

Gutiérrez de Lara, Mexican-Texan: The Story of a Creole Hero. By RIE JARRATT. (Austin: Creole Texana, 1949. Pp. xii, 67. Illustrations.)

This little volume is a sympathetic and delightful study of a creole revolutionist, Gutiérrez de Lara. Rie Jarratt makes no pretense of presenting a definitive biography but promises us a full-length study. The skillful presentation of the material drawn from archives, public and private, makes one feel the author's perfect command of the sources.

Gutiérrez, who is perhaps best known to students for his part, with Magee, in the expedition to free Texas, had a life well worth studying. The author touches all phases of his public career but, naturally, in this brief essay, makes no effort to explore the implications of events decisive in Gutiérrez' life. But from the precision of reference to these decisive points, one senses sharply the relationships of Gutiérrez to men and events. American interest in Texas and the Mexican War for Independence reveals itself strongly in the journey of the creole to Washington and his residence there as Hidalgo's volunteer representative. The expedition to free Texas takes on new meaning when viewed in the setting of his whole career.

Upon Gutiérrez' return to his home, his state, Tamaulipas, made him governor. Soon the federal government elevated him to be commander general of the eastern Interior Provinces. Doubtless, in the full-length study, the author will give depth to the patriot leader's career at this point by reference of the previous history of this frontier. For those who have ranged across the materials of the eighteenth century in this area, Gutiérrez' problems have a familiar ring.

An attractive idea the author suggests is that the creole's career is part of a larger subject—the creole heritage of the United States. Such a work would have significance for it would bring into view on this frontier many figures, creole or not, who deserve recognition and portrayal in biographies.

ALFRED B. THOMAS.

University of Alabama.

British Policy and the Independence of Latin America, 1804-1828. By WILLIAM W. KAUFMANN. [Yale Historical Publications, Miscellany LII.] (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951. Pp. viii, 238. Bibliographical note, index. \$3.75.)

This book brings to mind the old story of the hand of Esau and the voice of Jacob. Dr. Kaufmann justifies his re-telling of a twice-told tale partly on the ground of his fresh analysis of the episode "in terms of the problems posed, the alternatives available, and the diplomacy employed." Many will recognize here the analytical formula followed