

BOOK NOTICES*

GENERAL

Arquidiocese de Mariana. Subsídios para a sua história. 2nd edition. By CONEGO RAIMUNDO TRINDADE. Two volumes. Belo Horizonte, 1953-1955. Illustrations. Pp. 430, 438. Paper.

Students of Brazilian ecclesiastical history will be pleased to learn that this work, out of print for more than twenty-five years, has been republished in a revised and enlarged edition. In these two thick volumes the history of the church in Mariana from 1745 to 1952 is traced in great detail, in terms of individual prelates and the institutions they established. The author has based his work predominantly on manuscript materials found in the archives of the archdiocese and in the *Museu da Inconfidência* in Ouro Preto. Literally scores of the original documents are reproduced in the body of the text. However the *Arquidiocese de Mariana* is more than a collection of church documents, for Conego Trindade has woven into his account a great deal of the social, cultural, and political history of Minas Gerais during the past two centuries. In this respect his research on the colonial period complements and in some cases surpasses the earlier studies by Diogo de Vasconcelos.

The work is of particular value as a source of information about education in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In his careful and affectionate portrayal of the history of the seminary at Mariana, for example, the author convincingly illustrates the positive contribution of the Church to the social and cultural development of the people of Minas Gerais. Throughout the author dis-

* Books merely listed in this section may receive notices in future issues. The editors who have contributed are John Finan, (J.F.); Lewis Hanke (L.H.); and John P. Harrison (J.P.H.).

plays an obvious bias in favor of the prelate as opposed to the ecclesiastical chapter and in support of the Church in Church-State issues. This bias does not seriously diminish the value of the study, which is indispensable for the scholar who would attempt to assess the role of the church in the history of Minas Gerais.

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Calfucurá. La conquista de las pampas. By ALVARO YUNQUE. Buenos Aires, 1956. Ediciones Antonio Zamora. Colección Argentinia. Vol. 9. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 436.

This work is reminiscent of Walter Prescott Webb's *The Great Plains*. It is far more than the story of the great chieftain, Calfucurá, who dominated the pampas from 1835 to 1873, part of the time as an ally of Juan Manuel de Rosas. The book contains an excellent description of the pampas, "*misteriosa y viva*," the coming of the Spaniards and the attempts to conquer the pampas in the colonial period and immediately after independence, the epoch of Calfucurá, and the final period of conquest, 1873-1885, entitled "*Rémingtons y telégrafo contra lanzas y chasques*."

One is struck immediately by the remarkable similarity between the conquest of the pampas and that of our own great plains. Characteristic of both were fierce, nomadic, horse-using Indian tribes, famous chiefs, herds of wild horses and cattle or bison, steadfast resistance to encroachments, and the gradual degeneration and defeat of the Indians by a combination of alcoholism, disease, destruction of the herds on which they relied for food, and the intervention of repeating rifles. It is a volume well worth translating.

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