

Franciscan Missionaries in Hispanic California, 1769-1848. A Biographical Dictionary. By MAYNARD GEIGER, O. F. M. San Marino, 1969. The Huntington Library. Map. Tables. Notes. Appendix. Glossary. Bibliography. Pp. xiv, 304. \$12.50.

Basic secondary works of broad coverage for the study of Hispanic California have become increasingly rare, particularly since preference has been recently given to publication of documentary studies. Fortunately, here is a book that is an essential addition to any library, personal or institutional. Many works are glibly characterized as fundamental, basic, and indispensable, but this is one that truly fits such categorization.

Like many other books of this nature, Geiger's work does not possess the interest of a dramatic narrative but rather some of the drawbacks of reading the dictionary. Also, it will find its share of critics to disapprove its emphasis or arrangement or the basic theological message with which Father Maynard indoctrinates his reader. One would hardly have expected anything also from a dedicated man whose religious duties have centered for decades on the history of Franciscan California. This book results from years of study, custody of primary documentation, and archival research in Spain, Mexico, and Geiger's home mission of Santa Barbara. It presents 142 biographical sketches of California's early missionaries. Such sketches contain the broader outlines of regional history where Father Geiger is likewise at home with his material and solid in his interpretation. An appendix presents thumbnail biographies of nine other Franciscans whose lives marginally touched California, these priests having served either in exploration or as chaplains aboard the Naval Department of San Blas vessels.

Surprisingly the longest biographical sketches do not belong to the "big two" of California Franciscandom, Serra and Lasuén, but rather to the Zacatecan creole González Rubio, to ex-mission president Narciso Durán and to sometime comisario prefecto Vicente Sarría. Besides Serra and Lasuén, lengthy treatment is accorded to Serra's biographer, Francisco Palóu, to grammarian and linguist Felipe Arroyo de la Cuesta, to one-time president José Sánchez, and to Zacatecan Francisco García Diego.

As the author indicates, a biographical dictionary is never complete, and since the missing data will be filled in gradually by every informed reader, it would therefore be pointless to indicate what has been left unsaid. From 1769 to 1848 scores of Franciscans, almost

all of Spanish origin, and representing three Mexican missionary colleges—San Fernando (127 priests), Our Lady of Guadalupe of Zacatecas (11), and Santa Cruz de Querétaro (4)—labored in the California missions. Some were diligent and highly successful servants of the Church, but a few fell short, largely because of mental illness, unfitness for spiritual leadership, or physical infirmity. These failures have been singled out all too frequently, almost as if they were representative; but a reading of Geiger's complete list makes the reader appreciate just how many good, faithful, but not outstanding missionaries aided in California's development.

The only difficulty in using this work will arise from a certain irregularity in listing of some surnames; for example, Juan Norberto de Santiago is listed under Santiago, as if Norberto were his first name, while his true first name is omitted. Fathers Ulibarri, Riobó, and Arenaza are listed at variance with contemporary usage as Fernández, García, and Martínez, respectively. But these are minor inconveniences. A tabular appendix will permit rapid statistical analysis of some of the material presented, while a convenient glossary of terms will aid future scholars in understanding Franciscan documentation.

University of New Mexico

DONALD C. CUTTER

NATIONAL PERIOD

La contrarrevolución en la independencia. Los españoles en la vida política, social y económica de México (1804-1838). By ROMEO FLORES CABALLERO. México, 1969. El Colegio de México. Centro de Estudios Históricos. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 201. Paper.

The role which the Spanish played in Mexico during the first decades of the nineteenth century has been much discussed, but little studied. Nationalism and the fear that Spain would attempt to reconquer her former colony encouraged the Mexicans in 1827 to pass laws expelling the Spaniards. It has generally been held that the expulsion resulted in a great flight of capital from Mexico, permitted foreign merchants to gain control of the nation's commerce, and precipitated an economic decline. Although Romeo Flores began his study in an attempt to learn if these propositions were correct, he dis-