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## Notes

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## NOTES

*A new book.*

The Romance of the Floridas, By Michael Kenny, S. J., Ph.D., Litt.D. (New York, The Bruce Publishing Company. 395 pages. \$3.75)

Romance is used here in its best sense, for this is history by a historian. The romance of any period can advantageously be made conspicuous without offense to authenticity and historical values, and here that is well done. The subtitle of the volume-its two parts, *The Finding and the Founding* - is in keeping, for this was the most romantic period of Florida's long history. The tidings of Ponce de Leon, Panfilo de Narvaez, Hernando de Soto, and other explorers are more or less well known; but the foundings of the early period, of Menendez and the Jesuits, 1565-1574, have the added interest of the unknown to most of us. Both are romantic in high degree, and Father Kenny, especially in picturing the martyrdoms which sanctified Florida's soil, paints with a vivid but authentic brush. Though these foundings, unlike the, origin of most of our States, have little to do with the Florida of our time, and though only the toe-hold of St. Augustine remained, they are in this not different from later ones, and all should be taken as part and parcel of our beginnings.

The Florida of that day included the present Virginia, and the *Martyrs of the Rappahannock* is not the least interesting of the book's chapters.

Dr. James A. Robertson, whom we all know, tells us in his *Foreword*, "The author has admirably caught the spirit and, psychology of the time . . . and skilfully handles his materials gathered from far afield."

His list of sources, consisting of six pages of titles consulted, is a valuable Florida bibliography. One of these titles, a hitherto unused Spanish manuscript, furnishes much new evidence of the Jesuit missions in Florida.

Though none but the biased; perhaps, will allow the author his vindication of Menendez' slaughter of the Huguenots, yet it is well that the Spaniard's possible motives and the conditions under which he acted be presented; and few after reading this presentation will claim that Menendez acted only in bigoted hatred.

The three maps of the period are of uncommon interest, and the drawings are as authentic as they can be made with the material which has come down to us.

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For nearly seven years T. Frederick Davis was an efficient treasurer of the Florida Historical Society, and the treasurer carries on the greater part of our business. In addition, for some years he has looked to the routine work which comes in with almost every mail. This has been increasing and has taken much of his time which would have been given to historical research and writing, so he has resigned the office. Albert H. Roberts, 1204 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, for many years a director of the Society, was elected treasurer at the late annual meeting. Dues of members should be sent to him instead of to Jacksonville.

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The Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration is now under way, and will result in the publication of *The American Guide* in

five volumes. Dr. Carita Doggett Corse is State Director for Florida, with headquarters in Exchange Building, Jacksonville. Regional offices have been opened in the various districts into which the State is divided, and a supervisor with a group of writers are at work in each. While its field is very broad, and history, per se, is not included in the project, many of the subjects in its program have historical aspects and require much historical research; viz. historical settings and backgrounds, Indian tribes, archaeological remains, monuments and landmarks, ethnography; and because of Florida's long and varied history, this aspect is more important here than in many other States. It is desirable and evident that Florida should be well represented, and the Guide can approach completeness only if there is cooperation with the writers by those in Florida who are familiar with these subjects.

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December twenty-eighth last was the one hundredth anniversary of the Dade massacre, and on that day many gathered in Dade Memorial Park to commemorate the battle and pay homage to those who died there. The most nearly complete and accurate account of the massacre was written by Albert H. Roberts and appeared in the *Quarterly*, the issue of January, 1927.