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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

Pontificia Americana: a documentary history of the Catholic Church in the United States (1784-1884). By Donald Shearer, O.M.Cap., Ph.D. (Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., New York, 1933. xi—413 pp., calendar of documents, bibliography, index. \$1.25.)

This is Number 11 of the interesting series of *Franciscan Studies*, which lists as other titles "Science in the Franciscan Order," "The Capuchins in French Louisiana," "Pioneer Missionaries in the United States." These monographs are being published under the auspices of the Franciscan, Conventual, and Capuchin Fathers of the United States and Canada. Needless to say, each has been submitted to the censorship and imprimatur of the Church authorities.

The monograph here noted gives the Latin, Italian, and French text of 159 documents, most of which have to do merely with administrative routine and will be of small interest to the layman. Others, however, afford some sidelight on important matters in United States history. For example, there was no more serious problem within the period covered than that of slavery. Yet, if this volume is (as represented by the editorial author) a complete documentation, Rome was utterly silent on this matter after the papal brief of December 3, 1839 (pp. 201-205): and that pronouncement condemned, not slavery, but merely the trade in slaves.

Successive popes were much more concerned over the matter of "trusteeism" within the Church. This may be traced (see Index) from its first appearance in South Carolina through similar controversies in New York, New Orleans, Virginia, and Philadelphia. The monograph gives nothing of importance regarding the former Spanish colonies now within the United States, since the Spanish and Mexican background are almost wholly ignored. Even in

editorial reference to the secularizing of the California missions (p. 206), the "Pious Fund" is not mentioned.

The editor has done excellent work in his introduction, and in summarizing and annotating the documents. His monograph is a valuable contribution to American history.

—L. B. B.

Franciscan History of North America. Edited by Claude Vogel, O.M.Cap. (Capuchin College, Brookland, Washington, 1937; 385 pp., index.)

In the 18th annual meeting of the Franciscan Educational Conference in August 1936 at Santa Barbara, Calif., twelve papers were presented and discussed which were, in effect, a symposium on the general subject, "Franciscan History of North America." The papers are available in a separate volume, ably edited by the Rev. Claude Vogel, O.M.Cap. In some cases the Franciscan Fathers show a lack of acquaintance with the recent work of secular scholars, but on the whole they show a remarkable range and activity in the field of historical research.

Students of the Southwest will find especial interest in four of the twelve papers. Fr. John M. Lambert opens the symposium with an excellent bibliographical survey, "Franciscan historians of North America." Fr. Joseph Thompson follows with "The Franciscans in New Spain, 1522-1600," and Fr. Bonaventure Oblasser with a paper on "The Franciscans in the Spanish Southwest." Last of the twelve, Fr. Marion Habig had the theme, "The Franciscan Martyrs of North America." In tabulating the martyrs, Fr. Habig has included Fr. Juan Mínguez, which is hardly justified by his own definition of a "martyr" (p. 277); while in his separate list of the martyrs of New Mexico (p. 290) he has omitted ten who belong in New Mexico history—before there was any Texas, Arizona, or Nebraska.

The reviewer's estimate of this group of papers may be indicated by the fact that he had made it a *vade mecum* for his present journey to European archives in search of Southwestern material for the Coronado Library. —L. B. B.