GENERAL


Dr. Rufino Marín, a minor Argentine novelist, poet, newspaperman, and politician, writes with much emotion concerning three long-standing claims for terras irredentas. The book is based on a series of lectures in International Law given in the University of Buenos Aires in October, 1958, under the title, "Problems of America," and concerns Guatemala's claim to Belize, Ecuador's to its lost eastern territories, and Bolivia's to a port on the Pacific. The case is presented most strongly for Ecuador, and least for Bolivia; the first presentation refers to history and law, the last almost solely to emotion and nationalism. Dr. Marín states in the introduction that he has given parts of the series in the various countries involved and has been able to awaken great enthusiasm among his listeners; the phrasing employed, assuming it to be transcribed accurately, would alone guarantee this.

It cannot be suggested that this is a contribution to research on the three problems. Dr. Marín acts as publicist and polemicist. This is indicated by his role as president of "The Argentine Committee for an Exit to the Pacific Ocean for Bolivia," and by his call for the nullification of the January, 1942, treaty which guaranteed the boundaries of Perú and Ecuador. The occasionally calm and factual statements of history and law are far too frequently offset by language which descends to abuse and incitement. Dr. Marín places himself in the quixotic position of railing at power positions unlikely to give way before his appeals to the spirit of the Americas.

PHILIP B. TAYLOR, JR.
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Although just six years are covered in this volume, there is no dearth of material. The Pacific Railroad Reports were issued, the Mormons were busy mapping the Great Basin, the Army was reconnoitering wagon routes, the Pike's Peak rush caused a flurry of cartographic work, and all manner of visionaries and get-rich-quick schemers issued maps to lure the argonaut, the farmer, and the investor into the golden West.

One hundred and one of the maps of this period are beautifully reproduced in Mr. Wheat's volume. What historian can easily leave so fascinating a collection? There is Gunnison's map with the brief notation at trail's end: "Capt. Gunnison killed by the Indians." There are crude maps drawn by mountain men and beautiful maps by such experts as Gouverneur K. Warren and F. W. Egloffstein.

Mr. Wheat's knowledge of western America—the land and the marks of civilization that have been set down upon it—is phenomenal. Place names of a century ago are as familiar to him as those of today, and his expert knowledge of western railroads has greatly aided him in tracing the early paths of empire. His work is a labor of love, but it is also a major contribution to Western Americana. Historians will eagerly await publication of the fifth and final volume of this treasury of the maps of the old West.

RICHARD A. BARTLETT
Florida State University

The Baratarians and the Battle of New Orleans. By Jane Lucas de