry of Education. Despite a few errors and omissions, however, the author of this volume has

achieved his main objective, that of making easier the path of future students of the Ten Years' War. May nothing prevent his completing a work so well begun.

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Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849: Diary of Robert Eccleston. Edited by GEORGE P. HAMMOND and EDWARD H. HOWES. [Bancroft Library Publications, No. 2.] (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1950. Pp. xvii, 256. Frontispiece, appendix, index. \$7.50.)

Robert Eccleston was a native of New York. He was little more than nineteen when he joined the Fremont Association which went by sea from New York City to Port Lavaca, Texas, and thence overland to California and the mines. Eccleston's diary is a remarkably informative document, and a valuable historical source, being rich in concrete details concerning the geography and other natural phenomena of the countries through which he and his party passed, as well as being abundantly supplied with records of the social life and camp and road customs of the wagon trains that were crossing by the southwestern route. The route that the Fremont Association traversed is clearly outlined on two pleasing maps which the editors have drawn especially for the text. Readers of this REVIEW may be interested in consulting what the author tells of the Spanish-Mexican agriculture in the Rio Grande valley near El Paso, and in examining his scattered notices of the several small communities, established long before his time, in the Tucson area and at other localities along the route.

The Fremont Association's crossing from El Paso to the Coast possesses historical importance because it is the only one on record which took the Tucson short-cut prior to 1851. The party saved between 125 and 150 arduous miles of wilderness travel, or about ten days on the road. The tracks of the Southern Pacific railway parallel much of this cut-off today.

The volume is attractively printed on good paper and in a clear, well-designed type-face. Footnotes illuminate doubtful references in the text and clarify occasional uncertainties. The introduction by the editors is helpful, and an appendix on the diarist's family is supplied. The index is a copious one. Altogether, the production is creditable to all concerned.

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