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New books

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NEW BOOKS

Church and State in the Spanish Floridas (1783-1822) A dissertation. By Rev. Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R. (Washington, D. C. The Catholic University of America Press, 1940.) 380 p. Bibliography.

Of all who know more or less of the history of Spanish Florida few fully realize the close connection between church and state throughout those eras.

Only since the cession to the United States has a studied policy of strict separation and non-interference been followed. During the British period there was of course a real connection between the two, for the ministers were often chosen and always supported, at least partly, by the crown. Yet there was little influence exerted either way—certainly none by the church as such over the policies of colonial government. True, the Reverend John Forbes, who through most of that era was minister in East Florida, took an active and highly important part in the government of the province; but this was because his ability, and doubtless his inclinations, led to his appointment as member of the King's Council and chief justice.

Throughout the Spanish periods in Florida this was quite different. The religious aspect and influence gave the early explorers and the settlements a good part of their support; for, whether strictly true or not, the conversion of the Indians was always announced to be a main purpose of the conquistadores and even of the later colonizers, and the priests taken along were not so much for the benefit of the men of the expeditions and the settlers as to enlighten the heathen.

This church-state connection is part of the general treatment in most works relating to the first

Spanish period in the Floridas, to 1763; and for the later Spanish era it is minutely and ably set forth in the present volume.

For fifty pages the author sketches Florida's history down to his own period in 1783 with emphasis on this religious-governmental relationship. He writes :

"From the earliest days Catholic missionaries had been prominent in the activities of the Florida colony. Dominicans came with Ayllon in 1526 . . . Narvaez had Franciscans with him in 1528. Twelve priests were with Soto in 1539, and Dominicans came with Luna in 1559. . . . In 1566 Menendez de Aviles brought Jesuits to St. Augustine . . . followed by the advent of the Franciscans in 1573." But after recounting the work of later missionaries he says : "The Church's growth and decline in Florida closely paralleled the political successes and reverses of the State, so that in 1763 little was left of a once populous missionary field."

On his own special subject he explains: "To understand . . . the relations of Church and State . . . one must have a clear perception of the *patronato real* . . . Church and State in the Indies were governed by a code of laws . . . containing much that was purely political and economic, but embodying the privileges of the kings of Spain in church matters and particularly the provisions growing out of the royal patronage . . . defined as a sum of privileges which, together with certain duties, are given by ecclesiastical authorities to Catholic founders of a church. . . . In effect, the royal patronage made the king of Spain a vicar apostolic over the Indies. . . ."

"The effectiveness of this system of granting wide-reaching privileges in return for pecuniary and political aid has long been a moot question among historians."

The activities of each pastor are given in some detail. Best known to us is Father Thomas Hassett, first of many Irish priests to serve the Spanish missions in Florida. Coming to St. Augustine in 1784, for eleven years he lead "the humdrum existence of a struggling pastor amid discouraging circumstances, working quietly for the souls committed to his care . . . [one] whose work was visibly retarded by the conditions of the age in which he lived. That the East Florida of his day was badly maladjusted and suffering tragically from a series of hardships is sufficiently attested by the phrases 'this miserable colony', 'this dying colony' so frequently expressed in the correspondence of the time."

But we remember Father Hassett as a school teacher and author of the twenty-six intriguing rules and regulations he planned to guide the conduct of his small charges during every hour and almost every minute of their day. The translation of these made by Dr. Joseph B. Lockey and published in this *Quarterly* (xv. 161-168) is reprinted in Dr. Curley's volume. It was Father Hassett who took the St. Augustine census of 1786 which was published here also (xviii. 11-31).

Another known and revered name is that of Father Camps, who gave the best years of his life to easing the miseries of his Minorcan countrymen in New Smyrna. "For sheer devotion to a missionary ideal his record stands unapproached in the story of the Floridas."

The end is strikingly pictured in "The Final Years":-

"The internal conditions of the Floridas made the last fifteen years of Spanish occupation a long governmental headache. There was a constant scarcity of money and food supplies, and letter

after letter of the governors pleaded for aid from the captain general of Cuba, the later requests taking on an indignant tone as the first remained unanswered . . . there were times in West Florida when food for less than a month was on hand . . . A slow but steady social and economic infiltration of Americans made an early instance of 'manifest destiny'. . . . Spain knew that her hope of retaining the Floridas was vain.

"It was not to be expected that the Church, so bound up with the welfare of the State under the *patronato real*, could escape the general decline of the provinces. If the State was without funds, the Church could not be provided with them. . . . If the badly needed garrisons could not be maintained, one could hardly expect the churches to be kept in repair. The alliance of one with the other, Church and State, made their progress or decline strikingly similar."

The author's "Summary" is interesting. "[Was] such a union of Church and State beneficial for religion in the Floridas during the four decades under review. . . . The *patronato* involved an exchange of privileges and favors. . . . There was a grant of financial support by the State. . . . The *patronato* was a guarantee of the cooperation of civil officials with church rulers . . . [and a] share of executive control enjoyed by the crown in church matters. . . . All must be taken into consideration for a just appraisal. . . . Whatever benefits came from the alliance depended on the success of the State in temporal matters, and during those years Spain failed in the Floridas."

J. VILLASANA HAGGARD. *Handbook for Translators of Spanish Historical Documents*. (University of

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Texas, 1941.) vii, 198 pp., illus., bibliography. \$1.50.

The ***Handbook for Translators*** is the result of an effort to fill a gap in the literature dealing with historical research method. Frankly an experiment, the book is circulated for critical usage by students in the field.

A praiseworthy aim of the manual is the standardization of transcription and translation to the end of increasing the value of such work to the researcher. Many non-technically trained workers who have entered the field of Spanish colonial history during the past several years will find the work invaluable. For the more widely experienced student, the ***Handbook*** deserves desk space as a technical dictionary and summary of applicable paleographical knowledge.

The transcribing of Spanish manuscripts is a task often done haphazardly. Mr. Haggard lays down rules for correct procedure. As for the art of translating historical documents, the author proves by comparison that it is distinct from other forms of translating. He prescribes certain consecutive steps, and solves sample problems.

The section on paleography, copiously illustrated with examples from the 12th to the 19th centuries, demonstrates the remarkable individuality of the Spanish scribe. Another chapter is devoted to aids (*i.e.*, lighting, glasses, rulers, etc.) for reading manuscript materials. Unfortunately, much of this type of information tends to become obsolescent due to continual technological advances. Considerable space in the ***Handbook*** is given over to lists and translations of Spanish words, abbreviations, weights and measures (including monetary), and cryptic signs.

The book is an able summary of pertinent contemporaneous knowledge—a step forward toward a

dictionary for this specialized subject. It is definitely of use to Florida historians. And conceivably, Mr. Haggard may have opened the important field of Spanish colonial history to many students who were hitherto wary of the barriers of archaic language and paleography.

ALBERT C. MANUCY

The National Park Service

Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Archives of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Prepared by the North Carolina, Historical Records Survey Project of the Work Projects Administration. (Raleigh, The North Carolina Historical Commission, 1942). vi. 216 pp., index.

To Southern historians and students, this Guide to the original source materials in the archives of the North Carolina Historical Commission is a particularly helpful source of information. Every collection listed numbering some 815 private and other collections, is described briefly but comprehensively, giving all essential features of the contents. Facilitating the use of the *Guide* is a full and painstaking index, covering sixty pages of small type.

The collections referring to Florida were noted especially and are noted here. They are: Collection 682. Spanish Records, 1566-1802, consisting of approximately 10,000 items. These records, from the Spanish archives pertaining to the history of North Carolina and Florida, comprise some 15,120 photostat pages and 1,512 pages of typewritten copies. The copies are from the records in the General Archives of the Indies at Seville, the National Historical Archives at Madrid, and the archives at Simancas. Copies were obtained in 1924-27 through the efforts of Dr. W. W. Pierson

of the University of North Carolina, who with the assistance of the Florida State Historical Society made a survey of the material and secured a copyist. The work was never completed because of a royal order of 1927 prohibiting further copying of series of records.

Considerable Florida historical material may be found in these records. In the spring of 1941 the National Park Service had a microfilm copy made of the entire collection, and this film copy was placed in the study collection of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine, (formerly Fort Marion National Monument).

Collection 90. Mrs. Lawrence O'Bryan Branch Papers, 1770-1884. There are a few letters from L. O'B. Branch, a young lawyer at Tallahassee, 1841-1848, having to do with local conditions in Florida. Collection 290. William Alexander Graham Papers, 1779-1918. Some correspondence from David L. Yulee, 1849-52, on the settlement of claims under the Florida treaty of 1819. Collection 690. John Stanly Papers, 1811. Letters from John Stanly, Congressman from North Carolina, about the annexation of West Florida. Collection 767. Charles W. Welsh Paper, 1855. Letter of inquiry regarding taxation by State of Florida of property of officers at the Pensacola Navy yard.

WATT MARCHMAN

William Adam Hocker (1844-1918), *Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida: A Biography with Some Account of his Ancestry and Family Connections*, by Elizabeth Marshall Venable (Privately printed, The Miller Press, Jacksonville, 1941). xv, 107 pp, illus., front. (port.).

In this genealogical study of a man who served the people of Florida faithfully for many years as

judge of the Supreme Court, the author proposes to preserve for members of the family some of the more intimate details of Judge Hocker's life, and years were spent in collecting material, gleaned fragments from old Bibles, letters and reminiscences from relatives and data from court house records.

Judge Hocker was born on December 5, 1844, in Buckingham county, Virginia, on his father's plantation, "Oak Grove." He was educated privately and entered Hampden-Sidney College in 1862. In 1864 he joined the Confederate Army, Company H, 2nd Regiment of Virginia Cavalry. He was in several engagements and was paroled on April 26, 1865. Following the war he entered the University of Virginia to study law, and in 1868 was admitted to the Virginia bar, becoming a member of the firm of Moseley and Hocker. Later, he joined the staff of Franklin Institute, Columbus, Mississippi, as professor of Latin and Greek, a position he held until he removed to Florida in June, 1874, settling at Little Lake Harris. He was admitted to the Florida bar and in 1876 was elected to the Florida legislature, resigning on March 1, 1877 to accept the appointment of state attorney. He also served as judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit Court, 1893-1901, and on September 1, 1901, was appointed to the Supreme Court Commission, and elected in November, 1902 a justice of that court. He retired in January 1915, and died in Jacksonville July 16, 1918. He was married to Mattie Norvell Glover of Roanoke, Virginia. His children (living) are Frederick R. Hocker, judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, and Mrs. Alice Hocker Drake of Ocala, a member of the Florida Historical Society.

In addition to its value as a genealogical record, the book contains Florida background material not found in other printed sources.

WATT MARCHMAN