

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.

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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

by the State Department's postwar planners in World War II and widely publicized by the Brookings Institution since 1946. This is the hand of Esau; it appears again and again throughout the book and is responsible for some of its best passages. But our Jacob speaks with his own voice, and it is an agreeable one. He tells his story with a verve and distinction rare in studies of this kind.

Kaufmann also justifies his book as "a synthesis of both fact and interpretation." In this respect, too, he has done his work uncommonly well. He has, however, achieved greater originality through analysis than through synthesis. The parts are fresher than the whole. For example, he has unraveled better than anyone else the sinuosities of Canning's Latin-American recognition policy, yet he has not substantially altered Webster's summation of British policy towards Latin America from 1810 to 1824. Likewise, while the two chief policy-makers come alive in these pages, they are the Castlereagh and Canning we already knew.

The main alteration here made in the familiar outlines consists in an exploration of the origins of British policy before 1810. This is welcome and the exploration is good as far as it goes, though Kaufmann rather neglects Brazil and Portugal for the Spanish empire and in relation to the latter fails to follow useful leads provided by Jean O. McLachlan's *Trade and Peace with Old Spain, 1667-1750*, which is not cited in these pages.

For some unexplained reason, the author apparently based his study entirely upon printed works and made no use of the abundant manuscript materials available in Britain and elsewhere. This is not a fatal defect, perhaps not even a serious one, since so many of the sources have been printed and he seems to have combed them carefully. He should, however, have explained his failure to look further, particularly in view of his own statement (p. 226) that the editing of the speeches, correspondence, diaries, and memoirs of this period was done "primarily by the Victorians" and hence is marked by "an excess of reticence, eulogy, and partisanship." His failure to make any but the slightest use of British newspapers and magazines may be explained by his statement (pp. 225-26) that "foreign policy . . . was not considered as an appropriate matter for public discussion"; but the explanation does not satisfy. Appropriate or not, there was a great deal of public discussion of British foreign policy, including policy towards Latin America, and this book would have benefited from a study of its content and sources.

Nevertheless, Kaufmann's performance is on the whole highly creditable to its young author (as I take him to be) and stamps him as a historian of unusual promise. He has a keen, sensitive mind, a vigorous

style, and a well-developed critical faculty along with its rare concomitant, architectural skill. To return to our Bible story, this Jacob has earned his blessing.

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La autenticidad de la carta de San Martín a Bolívar de 29 de agosto de 1822.

Preface by RICARDO LEVENE. [Academia Nacional de la Historia.] (Buenos Aires: Talleres Gráficos "San Pablo," 1950. Pp. 170. Paper.)

Since Lorenzo Valla demonstrated the falsity of the Donation of Constantine, there has been no letter that challenges historical criticism more than the one allegedly written by José de San Martín in Lima, Peru, to Simón Bolívar on August 29, 1822.

This brief volume collects the sources supporting the authenticity of the letter and favorable expressions of opinion by some eighteen writers.

So far as is known, the original letter is not extant. A French translation of it appeared in Gabriel Lafond de Lurcy's *Voyages autour du monde et naufrages celebres* (Paris, 1844). The next year an Italian translation (possibly from the French) was printed in F. C. Marmocchi's *Raccolta de viaggi*. Then came a Spanish version in Juan B. Alberdi's *Biografía del general San Martín*. Facsimiles of these first three printings are given. The Spanish varies slightly from the others in punctuation, paragraphing, and phraseology.

Photostatic engravings of letters from Mitre, Sarmiento, Lafond, San Martín, Balcarce (San Martín's son-in-law), and others are scattered throughout the text. These are interpreted to prove that the letter is genuine. Eleven well-written essays by historians marshal all the evidence substantiating this point of view.

The letter deals with the interview between San Martín and Bolívar at Guayaquil, Ecuador, in July of 1822. It is the basis for the story that Bolívar would not send enough Colombian troops to guarantee a victory against the Spaniards in Peru, even when San Martín offered to serve under Bolívar's command. Stating that his presence in Peru was the sole obstacle to Bolívar's coming with the needed army, San Martín wrote that he would summon a Peruvian congress and then retire, leaving a new field of glory to the Colombian liberator.

As the letter tends to put Bolívar in an unfavorable light, it has been declared spurious by some of his historian admirers. This book is not apt to change their opinion in the slightest. It will, however,