

1947

New Books

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The British Development of West Florida, 1763-1769, by Clinton N. Howard. University of California Publications in History, vol. 34. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1947. (166 p. 3 maps. \$3.)

It has often been emphasized in this **QUARTERLY** that the British colony of West Florida had little relation to present-day Florida except for the town of Pensacola. Perhaps had that regime lasted many years longer, the capital might well have been on the Mississippi river. So, as would be expected, the present volume relates to Pensacola and the country westward. A line from the author's preface indirectly implies this: "West Florida was the only British colony west of the Appalachian Mountains." However, it was subsequent to the period covered by this work, 1763-1769, that settlement of the Mississippi river region almost entirely superceded that of the eastern part of the province.

The volume consists of a narrative of forty-seven pages and an appendix. The former contains: The Establishment of West Florida, The Interval of Military Government, The Quarrels of the First Governor with the Military Officers, The Administrative Work of the Governor and Council, and The Work of the First Assembly. Much of this was contributed to this **QUARTERLY** and our readers found it of great interest (*vide*, xii, 181, 281; xix, 109, 246, 368; xxii, 74).

The remainder of the volume is an appendix, containing analyses of land grants, 56 pages; and miscellaneous documents relating to administration, conditions and incidents. There are three maps: Mobile Bay and River, with land grants indicated; West Florida Land Grants, with the location of numerous land grants about Mobile bay and nearly one hundred around Pensacola bay, In the main these were paper grants. Few, at least around Pensacola, were ever occupied and probably none permanently settled. A plan of Pensacola locates grants of town lots, about two hundred.

The work is largely based on the records of the colony

preserved in the Public Record Office in London, of which there are transcripts and some originals in the Library of Congress and elsewhere. Other manuscript and printed sources are listed in a comprehensive bibliography.