book. Similar sketches deal with slave masters, food, family life, Indian relations, and abolition in the nineteenth century.

Crespo’s research, both primary and secondary, has been by his own admission extremely limited. His work fails to raise new questions, produce new facts, or explore new facets of the Afro-American experience. The rapid pace of narration deprives the subject both of its intrinsic interest as well as its required historicity. This study deprives the Bolivian society and Bolivian slavery of all dynamism and change through the centuries. The occasional references to the works of Philip Curtin, Frederick Bowser, and Inge Wolff appear more decorative than substantive, and the generally informed reader will find, should he persevere to the end, that Esclavos negros en Bolivia is not one of his more rewarding experiences.

Johns Hopkins University

FRANKLIN W. KNIGHT


Dr. Adolfo Schmidlein was born and raised in Bavaria in the town of Erlangen. Once he completed his medical studies, he followed his long-time interest and joined the troops that accompanied Maximilian to Mexico in 1865. Once in Mexico he left the military, established a private practice in Puebla, married the daughter of a wealthy Mexican family, and moved to Mexico City. These letters, written between 1865 and 1874 to his parents, tell of his experiences, both personal and professional, in a simple but interesting style. There are only a few references to Mexican political affairs and even these are guarded. The letters are interesting primarily for the descriptions they contain of the daily life, attitudes, and feelings of a man like Schmidlein. Comparable in some ways to the account of Calderón de la Barca, these letters have the added ingredient of reflecting the views of a true immigrant to Mexico, rather than a temporary visitor. Concerns over money, family debate over his wife’s Catholicism, living arrangements, and medical matters are the more frequent subjects covered.

Tulsa University

I. E. CADENHEAD


This revised edition of Professor Johnson’s Mexican Democracy represents a significant updating and modification of the original work published in 1971 by the now defunct Allyn and Bacon series on Latin American politics. In the manner of that previous work the book retains its critical—occasionally jaded—perspective of the Mexican government’s performance attempting to provide a series of thematic vignettes of Mexican political life rather than to systematically enumerate