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BOOK REVIEWS

Cato the Censor on Farming. Translated by Ernest Brehaut. (Columbia University Press, 1933. xlv+156 pp.; illus., bibliog., index. \$3.75.)

One hundred and thirty years is definitely too long an interval between successive translations of Cato's book on farming. The appearance of this new translation is especially opportune at the present time, furnishing, as it does, timely aid to the hard-pressed minority in the discussion of the relief for modern American agriculture. Though the table of contents divides the work into various subjects, the whole is an able and earnest elaboration of the statement expressed in the first book: "Be sure that a farm is like a man, that however much it brings in, if it pays much out, not a great deal is left."

With this point always in mind, Cato offers his advice to gentlemen who wish to undertake farming for profit; almost every chapter contains several don'ts. A farm owner should never buy fuel, nor lumber, nor food, nor lime, nor ropes, nor fertilizer, nor feed for his cattle, nor cloth, nor baskets, nor nursery stock, nor machinery which can be made at home. And we are using hundreds of millions to raise the power of the farmer to purchase just these things! He should not pay too much for the farm at the beginning; nor should he ever pay more than the standard price (carefully noted in the thesis) for cartage or mill-wheels or harvesting or tile roofs. He must not be too lavish with sacrifices nor allow his slaves and servants to be idle on feast days. He gives recipes for the concoction of home medicines from herbs; also culinary recipes which contain no ingredients which are not available on the farm and require no expenditure. He has unbounded faith in the efficacy of cabbage, not only as a wholesome food and as an appetizer, but as a cure for a number of afflictions, from cancer to warts in the nose. Reluctantly in chapter 135, he

is forced to admit that certain articles must be purchased and cash paid out, but he mitigates the shock by giving the names of the towns where they can best be purchased.

Although his advice deals largely with the growing of olives and grapes for oil and wine, he mentions approximately one hundred other possible sources of small revenue. Surely those whom he led to engage in agriculture for profit, if they did not gain much, could not have suffered much loss.

The methods described by Cato were evidently sound; the best proof of this fact is that they do not materially differ from the best modern practices in Italy, Spain, and especially in Mallorca. Little change has been made in the olive mills; the cattle still subsist largely upon leaves and straw. Willow and cane still form essential necessities in a well managed farmstead and any farm of any size has a man, usually a cripple, who works continually in osier, reeds, and straw. But the oak, raised for wood according to his advice, is largely replaced with pear, which in his time seems to have been grown for the fruit only. Few buildings now exist which would serve as examples of his choice in building material; later builders preferred cut stone. In Mexico, however, houses of "cal y canto" are very common. It is unfortunate that Cato has not described more fully the care of the live stock; he has not even described the building in which they were housed. This omission was apparently because of the fact that the farm was presumed to be already supplied with ordinary buildings and the operations given in detail were only to provide the extra space necessary for the processing of oil and wine. He refers to other buildings only generally in case the farmstead must be built in its entirety.

The introduction shows considerable study of the subject by the author and his conjectures, where necessary, seem dependably sound. He ventures only timidly into the speculation as to who the workers might be who undertook the harvesting contracts. No doubt but few farmers were wealthy enough to afford the comparatively costly machin-

ery required for the manufacture of oil or even wine, and probably the small farmers of the neighborhood were available for contracts during the harvesting and vintage seasons. Chapter 136 seems to indicate that the entire grain crop was raised by small farmers on shares.

The translation itself is thoroughly admirable. When the translator has encountered difficult or impossible passages, he has kindly given the text in the notes and allowed Latin scholars to amuse themselves with attempted improvements.

A few words defy translation. The word *ocinum*, has been the subject of controversy ever since the time of Pliny and will probably never be translated to the satisfaction of everyone. Not even the sixteenth century herbalists could find a suitable translation, though buckwheat, unknown to Cato, was called by that name. From the context, Pliny's statement that it was a distinct crop cultivated by the ancients sounds more reasonable than the statement of Sura Manlius that it was a mixture of plants, though in the seventeenth century *ocymun* and the synonymous word *bollymong* both meant a crop of mixed grains.

The seventh note in chapter 54 is puzzling. Would it not be better to admit that the meaning of the statement is not clear rather than to assert that the idea was mistaken? Perhaps Cato meant that when the larger plants were plucked, the smaller would increase in size; this would not be the case if the crop were cut with the sickle. The *ferrea* mentioned in chapter 10, note 14, might be the mattock. In old Spanish "*ferir la tierra*" meant to loosen the ground with that implement.

The book contains an excellent and complete index and a bibliography. It is well printed on paper which seems to promise permanency. It is well that it is so substantially printed if another space of 130 years is to elapse before further evidence justifies a new translation.

ADLAI FEATHER

State College, New Mexico.

Colonial Hispanic America: A History. By Charles Edward Chapman. (New York, The MacMillan Company, 1933. Pp. xvii-405. With illustrations, maps, and essay on authorities.)

No scholarly work could be more appealing to both the student and "that elusive person: the general reader" than this excellent historical approach to colonial Hispanic America by one of the most outstanding men in the field. This is not a "dry-as-dust" tome; it is not a mere repository for all the factual knowledge that could be compressed within the limits of a single work; it is decidedly *not* "the encyclopaedic type of historical volume." Dr. Chapman's ideal is the furthering of mutual understanding and better relations between his own countrymen and those of all Hispania; he has advanced very definitely toward that goal by challenging directly both tyro and layman through the pages of a book that, aside from being a model of scholarly achievement, can not fail to hold its reader because of its direct, vivid style, its sympathetic attitude, and its colorful legend.

It might appear at first that an entire volume on the colonial era alone would mean necessarily the accumulation of an unpalatable number of facts and dates and references, especially so since those works that cover the whole period from the Conquest to the present devote, on the average, but a third or less of their space to the three hundred and more years of Spanish control. But herein lies the virtue of Dr. Chapman's history: he avoided the pitfall of monotonous repetition of incident and at the same time attacked the lamentable disproportion of the general studies, realizing that the uninitiated can not fully appreciate the "republican period" unless he is more thoroughly founded in the heritage bequeathed by Spain. There has long been a need for a comprehensive text to study the colonial background. That gap has been filled; we can now embark on the "Ship of State" with an illumined realization of the "whys" and "wherefores" of the "Age of the Dictators" and the numer-

ous other cancers that have eaten savagely into the national life of Hispanic America.

The volume opens with the era of discovery and carries us through the struggle for independence. There is no specific treatment of the European background or of Pre-Colombian America. Historical facts relevant to an understanding of the "westward movement," of the rivalry between the old-world powers, and of the institutions and policies of the colonial system as well as of the geographical and ethnological factors involved in the "epic" of America, are adroitly introduced throughout the account. Of the seventeen chapters that comprise the chronicle, four deal with the period of the Spanish Conquest, four with the colonial policy and the social, political, and economic system under the later Hapsburgs, and seven with the efforts of the Bourbons to retain their overseas empire. This chapter division corresponds approximately to the three periods in colonial history that the author characterizes as the "aggressive aggressive," the "aggressive defensive," and the "defensive defensive." Two chapters are devoted to the founding, maturity, and independence of Brazil.

The California historian is not given to dwelling on certain aspects of a period to the detriment of others equally important. Wholly impartial and objective in his treatment, he has written a balanced, concise account of the colonial years. To evade the annoying repetition of minutiae, Dr. Chapman has interpreted a general movement "through the medium of a single detailed illustration." Needless to add that in the matter of exemplary incident the author has been most happy in the choice of much interesting and recently acquired data. As a single instance of how he has insured the readability of his study through the clever use of detail, one could cite the several lines that in a few bold, deft touches tell us all we need to know of Pizarro's past, his family ties, and the causes of his break with Almagro: "On his way to Seville to prepare his expedition, Pizarro visited his native city of Trujillo, and persuaded his

four brothers, Hernando, Gonzalo, and Juan Pizarro, and Francisco Martín de Alcántara, to go with him to Peru. Of the four, only one, Hernando, was of legitimate birth, and he alone had the rudiments of an education. But Hernando was in many respects a disagreeable person. A stout man, with a big red nose, he was excessively proud and haughty, despising the members of the expedition with whom he came in contact. Arrived in the New World, he very soon developed a feud with Almagro, who was none too well pleased, either, with the contract obtained from the king by Pizarro."

To insure further a readable work of acceptable limits, Chapman has had frequent recourse to footnotes for much material that, though interesting in itself, would only serve to retard the straightforward, vigorous approach of the narrative. These notes, furthermore, permit the chronicler the luxury of indulging in the little asides that add a pleasing, personal tone to the study. The reviewer was especially pleased with the historian's questioning of the English version of "unitarismo" as "Unitarianism" and he welcomes the words Chapman coined—"Unitarism" and "Unitarists."

The author never lost sight of his initial intent in preparing the volume. He kept constantly before him the needs and the demands of the student and the general reader. Pertinent comments—based on the latest documentary evidence—on the most important current problems and discussions of place names such as "Haiti" and "Portobelo" and of terms such as "American" and "Hispanic" tend to stimulate thought and to incite the novice to form conclusions of his own. With unwavering consistency Chapman has given the most significant rendering for *all* Spanish terms; if a word defied a precise translation into English, he turned to the footnotes for comment, as witness his note on "consulado" (p. 129). An admirable feature is the "Essay on Authorities." Having aroused the interest of his reader through his own colorful chronicle, he seeks to encourage and to direct him further into the field through a very select,

well-organized, and adequately commentated guide to other sources, chiefly those written in English that have a "direct bearing upon considerable portions of the entire field." Additional aids are seven well-chosen maps that answer every query raised in the text as to place names and boundaries, and a highly satisfactory index.

The format is all that one could desire. The typography is perfect—even to the last written accent on the Spanish terms. All credit to the extreme patience and meticulous care of the author, and not a little, if he will, to the publishers. Ten exceptionally fine illustrations constitute but still another excellent feature of the volume. For its impartial, well-balanced, and accurate content and its timeliness, readability, and attractiveness, Dr. Chapman's latest contribution merits the immediate approval of scholar and layman alike.

JOHN E. ENGLEKIRK

The University of New Mexico.

Toward the New Spain. By Joseph A. Brandt. University of Chicago Press, 1933. 435 pp. Illustrations; bibliography; index. \$4.00.

Students of Spanish literature and of the history of Spain have been looking for just such a book as *Toward the New Spain*. It was indeed a difficult task for the author to attempt to clear up the background and to trace all the movements and counter-movements which have taken place in Spain in the past half-century, and which but recently culminated in the establishment of the new Spanish Republic. The author has succeeded quite well in the attempt, although he has leaned for support too heavily, at times, upon recorded flashes of Spanish oratory and excerpts from admittedly biased newspapers. This is perhaps the chief adverse criticism of the book. If in places the text becomes a bit confusing with the details of politics and pronunciamientos, it must be remembered that the times were confusing, and even many good Spaniards were no less bewildered.

The arrangement of the book is very good, and the author's style adds to its attractiveness. Beginning in the Foreword with a discussion of the perils and promises of Republicanism, the author goes logically into the first division of the work: Book One called "The Struggle Against the Dynasties." The eleven chapters which make up this first part are well written. From "Kings in the Service of Democracy" to "The King who went on a Strike," the reader's interest never lags.

Book Two is given the somewhat fanciful title of "The Republic of Wit and Poetry." This last half of the volume in six chapters takes up the thread of history at the time when the first Republic was established and follows it on down to the "Democratic Republic of 1931." The material here used is not so clearly presented as that in the first half, but what the book loses in clarity, it gains in liveliness.

The book portrays the long and bitter struggle between the old order and the new, between conservatism in Church and State, on the one hand, and liberalism and radicalism on the other. Such figures as Castelar, Figueras, Pí y Margall, and Salmerón move through the book with dramatic intensity. In his desire to give life and vividness to the struggle the author at times makes statements which seem overdrawn, such as the one on page 15 that "for three centuries united Spain had lived in intellectual slumber." However, these instances are rare.

The book has a striking appeal to the student of Spanish literature as well as to the student of history. Since true liberal thought in Spain is found more often in the works of her great writers than in the writings of the politicians, it is unfortunate that the author did not see fit to include some of the ideas expressed by Spain's greatest literary geniuses. There is a striking resemblance between certain ideas advanced in the book and those of Galdós, Ibáñez, and Pío Baroja.

The work is well illustrated with thirteen maps and pictures. Especially fine is the map on page 12 showing the

geographical barricades to Spanish unity, as well as the one found on page 258 entitled "The Spanish Republics." There is an excellent bibliography filling over eight pages at the end of the book.

A touch of up-to-the-minute modernity is added to the book near the end when the author writes:

"Alcalá Zamora called for a microphone to be installed and a few minutes later he was announcing the Republic of 1931 to Spain."

King Alfonso left his beloved Spain shouting "¡Viva España!" as his ears rang to the shouts of "¡Viva la República!"

The author puts the final touch to his work in these significant words:

"There was promise that the doctrine of social utility was slowly bearing fruit in the new schools and libraries over the land, in the new farms and the new farmers, in the new religious and intelligent freedom, in the new gospel of social happiness, in the new Kings of Spain, its citizens."

Toward the New Spain is both unique and contemporary and it should make a valuable addition to any private, public, or college library.

F. M. KERCHEVILLE.

University of New Mexico.

"Unas paginas traspapeladas de la historia de Coahuila y Texas," by Vito Alessio Robles. (Mexico, 1933; 54 pp., map.)

First published in two installments by the Review *Universidad de Mexico* (V/25-26, 27-28), this study was later brought out as a *sobretiro* of seventy-five copies and it is a good illustration of the "finds" occasionally made by workers in the archives. The misplaced document found and edited by Sr. Alessio Robles is (sub-title) "el derrotero de la entrada a Texas del Gobernador de Coahuila Sargento Mayor Martín de Alarcón" (9 abril 1718 hasta 6 febrero

1719), and as he points out it was unknown to Fathers Talamantes and Pichardo, to Bancroft, Bolton, or any other student of this period, early or recent.

The document has many features of interest, among them the earliest known report of wild cattle in Texas (pp. 23-24) :

. . .vimos todos estos dias rastros y siempre estuvimos en que eran de sibula, hasta que este dia como a las cinco de la tarde al entrar en un espeso monte vimos un toro prieto de Castilla por lo qual se discurre ser todo de este ganado del que se le quedó cansado al General Alonzo de Leon a la buelta que hizo de Texas quando entró la primera vez.

An incident occurred on May 16 which might have had disastrous results, but instead it had a ludicrous feature (p. 25) :

Comenzando pues a pasar con mucho trabajo (el rio de Guadalupe?) nos hubiera sucedido la mayor fatalidad que se puede pensar, si Dios y la Santisima Virgen no extendieran el brazo de su Omnipotencia y misericordia para amparar y favorecer a dicho Señor Governador del apretadísimo lance en que se vió, porque llegando a pasar en el cavallo mas fuerte que se pudo aver llevando a las ancas al sargento de la compañía, al llegar a la orilla aviendo pasado lo mas del rio arrendó el cavallo y dando las ancas a la corriente se lo arrebató junto con ambos jinetes y fueron rio abaxo, sumergidos, asidos del cavallo como medio tiro de escopeta, en donde salieron asidos todavia del cavallo y bolviendose otra vez a sumergir se deshicieron del cavallo y los llevó el agua sumergidos mas de otro tiro de escopeta en donde volvieron a salir, ya se pueden considerar las ansias con que aqui se verian y mas dicho Señor Governador que iba vestido y sin saver nadar; mas aunque el dicho sargento savia nadar bien aun no fuera bastante para librarse aun asi solo por la mucha violencia del agua si aqui Dios no hubiera echo un milagro por yntercesion de su Purisima Madre quien les previno dos ramas de savino de donde se asieron y de alli fueron sacados con sogas por la mucha profundidad; despues de este milagroso suceso he preguntado diversas vezes a dicho Señor Governador del caso y siempre me ha asegurado no save como fue o si fue o no por devajo del agua o por encima, lo cierto es que los que lo vieron dicen

que iba sin movimiento ninguno, prueba todo, que fue totalmente milagro, porque no se atribuiere a diligencias naturales el haber librado y mas quando el cavallo con la silla no pareció mas y al Governador aversele caydo los botones de los calzones quedandole echos grillos para que solo demos a Dios y a su Santisima Madre las gracias de que no cesamos y pedimos en lo demas nos favorezcan corriendo por su cargo esta entrada y conquista, con mas que llevando en la bolsa una caxuela de plata con el Rosario y las obras en que alaba a la Santisima Virgen, no solo no caieron al agua con avera bolteado los calzones pero ni aun las obras se mojaron. . .

L. B. B.

“Die ersten versuche einer missionierung und kolonisierung Neumexikos,” von P. Dr. Otto Maas, O.F.M., ein sonderdruck aus *Ibero-Amerikanisches Archiv* VI/4 (Berlin 1933).

A delightful acquaintance with the genial Father Otto which began at the Archive of the Indies in Seville has been continued by him as a faithful subscriber to our quarterly and as an able student and writer of the early missions of our Southwest. His earlier publications (see *NMHR* vol. V, 215, 405-407) have been supplemented by this monograph which is a very thorough and typically German digest of all available sources, primary and secondary, upon the early history of New Mexico to the end of the Oñate period.

Dr. Maas seems to have overlooked very little—evidenced by the fact that approximately two-thirds of this study consists of footnotes. But perhaps he missed the analysis by C. W. Hackett, “The location of the Tigua pueblos of Alameda, Puaráy, and Sandía in 1680-81” (*Old Santa Fé*, II, 381-391). At page 11 he says: “In Tiguex, dem späteren Bernalillo . . .,” a mistake which originated with Bandelier. Documentary evidence clearly shows that Coronado’s winter camp was *west* of the Rio Grande; for the Castilians had to *cross the river* when they started for Pecos. Also the earliest mention of the villa of Santa Fé which Father Maas gives as May 1614 (p. 33) has since been moved back to 1612 (*NMHR* VIII, 216, note; and



FRAY OTTO MAAS, O.F.M.
(and Master John Bloom)
Sevilla, Spain, 1929

Bloom-Donnelly, *New Mexico History and Civics* (1933), 98-100).

On the other hand it is gratifying to find that the author correctly explains the name "San Juan de los Caballeros" (p. 25), and in his discussion of the perplexing "Fray Juan de la Cruz" (p. 13) he gives the interesting citation from Father J. G. Shea who "hält die beiden Laienbrüder für eine und dieselbe Person und glaubt dass Ludwig von Escalona der weltliche Name des Juan de la Cruz gewesen sei." (Shea-Roth, *Gesch. der kath. Missionen unter den Indianerstämmen der Ver. Staaten*, 47.)

L. B. B.