

his writing shifts from what might be called local color to political affairs. He applies his powers of observation to the politicians he knew so well and to the editors of the newspapers. He takes the reader to *los meetings* of 1846 to hear Juan José Baz denounce the clergy and listen to others demand the nationalization of church property. He describes the tangled politics behind the Mexican War, a war which Prieto, like José Fernando Ramírez, regarded more as a struggle of personalities within Mexico than as a real foreign question. The memoirs conclude with some brief accounts of the administrations of the early 1850's.

In a sense Prieto is the nineteenth century in Mexico and he brings the color and the spirit of his country to the printed page as very few others have done.

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*Corpancho, un amigo de México.* By EMILIA ROMERO. [Junta Mexicana de Investigaciones Históricas, Publicación No. 6.] (Mexico City: Editorial Jus, 1949. Pp. 74. Illustrations. Paper.)

Manuel Nicolás Corpancho served as Peruvian diplomatic and consular representative in Mexico from the early days of 1862 until late in August, 1863. It is appropriate that the chronicle of the twenty-one months from his arrival in New York until his tragic death in a fire at sea following his expulsion by the Regency government should be undertaken by a Peruvian writer who has lived in Mexico. Emilia Romero brought to her task the all too rare combination of literary and scholarly talents.

In addition to a skillful utilization of contemporary periodicals, the author used documents not referred to by Genaro Estrada in *La misión de Corpancho* published by the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations in 1923. Although these materials admittedly do not modify the essential picture of Corpancho's mission presented in the earlier work, they do tend to delineate more precisely the character and personality of the subject. An imitative poet, strongly influenced by the romantic movement, and a liberal, Corpancho is revealed as a man of decision and character during his residence in Mexico.

The Peruvian government regarded foreign threats as a peril to the independence of the American republics. To Mexico, under the shadow of foreign intervention, President Castilla dispatched Corpancho who romantically dreamed of a union of the American republics. Corpancho obtained Mexican adherence to the so-called "Continental Agreement" signed by diplomats from Peru, Chile, and Ecuador in Santiago a few years earlier. Curiously, the author omits mention of the fact that the

threat from the United States loomed large in the minds of the originators of that agreement. Revealing the changed situation and the changed attitude that prevailed in 1862, Corpancho stated to the secretary of state of the United States that if the latter's government decided to lend its moral support to the cause of autonomy in America, Peru and the other South-American governments could be depended upon to coöperate (p. 14).

From his pledge to Mexican Minister Romero in Washington to do everything possible to aid Mexico in her hour of proof to his protection of Mexican friends after the capital had fallen Corpancho energetically complied with his mission. The Juárez government and its supporters appreciated the Peruvian gesture of appointing a representative during the crisis. Corpancho's youth, humanity, and devotion to the liberal republican cause made him *simpático*. The mission terminated in the tragic demise of the thirty-two year old Corpancho, a friend of Mexico.

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*Guerra del Pacífico, los tribunales arbitrales, 1882-1888.* By ALEJANDRO SOTO CÁRDENAS. [Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Filosofía y Educación, Instituto Pedagógico, Departamento de Historia y Geografía.] (Santiago de Chile: Imp. Cultura, 1950. Appendix, bibliography. Paper.)

At the conclusion of the War of the Pacific, Chile found itself confronted here and there with a considerable task of tidying up. One of the most trying of the matters that demanded attention was the series of claims made by foreigners for damages to persons or property occasioned by, or alleged to have been occasioned by, the Chilean armed forces in the course of their belligerent operations. A total of 759 claims was presented, distributed in this fashion: Italian, 440; English, 110; French, 89; German, 69; Portuguese, 21; Swiss, 10; Austro-Hungarian, 9; Belgian, 3. The sum of the claims, with interest, amounted to \$46,498,810.00.

This study examines the process whereby these claims were considered and settled. The manner of arriving at settlement was through mixed international commissions, otherwise called by the author arbitral tribunals. Each such tribunal, of which there were some half-dozen, consisted of three members—a Chilean, a member representing the other party, and a chairman who was a Brazilian appointed by the emperor.

The settlement of these claims was a slow process. Tensions developed. The Brazilian emperor found it necessary to appoint in suc-