

*San Martín y José Miguel Carrera.* By JOAQUIN PEREZ. Ciudad Eva Perón, 1954. Pp. 331. 34 pesos.

In Argentina the year 1950 was officially proclaimed the Year of the Liberator General San Martín by the National Government. During that year newspapers were closed for neglecting to carry the dedication of the year to San Martín on their mastheads. Early in the year an Argentine printing company was shut down for reproducing a monograph, by a Venezuelan scholar, which was critical of San Martín's role in the historic meeting with Bolívar at Guayaquil. The owner of the closed print shop protested that he was merely a printer of books, not a judge of their historical content. The Chairman of the Congressional Committee which had closed the printing establishment, replied that no Argentine should accept the printing of a book in which the personality of San Martín was attacked. The Peronista Deputy declared that it might be possible to discuss the personalities of Rivadavia, Mitre, Sarmiento, Alem, etc.—and even Perón—but the personality of San Martín should be sacred to all Argentines!

In view of the foregoing, it is not surprising that the flood of studies on San Martín issued since 1950, the hundredth anniversary of his death, has contained so much adulation and so relatively little scholarly evaluation of the Argentine hero. Nor should one expect the Professor Titular de Historia Americana de la Universidad de Eva Perón to break the established pattern. Professor Pérez' study stays well within the prescribed framework, and San Martín never really emerges as a human being, but remains the Great Leader, as remote and bloodless as the statues to his memory in countless Argentine parks and plazas.

The author is much more successful with José Miguel Carrera, the ambitious, vain, headstrong and talented Chilean whose efforts directed at returning to power in Chile caused so much anxiety to governing circles on both sides of the Andes during the crucial years 1815-21. Carrera's turbulent last years in Uruguay and Argentina, before his defeat and capture in San Juan in 1821, are carefully examined. His execution, on September 4, 1821, which is still a controversial subject in Argentine-Chilean historical circles, is described in considerable detail. The author insists that San Martín bears no responsibility for Carrera's execution. One suspects, however, that the news that Carrera was no longer a threat to the stability of the O'Higgins Government in Chile must not have been entirely distasteful to San Martín in distant Peru.

Arlington, Virginia

JOSEPH R. BARAGER